

GLOBAL PERSECUTION

THE PRICE OF FAITH FOR CHRISTIANS WORLDWIDE



**Supplementary Evidence
2014 - 2017**

Evidence (I)

Afghanistan

- March 2014 - Taliban assailants targeting an unprotected Christian-run day care centre in Kabul mistakenly burst into the compound next door, where resided heavily armed American government contractor's employees and Afghan police resulting in a four-hour gun-battle. *Barnabas Persecution Update 04/4/2014 & New York Times [WWW] 28/3/2014*
- January 2014 - Islam remains the state religion and conversion from Islam is widely considered as apostasy. The Government often turns a blind eye to the persecution of Christians. Christians in Afghanistan face persecution from friends, family, community and society in general. When some one is found to have left Islam (or is accused of this) the consequences can include eviction and disinheritance, beatings and detention by the authorities. "It appears that pressure against Christians in Afghanistan remains steady". "Growing awareness of Christian media and the fact that some Afghans have become Christian is spreading. U.S. and NATO forces plan to withdraw at the end of 2014. We are uncertain what will happen after the major withdrawal of foreign forces. If the Taliban begins to take more control of the country it is likely there will be more persecution of Christians; also if a fundamentalist government is elected in April 2014" *Release International Issue 77 Jan/Feb 2014*

Algeria

- September 2016 - Slimane Bouhafs, a 49 year old Algerian Christian convert from Islam, was sentenced to three years' prison on 6 September for 'offending the Prophet [Muhammad]' and 'denigrating the creed and precepts of Islam'. Mr Bouhafs, who suffers from ill health posted on Facebook in July 2016 that "Jesus overcomes the lies of Islam". *Barnabas Aid magazine Jan/Feb 2017*
- August 2016 – on 7th August, a Christian man (49) who was originally arrested and interrogated by the prosecutor on 31st July and accused of blasphemy against Islam, was given the maximum sentence for blasphemy in the Algerian penal code, five years' imprisonment and a large fine. He had published a message on social media about the light of Jesus overcoming the lie of Islam and its Prophet in the Kabylie area. Although his family and an Algerian secular human rights organisation appointed lawyers for him, the court claimed that he had decided to defend himself. The Eglise Protestante d'Algérie (the EPA/Protestant Church of Algeria) intends to appeal against the verdict. *Middle East Concern email 8/8/2016 & Middle East Concern email 6/8/2016*
- March 2016 - A church in the Kabylie area has been threatened with closure. The church, affiliated to the Protestant Church of Algeria (L'Eglise Protestante d'Algérie / EPA), received a letter from the district authorities requiring the church to cease all religious activities on the grounds that they are in breach of a 2006 decree which regulates non-Muslim worship. The authorities have threatened to commence legal proceedings against the pastor if Christian worship continues in the building currently being used by the church. The letter provides no further detail about the alleged infringement, nor any time frame within which steps should be taken to ensure compliance with the law. *Middle East Concern email 2/3/2016*
- August 2014 - Both social and governmental pressure seems to be increasing against Christians, mainly in the form of housing discrimination. *International Christian Concern Aug 2014*
- July 2014 - Christians are turned out of their rented housing without explanation, or denied permission to build or rent spaces for churches. Church leaders have said that they will continue the necessary legal battles to obtain the rights to build places for worship. *International Christian Concern 24/7/2014; CrossMap & Open Doors [WWW] 14/7/2014*
- January 2014 - Ali Touahir, a Christian convert from the city of Tizi Ouzou, is experiencing the high cost of following Christ in a strongly Islamic culture: his Muslim wife has left him, taking their seven-year-old daughter, and he has been threatened with death for apostasy. *Barnabas Persecution Update 30/1/2014; Morning Star News & International Christian Concern 23/1/2014*

Argentina

- October 2014 - Pastor Nieva, of Pueblo Grande Baptist Church, working with victims of domestic violence, sex trafficking and drug addicts, was shot at multiple times while driving in Río Tercero on the evening of 21 October along with church member Daniel Carreño. They were not wounded. Argentinian Evangelical Baptist Convention and Association of Evangelical Baptists Churches of the Province of Cordoba, accused drug-trafficking linked assassins who have infiltrated the Cordoba Police and, out of revenge, have targeted him because of a complaint he filed about them to the Federal Court of Cordoba. *Christian Solidarity Worldwide 28 Oct, 10 Nov & 13 Dec 2014*

Austria

- May 2016 - Christian refugees are threatened and harassed by Muslim refugees fleeing on the refugee route and this behaviour continues in refugee centres.

Some supervisory staff, who are Muslim, participate in the harassment of Christians. The threat is worst for converts as conversion from Islam to another religion is a crime in some Islamic countries. *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians 13/05/2016 & 05/06/2016; "Christian Solidarity International" (CSI); Kath.net [WWW] Katholische Nachrichten 13/05/2016*

- October 2015 – Hate crime graffiti of two "Antifa" [anti-fascist] signs and one anarchy symbol were painted on a pillar of Catholic student parish event centre and dormitory in Vienna on 15 October. *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians 9 Nov 2015*

Australia

- September 2017 – An Australian media outlet has published a shocking catalogue of violence, hate speech, discrimination and attempts to silence those opposed to the redefinition of marriage, most of whom it says are Christians. On 22nd September, 'Mercatornet' stated "Everyone should be concerned over the growing discrimination, persecution and vilification of Christians which is occurring in Australia. Not only is the government failing to protect the human rights of Christians, but often it seems to be enabling discrimination and persecution through legislations and comments made by parliamentarians". They drew attention to a wide range of news reports of attempts to silence Christians campaigning to protect traditional marriage in the country's current referendum. For example – a meeting at a hotel of four Christian groups had to be cancelled due to physical threats by LGBT activists; a group of protesters vandalised the office of a senator who supported traditional marriage and menaced his children's school; the list is endless. *Barnabas Fund email 21/09/2017*

Azerbaijan

- March 2017 – Pastor Hamid Shabanov from north Azerbaijan has been banned from holding church meetings, and told that his Baptist church is illegal as it is not registered, even though he has been trying to do this for 20 years. Pastor Hamid and another church member were charged with holding an illegal meeting, convicted and fined. This follows a police raid at his home where those present, including children, were held for several hours. *Release Magazine Mar/Apr 2017*
- December 2016 - 26 Christians praying together in an underground church were arrested and detained for attending an 'illegal religious meeting' and described on TV news as criminals. Four believers: Pastor Agamamedov Mehman, Pastor Shabanov Gamid and his wife, and another member of the church, were detained for longer. It is expected all 24 Christians will be fined 1500 manat (about £675). *Open Doors 07/12/2016*
- October 2014 - State Committee for Work with Religious Organisations told the Baptist and Seventh-day Adventist Churches on 16 October that they are required to be re-registered, having applied in 2009 and then been rejected. But State Committee officials now insist that if the Adventists and Baptists do not liquidate themselves, form new communities and lodge new applications by the end of 2014, the State Committee will go to court to liquidate them. *Forum 18 News Summary 1 Dec 2014; Barnabas Persecution Update 12 Dec 2014*
- June 2014 - Two women and a 14-year old girl have been detained for talking about their faith to others, police confiscated what they described as 'the banned book the Old Testament'. *Forum 18 News Summary 3/6/2014*
- May 2014 - State Committee for Work with Religious Organisations has compiled a 'banned' books list which includes some Islamic texts, the Old Testament and Jehovah's Witness texts. *Forum 18 News Summary 6/5/2014*
- February 2014 - Kamran Shikhaliyev [JW] to go on trial at a military court in southern Azerbaijan for refusing to wear a military uniform, perform military duties, or take the military oath. The head of the Conscriptio Office which forcibly seized him claimed to Forum 18 that "he wasn't detained, just sent to a military unit". *Forum 18 News Summary 10/2/2014*

Bangladesh

- March 2016 – Hossain Ali, a 68-year-old Christian convert from Islam, was killed on 22 March when three men riding motorcycles attacked him while he was taking his regular early morning walk in Valacopa, in the Kurriagram District of northern Bangladesh, hacking him to death with a knife. *Barnabas Persecution Update email 24/3/2016 & Barnabas Aid Magazine Jul/Aug 2016*
- November 2015 - Earlier this month, four Christian families in northern Bangladesh narrowly escaped being burned to death in their homes after being accused of practising witchcraft. A local government official has come out in defence of the Christians claiming that the witchcraft accusations are false. This is not the first incident these Christian families have had with local Muslims. According to one of the Christians, bricks have been thrown at their homes and they have been verbally abused on several occasions. Police are still searching for the culprits. *International Christian Concern Email 13/11/2015*

Evidence (2)

- November 2015 - Over 20 church leaders and Christian workers have received death threats in the past two months. Pastor Barnabas Hemrom was told in a letter sent to him on 25 November (that listed the names of nine other church pastors), "You, the Christian leaders, will have to bid goodbye to this world very soon." "We are going to finish off all, one by one, who are spreading Christianity in Bangladesh," read the letter. One of the nine pastors whose names were listed in the letter is afraid for his safety. "I am not going out of the church campus at all," he said. "I spoke to others who like me were targeted in that letter. They are all frightened." Police have been posted at his church, he said. Rev. Martin Adhikari, principal of the College of Christian Theology in Dhaka, received a text message on 11 November telling him to "Eat your most favourite foods now. Only five days of your life are left. Not more than that." Another text sent to him the next day read, "One day has gone by. Let us know if we have to arrange your burial as well. Or...will your family take care of your body?" Those sending the threats claim they are part of Islamist groups Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) and Islamic State. Their agenda is clear: "This country will be ruled only by the (Islamic) Sharia law," read the letter sent to Pastor Hemrom. *Barnabas Fund Persecution Update Email 3/12/15 Barnabas Aid Magazine Mar/Apr 2016*
- November 2015 - Although Bangladesh is a secular country and its legal system makes it one of the most tolerant Muslim-majority countries in the world, there are Islamist groups lobbying for the Islamisation of the country. The situation has become increasingly volatile in recent months, and Bangladeshi Christians, who make up just 1% of a population that is 90% Muslim, are vulnerable targets. *Barnabas Fund Persecution Update Email 3/12/15*
- November 2015 - On 28 November, a Christian worker managed to escape unharmed after six masked men stormed a church in Manikganj district. Ten days earlier, an Italian Christian worker was shot in the town of Dinajpur, in northern Bangladesh. *Barnabas Fund Persecution Update Email 3/12/15*
- October 2015 - In the north-western Pabna district, Pastor Luke Sarker (52), survived a knife attack in his home on 5 October when three men pretending they wanted to learn about Christianity attempted to slit his throat. Police believe the attackers are the members of a Muslim extremist group. *Barnabas Aid Magazine Jan-Feb 2016 & Barnabas Fund Persecution Update Email 3/12/15*
- November 2014 - A mob of 200 people assaulted two pastors who had been conducting a baptism service for Christian converts from Islam on 9 November in Lalmonirhat, Bangladesh. When the police arrived, both pastors were arrested due to complaints from local imams that they forced Muslims to convert. Both pastors are awaiting trial. *Barnabas Aid magazine Mar-Apr 2015*
- July 2014 - A church in Boldipukur has been threatened not to pursue legal action against attackers who carried out a violent robbery. Around 50 Muslims attacked workers at the church on 6 July and seized valuable items. They attempted to rape female church workers. Police arrested twelve people in connection with the robbery. It is thought that the robbers were trying to find and steal land ownership documents for the site. *Barnabas Persecution Update & Barnabas News in Brief 15/8/2014*

Belarus

- December 2015 - Two Polish Catholic priests, invited by the Church to work in Belarus, have been denied entry to the country. The visa application for one of the priests is being re-considered and there is a chance that the decision will be positive. "It's becoming ever more difficult for priests from abroad to come to Belarus" the Catholic Bishops Conference has stated. Also, the government's Plenipotentiary for Religious and Ethnic Affairs, Leonid Gulyako, has, as usual, criticised the Catholic Church for alleged failings in clergy training and alleged "destructive" work by priests. *Forum 18 email 21/3/2016*
- July 2015 - Nearly three weeks after police and riot police raided a Sunday worship service in Gomel in south-east Belarus, a court fined Pastor Sergei Nikolaenko for leading an unapproved religious meeting. Nikolaenko's Reformed Orthodox Transfiguration Church has already been banned from meeting and police have searched his and another church member's homes for 'sectarian' literature. A criminal charge against him might be in preparation. *Forum 18 email 6/7/2015*
- June/May 2015 - in Belarus on 31 May OMON riot police raided the Reformed Orthodox Transfiguration Church's meeting for Sunday worship, held in rented premises in Gomel. On 11 June officials banned the Church from renting premises, therefore, banning it from meeting. Officials warned congregation leader Pastor Sergei Nikolaenko - who is already facing trial on Administrative Code charges - that he would be investigated on possible Criminal Code charges. "You can watch a football match or discuss the poet Aleksandr Pushkin without permission, but for a religious meeting you need permission", said Dmitry Chumakov, the official in charge of religious affairs at Gomel Regional Executive Committee. Two weeks earlier, there had been a similar armed police raid on the Soligorsk congregation of Council of Churches Baptists.

And in Svetlogorsk, a town in the Gomel region, armed police raided a house church and have since fined two church members and filed cases against 17. *Barnabas Persecution Update email 10/7/15 & Barnabas Aid magazine Sept/Oct 2014 & Forum 18 email 15/6/15*

- May 2015 - A third member of a Council of Churches Baptist congregation in nearby Svetlogorsk has been fined for refusing to say who was reading from the Bible when armed police raided the church during Sunday worship on 7th May. Two others face similar prosecution, as does the owner of the home where the church meets. Police registered a case against 17 others for refusing to testify. *Forum 18 email dated 6.7.2015 & Barnabas Aid magazine Sept/Oct 2015*
- Sept 2014 - People meeting together to exercise their religious freedom are still subject to state control with the government's continuing desire to keep religious communities within an invisible ghetto of regulation. Officials are hostile towards followers of faiths they see as a political threat, particularly Protestantism. *Forum 18 News Summary 16/9/2014*
- June 2014 - Tamara Selyun, mother of executed prisoner Pavel Selyun, is battling to try to recover his body. Relatives of executed prisoners have long campaigned for them to be handed the bodies back for burial. *Forum 18 Jun 2014*
- June 2014 - Authorities have rejected applications for two foreign Catholic priests to be allowed to serve in Belarus. One has been a parish priest in Mogilev for seven years. *Forum 18 News Summary 12/6/2014*
- February 2014 - Legal status has been stripped from the House of Mary shelter for homeless people, run by young Catholic layman Aleksei Shchedrov in western Belarus. The 13 residents he cares for might end up back on the streets. The head of the Village Council, the tax authorities and the local police had all made visits looking for faults. *Forum 18 News Summary 06/03/2014; Barnabas Persecution Update 13/03/2014 & International Christian Concern 18/03/2014*

Bhutan

- September 2014 - on 11th September a court in Bhutan sentenced Pastor Wangyal to four years in prison for accepting funds for evangelism and Pastor M.B. Tharpe to two and a half years for organizing an illegal religious gathering. Wangyal and Tharpe have both paid fines, but only Tharpe was exempted from his sentence. *International Christian Concern & Worthy News [WWW] 15/9/2014; Barnabas Prayer Focus Update 1/10/2014; Barnabas Persecution Update 3/10/2014*
- June 2014 - Pastor Tandin Wangyal was arrested on 5 Mar along with another pastor, M.B. Tharpe; they were held for 49 days without charge before being released on bail. Tandin is accused under Article 71 of the Civil Society Organisation Act of Bhutan, which outlaws raising funds for activities "in contravention of the laws of the country". He denies the charge. A charge of attempting to screen a film without permission was dropped last month. *Barnabas Persecution Update 26/6/2014; Barnabas News in Brief 24/6/2014*
- March 2014 - Police arrested two pastors M.B. Tharpe (aka Lobzang) and Tandin Wangyal in Khapdani village in Samtse District and detained them for more than one month. Minister of Home and Cultural Affairs, Damcho Dorji, said that the two pastors were trying to coercively "proselytize" and had not obtained permission to hold a public gathering, though area Police Officer in Charge, Pema Wangdi, reportedly ruled out the possibility of charges of coercive proselytizing after questioning the two pastors and 30 Christians. He added that the only basis for their arrest was alleged failure to procure prior approval to conduct a gathering. *Barnabas Persecution Update 17/4/2014 & Morning Star News [WWW] 10/4/2014*

Burkina Faso

- January 2016 - On 15 January, 29 people were killed, including seven mission workers, when Islamists attacked two hotels and a café in Burkina Faso's capital, Ouagadougou. That same day, an Australian doctor and his wife, Ken and Jocelyn Elliot - both Christians in their eighties - were kidnapped by militants. Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) said its Mali-based jihadist branch al-Murabitoun was behind the attacks. On 6th February Jocelyn Elliot was released. *Open Doors 22/01/2016 & 09/02/2016*

Cameroon

- December 2016 - Another suicide bomber incident occurred in the town of Mora, Cameroon, on Christmas day. Officials blame Boko Haram for the attack, as Nigeria reportedly took their last stronghold recently, which caused Boko Haram to disperse. The intent of the militant was to get into the middle of a crowded market before detonating his bomb, but he was spotted and stopped before being able to do this. *International Christian Concern email dated 30/12/16*

Evidence (3)

- November 2015 - Up to 1000 Christians were affected by an attack on Tayere village in northern Cameroon on 17th November, when Boko Haram militants set fire to approximately 80 homes and a church in a predominantly Christian part of the village. The jihadists also torched the harvest supplies of maize, cotton, millet, peanuts and beans, amongst vital food stocks, without which Tayere's villagers will struggle to survive. *Barnabas Aid Magazine Mar/Apr 2016*
- September 2014 - At least 26 Christians were killed by Boko Haram in several raids in northern Cameroon in September. *Barnabas Aid Jan-Feb 2015*
- September 2014 - Seventeen Christians were killed in assaults that took place on Tourou and Ladamang villages, near the Nigerian border on September 21. A Christian worker, the son of a pastor and 15 other Christians were among the 40 civilians who died. Eight churches were unable to reopen at the time of writing. Believers who escaped the attack have been sheltering in Mayo Moskota district in difficult conditions and with insufficient resources. Boko Haram has been increasing attacks on north Cameroonian villages. *Barnabas Aid Jan-Feb 2015 Barnabas Persecution Update & CrossMap (www) 17/10/2014*
- August 2014 - Boko Haram gunmen are suspected to be behind a raid on Tchakarmari village, in Cameroon's Far North region at 1.30 a.m. on 4 August in which eight people were killed and 135 more were abducted. *Barnabas Persecution Update 12/8/2014 & 9/10/2014*
- July 2014 - In two separate attacks, Boko Haram recently murdered more than 25 civilians, including a pastor, and abducted the wife of Cameroon's vice-prime minister. *International Christian Concern Aug 2014*
- July 2014 - Attacks on villages along the Nigeria-Cameroon border on 24th & 25th July left seven people dead. In Vreke, militants slit the throats of four people and beheaded a further three people in the Dzamba mountains; three of those killed were Christians. *Barnabas Persecution Update 12/8/2014 & 9/10/2014*
- April 2014 - Sister Gilberte Bussière from Montreal, Canada was abducted from a rural Catholic mission in Tchere along with two Italian priests, Gianantonio Allegri and Giampaolo Marta, in an overnight armed raid, believed to be conducted by the Nigerian terrorist group Boko Haram. Rev. Henri Djongang, vicar general of Maroua, described kidnappers as seeking out Westerners. In June 2014 all three were released. *Barnabas Persecution Update 17/4/2014/ & 6/6/2014; National Post [WWW] 06/04/2014 & BBC World News [WWW] 1/6/2014*
- May 2014 - Seleka militia group threw grenades at the Church of Fatima in the capital Bangui, before shooting indiscriminately, killing at least 11 people. *Barnabas Persecution Update 6/6/2014 & BBC World News [WWW] 28/5/2014*
- January 2014 - Pastor Kongbo, treasurer of the Union des Eglises Baptistes (UEB), was killed in January with his son at their home by Seleka rebels as violence erupted in the northern suburbs of the capital Bangui. The UN High Commissioner has described the situation as 'chaotic and dangerous'. *Release magazine Issue 78 Mar-Apr 2014*
- December 2013 - A pastor and his two young sons were among at least 400 people killed (including another five pastors) in the worst outbreak of violence to rock the Central African Republic since a coup by Islamist rebels in March 2013. Fighting broke out in the capital, Bangui, in early December 2013 between the Muslim Seleka and fighters loyal to the ousted president, Francois Bozize. A pastor in CAR said Christians had been hanged, stabbed or beaten to death by their Muslim neighbours and Christian shops pillaged and looted. The bodies of those killed were left abandoned in the street. An open grave was also found near a Seleka base, where bodies had been dumped. Thousands of Christian civilians fled their homes. A church where many had taken refuge was attacked by Muslim groups. Other Christians spent Christmas behind locked doors as gunfire rocked the city and militias patrolled the streets. *Barnabas Aid Magazine Mar-Apr 2014 & Barnabas Prayer Focus Update Jan 2014*
- October 2013 - On 8th October a Christian protest was forcibly stopped by Muslims. In general Christians are suffering greatly in the CAR. Following the Seleka rebel coup hundreds of thousands have been displaced in the country. Many have fled to the bush and are living in awful conditions in makeshift camps and dying of hunger and exposure. The rebel army has used extreme violence, rape etc against its opponents. A pastor in the country said "Villages have been wiped off the map, churches have disappeared...Christians are dying in the bush, and so it goes on to this day". *Barnabas Aid magazine & Barnabas Fund Prayer Focus sheet No: 208 Jan/Feb 2014*

Central African Republic

- June 2017 - Attacks on Christian communities in the Central African Republic (CAR) have continued, despite the government signing a peace agreement with 13 rebel groups in Rome on 19 June. On 21 June, the house of a church pastor in Bria, around 350 miles north-east of the capital Bangui, was torched. Barnabas Fund's project partner reports that "many churches are still being burned down and Christians are fleeing into bushes ... Several pastors in the hinterland have already paid the price". Reprisal attacks on Muslims by so-called Christian "anti-balaka" groups have also continued; church leaders have repeatedly condemned violence by the militias. *Barnabas Fund email dated 29/06/2017*
- September 2016 - On 16th September around 26 people were killed by Muslim Seleka rebels in the village of Ndomete around the town of Kaga Bandoro, almost 220 miles north of the Central African Republic capital, Bangui. The rebels also looted a Catholic church some 20km from Kaga Bandoro and several other properties. Muslim Seleka considers Kaga Bandoro the capital of their self-declared republic in the northeast of CAR; the rebels therefore think they have a 'right to kill all non-Muslims there'. *Open Doors 21/09/2016 & Release Magazine Nov/Dec 2016 & Barnabas Aid magazine Jan/Feb 2017*
- September 2015 - It is reported that up to 200 people were killed and their bodies thrown into wells after violent clashes in Bangui, capital of Central African Republic (CAR), following clashes on 26 September when Muslim groups armed with automatic guns, grenades and machetes attacked a mainly Christian neighbourhood of the city, going house to house, looting and burning buildings and shooting and beheading believers in a horrific display of violence. The attacks were prompted by discovery of a murdered Muslim motorcycle-taxi driver. Around 20,000 Christians fled their homes in terror and are living in camps for displaced people around the capital city. *Barnabas Aid Magazine Jan- Feb 2016*
- October 2014 - On 12th October, Fr Mateusz Dziedzic, a Catholic missionary, was kidnapped in Baboua. The rebel group, Democratic Front of the Central African People (FDPC), has demanded the release of their leader Abdolaye Miskine, who was imprisoned in Cameroon in September 2013. *Christian Solidarity Worldwide 20/10/2014*
- July 2014 - On 7 July, fighters from the Islamist Seleka movement and Muslim civilians, entered the grounds of St. Joseph's Cathedral in Bambari. The armed attackers began shooting; killing 27 believers including women and children and more than 20 people were injured. The fighters also burned down 20 buildings within the compound, which was being used as a refuge by thousands of people fleeing unrest. The attackers also set fire to three cars, stole and destroyed other property. *Barnabas Prayer Focus Update Aug 2014; Barnabas Fund Jul 2014*

Central Asia

- March/April 2015 - Pastor 'Iskandar' a convert from Islam in Central Asia (country not specified in publication) was tortured by the police for 3 days at a police station following a raid on his home, where a Bible and 2 sermons were discovered. After beating him, the police pressurised him to reject Christ and to write false charges against other church leaders. When he refused, they undressed him and exposed him to outside minus 25C temperatures. After his release, a local television programme slandered Iskandar's family, who have all converted to Christianity. Their community turned against the family and Iskandar lost his job at the local bazaar. This is just one of the chapters of persecution that Iskandar's family has endured. A few years earlier they were burdened with the payment of exorbitant fines. Iskandar, his mother and a sister, together with 13 other Christians had been arrested for taking part in an illegal religious gathering and Bible reading. All had resisted pressure to deny Christ. *Barnabas Aid magazine Mar-Apr 2015*
- January/February 2014 - In the Central Asian nations of the former Soviet Union, Christians face a variety of discrimination, repression and persecution. 'The situations in each country are different, but persecution is still everywhere'. *Release Magazine Issue 77 Jan-Feb 2014*

China

- November 2017 - Authorities in several provinces have banned children from attending church. More than one hundred churches in Zhejiang province have been notified that minors will not be permitted to participate in religious activities, including Sunday School or summer camps, even if they accompany their parents. The ban applies to state-recognised churches, which are only allowed to operate under close supervision. All the activities of believers, old & young, who are part of China's flourishing house church movement are already illegal. *Barnabas Aid magazine Nov/Dec 2017*
- August 2017 - Gao Zhisheng, a two-time Nobel Peace Prize nominee and human rights attorney, under house arrest since 2014, was discovered missing from his home in Shaanxi province by his brother when he attempted to join him for breakfast. The local police were informed and are reportedly searching for him. *Jubilee Campaign email 24/08/2017*
- July 2017 - Hundreds of South Korean Christians, including church leaders, and missionaries, have been sent home in the last year by three provincial governments in north-eastern China in a move that is seen to be part of the implementation of a new set of rules to control religious activities. Their departure has led to closed churches and abandoned communities. *International Christian Concern email 13/11/2017*

Evidence (4)

- May 2017 – A Christian man and woman suffered neck injuries after Chinese officials pushed them off a wall during a protest at their church – Banling Church in Zhejiang province. 100 officials from Wenzhou city had arrived to install surveillance cameras and as protestors tried to resist this, they clashed with the officials. *Release Magazine Jul/Aug 2017*
 - April 2017 – On 18th April, the Chongji City People's Court in Xinjiang, convicted five Christians for 'gathering a crowd to disrupt social order', sentencing them to between three and five years in jail. Yang Zhaocum (38) a pastor from Jinchang was sentenced to five years; Pastor Wang Lulu (28) from Yan'an was sentenced to five years; Cheng Yajie (26) from Manas County was given four years and Zheng Lan (68) from Xuchang City was sentenced to three years. *International Christian Concern 28/04/2017*
 - February 2017 – Pastor Huang Yizi, of Fengwo Church in Zhejiang province, is fearing re-arrest as the one-year anniversary of his bail release approaches. According to Chinese law, if he is found not in violation of bail rules, he will remain free, but if officials determine that he has violated those precepts, he may be subject to arrest. *International Christian Concern email 24/2/2017*
 - November 2016 - Lawyers representing imprisoned Chinese pastor Yang Hua report that he has been suffering from serious health conditions while in detention. Yang has been in police custody on a variety of charges since December 2015. He is accused of 'divulging state secrets', but has yet to be tried. According to a recent interview with his lawyers, prosecutors have visited Yang twice, put him under physical duress and repeatedly threatened to kill him and harm his family if he fails to confess to his supposed crimes. *Release Magazine Nov/Dec 2016*
 - August 2016 - The authorities are clamping down on house churches in Zhejiang before it hosts the G20 summit next month. Some churches have been ordered to stop meeting altogether. All are under close surveillance. The authorities argue that some churches' 'folk beliefs' pose a security risk. Already, officials have closed down one prominent house church in Hangzhou for good – for organising 'Christian activities without permission'. This church, which asked for anonymity for fear of reprisals, has met for more than 40 years. Several other house churches in the area have been told to close, and even churches outside Hangzhou have been warned they must comply with state requirements for religious groups. *Release International email dated 16/8/2016*
 - May 2016 – Since July 2015 a nationwide operation has targeted outspoken lawyers. At least 317 lawyers, legal staff, human rights activists and family members have been detained, questioned, summoned or forbidden to leave the country. Of these, at least 19 have been formally arrested, mostly on subversion-related charges. The Government seems intent on silencing the voice of both unregistered house churches and state-controlled Three Self Patriotic Movement Churches. One lawyer, Zhang Kai, has been released following his TV 'confession' when he admitted to disrupting social order and endangering the state security. Those who know Zhang say that his 'confession' appeared to be scripted. *Release Magazine May/June 2016*
 - April 2016 - At least three church leaders have gone missing recently. Yang Jianwei, a pastor from an unregistered church in Anzhuang, Hebei province, disappeared after reporting for a driving test. His instructor and local police asked to see CCTV footage at the test centre in Dingxing county, hoping that it might explain what happened to him, but their requests were refused. Sources report that other church leaders have gone missing in Xuanhua diocese, also in Hebei, and in Fuzhou diocese in Fujian province. *Release International email 21/4/2016*
 - April 2016 - In Henan province, Christians are still coming to terms with the death of a pastor's wife as she protested against the demolition of her house church. Ding Cuimei and her husband, Pastor Li Jiangong, stepped in front of the bulldozer driven by a local contractor carrying out government instructions to demolish Beitou Church in Zhumadian. The bulldozer buried them in soil. Pastor Li was able to dig himself out but Ding Cuimei suffocated. Two people have been arrested over her death. *Release International email 21/4/2016*
 - March 2016 – Leading human rights lawyer, Zhang Kai, who was abducted in eastern China last August has not been seen since and there are concerns for his safety. Zhang, a prominent defender of the house church movement, told Release in 2011 that it was 'only a matter of time' before the authorities arrested him. Last year he commented on social media: 'I've made up my mind: the most they can do is jail me. But if I stay silent, I'll regret it my whole life.' *Release Magazine Mar/Apr 2016*
 - February 2016 - Zhejiang province has been the focal point for the Communist Party's crackdown on Christianity through the removal of 1,800 crosses (18 since the start of this year) and demolition of churches. Now, the crackdown on house churches has spread to the southern province of Guangdong. China's continued plan to eliminate Christianity from its shores is under the belief that religion is a specific tool used by "hostile foreign forces" to influence the Chinese people.
- More than 250 lawyers, activists, and church leaders were arrested in 2015 for their opposition to the crackdown on Christianity. Solidifying the Communist Party's hold on the nation is all that matters, even if it tramples on religious freedom. *International Christian Concern email 19/2/2016 Release International email 10/2/2016*
- January 2016 - Pastor Gu 'Joseph' Yuese, has been arrested in Zhejiang province where Christians fear a new wave of persecution. Gu was removed from his post as senior pastor of Chongyi Church in Hangzhou and detained last month, charged with 'embezzlement'. His family believe he has been arrested because he spoke out against the authorities' ongoing campaign to remove crosses and demolish churches. Gu's church is China's largest Three-Self Patriotic Movement church, which is state sanctioned. His wife was detained with him in January but has since been released. Meanwhile, Zhejiang officials' campaign of persecution is entering its third year. On January 28, more than 100 officials broke into two churches simultaneously – Shangye Village Church in Rui'an, Wenzhou, and Funan Church in Jiaying – and pulled down their crosses. *International Christian Concern email 15/2/2016 & Release International email 10/2/2016*
 - November 2015 - The release of a leading Chinese human rights lawyer, Zhang Kai, is being called for, amid growing concern that he could be tortured into making a false confession. Based in Beijing, he has been defending churches in the courts against moves to tear down their crosses. It has been reported that officials in Wenzhou, Zhejiang province, are charging him with spying. Zhang has been accused of 'gathering a mob to disturb public order, stealing, collecting, purchasing and illegally providing state secrets and intelligence to overseas organisations'. There is a strong Christian presence in Zhejiang province. The communist authorities have been demolishing churches, pulling down some 1,200 crosses. International observers believe the clampdown against visible signs of Christianity is intended to slow the rapid growth of the faith in China. *Release Magazine Nov-Dec 2015*
 - November 2015 - A Chinese Christian and former journalist was detained and questioned by Chinese authorities related to his writing in opposition to the removal of crosses in Wenzhou province. Zan Aizong is a writer and member of the Chinese Independent Pen Centre who has written extensively on human rights violations within China while doing much of his work on China's house churches - unregistered churches - and calling for the Communist regime to recognize them as legal places of worship. China continues to be one of the worst violators of religious freedom and human rights, maintaining their ranking as a top country of particular concern according to the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF). *International Christian Concern Email 29/12/15*
 - July 2015 - New security laws passed by the Chinese Government could further limit religious freedom on the Chinese mainland and beyond. The wording of the new national security law is 'intentionally vague' and may prompt greater 'persecution and abuse based on perceived threats to national security'. Among its provisions are further restrictions on 'foreign influences' and 'cults'. The law also expands China's restrictions on religion into Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan. Some Hong Kong-based pastors fear that they might be penalised for activities such as serving mainland Christians via the internet, hosting their visits or even preaching to people from mainland China living in Hong Kong. On July 1, the same day the new law was enacted, Pastor Wu Xiohe from Hong Kong was summoned by the Religious Affairs Bureau in Shenzhen city on the mainland, and told he could no longer invite mainland Chinese Christians to Hong Kong for training. Officials told him that 'at least 300 more religious leaders' would receive similar summons. *Release Magazine Sept/Oct 2015*
 - July 2015 - Since 2014 over 1,200 crosses and 35 church buildings have been destroyed. China's cross removal campaign is just one area where China is implementing their war on religion. In 2011, the government created a mandate to 'eradicate house churches within 10 years'. The government has even gone so far to claim its reason to rid the country of house churches is to eliminate cults, therefore accusing Christians of being cult members. During July, over 200 human rights lawyers and activists have been arrested or questioned by police. Although many of those detained have been released, 24 are still feared to be missing or in police custody. Others are under residential surveillance where they are kept in a hidden location with no contact to family members. There are fears that those detained may be subject to torture and ill-treatment. The lawyers were accused by the government of being a 'criminal gang' because they defend the rights of Falun Gong practitioners, Uyghur Muslims, Christians, and others that are persecuted. Many of the lawyers detained are Christians that have felt called by their faith to defend vulnerable people. *Jubilee Campaign email 17th Aug 2015*
 - July 2015 - Beijing lawyer Gao Zhisheng remains under house arrest despite being officially being released from jail last August. He served a three-year sentence in remote Xinjiang province for 'incitement to subvert state power' but has remained under 24-hour surveillance at the home of his wife's parents. *Release Magazine Jul-Aug 2015*

Evidence (5)

- May 2015 - Peter Hahn, a Korean-American aid worker, who lived in China on the border of North Korea for more than a decade, has been detained by the Chinese authorities since December 2014. The Christian aid worker, 73, who escaped from North Korea many years ago, is accused of embezzlement and possession of fraudulent receipts. Peter ran a Christian school and aid agency in Tumen City, a trading town across the border from North Korea in North-eastern China, from where he provided supplies to the poor in North Korea. Supporters of Mr Hahn point out that he used his life savings to help relocate from the US and set up his organisation. They say allegations against him are likely to be politically motivated. His wife is concerned for his health as her husband suffered two strokes last year and is diabetic. *Release Magazine May-Jun 2015*
- May 2015 - Chinese authorities ordered all churches in the Fuyang District of Hangzhou and the city of Lishui to remove the crosses from the tops of their church buildings on May 17th. This is the latest of several Zhejiang provincial government actions which appear aimed to intimidate and control the growth of the Christian church in eastern China. *Email from International Christian Concern 22/5/15*
- March 2015 - Pastor Huang Yizi was sentenced to a year in prison after he was found guilty of 'gathering crowds to disturb social order'. Pastor Huang questioned the government as to why 50 of his parishioners were beaten while authorities attempted to illegally remove the cross from his church building. *New York Times 23/3/15 & Email from International Christian Concern 27/3/2015*
- February 2015 - Bishop Cosma Shi Enxiang, of the Episcopal Church, disappeared into police custody in 2001. The Bishop spent a total of 54 years, on and off, in prison for his faith; more than half his life. News has surfaced that the Bishop, 93, passed away in prison. However, the family has yet to be given his body, something they are waiting for, even if it is just the ashes. The government seems to be hiding his body in fear of "possible demonstrations" at his funeral. *International Christian Concern email 13/2/2015 source China 'The Christian Post' 2/2/2015*
- January 2015 - Dozens of police and security officials raided the Langzhong House Church in Langzhong, Nanchong, in January and arrested 23 believers, including two pastors and two missionaries, for attending an 'illegal assembly'. Three members of the church were also detained on Christmas Eve. *Release International Issue 84 Mar-Apr 2015*
- January 2015 - In addition to the removal of crosses and the destruction of church buildings, recent cases have shown that the Government is willing to persecute 'illegal' (unregistered) house churches but also the state sanctioned Three-Self Patriotic Movement churches when they defend marginalised groups. One such case is the case of the Nanle County Christian Church in Central Henan. Pastor Shaojie was detained in November 2013 with more than 20 church members. The pastor was subsequently sentenced to 12 years in prison. His sister, Zhang Caijuan was sentenced to one and a half years, while his daughter, son-in-law and grandchild fled to the U.S. Another daughter was recently detained in a 'black jail' or illegal detention centre and the authorities are intent on auctioning the family home to pay for a fine that they imposed on Pastor Shaojie. *Release International Issue 83 Jan-Feb 2015*
- January 2015 - Since the beginning of 2014, the Chinese authorities have cracked down brutally on the Christians in the south-eastern province of Zhejiang. Its main target has been the city of Wenzhou, known as 'China's Jerusalem'. The Communist Party wants the church crosses that illuminate the sky line taken down. When the cross on the church at Wuxi village was torn off, a member of the congregation used his welding torch to replace it. He was arrested for operating a welding business without a licence. A large church in the port city of Ningbo received a demolition order after a party official objected to the size of its cross. In most cases local authorities cite building regulations. Fourteen members of the Wenzhou-based Salvation Church were injured by police after Chinese authorities claimed their church also violated building rules. *Release International Issue 83 Jan-Feb 2015*
- January 2015 - Jailed Uyghur house church leader, Alimjan Yimit, is being prevented from meeting his lawyers, whom he last saw in 2012. Alimjan is serving a 15-year sentence for his Christian activities. *Release International Issue 83 Jan- Feb 2015*
- November 2014 - Zhang Shanshan, daughter of Pastor Zhang Shaojie, leader of the state-sanctioned Nanle County church, who is serving 12 years in prison, was arrested and detained on 5th November. Her husband, Hua CheeChuan believes his wife is being held to stop her from speaking out about her father's plight ahead of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, which will be attended by US President Barack Obama among other world leaders. *International Christian Concern & Christian Today [WWW] 6/11/2014*
- October/September 2014 - A government campaign against public symbols of Christianity has led to the demolition of crosses at two churches in the province of Zhejiang.
 - Public security officials removed three crosses from Longgang Township Gratitude Church, Wenzhou, and from Wenling Church, Taizhou. Demolition notices have been issued to more than 160 churches in the area. *Release Magazine issue 81 Sep-Oct 2014*
 - September 2014 - Children were among 100 Christians detained when over 200 police raided the Mount Olivet in Foshan City, Guangdong province, during a Sunday service. Most detainees, including the children, were held for between 10 and 20 hours. *Release Magazine Issue 82 Nov-Dec 2014*
 - August 2014 - Huang Yizi, a preacher who attempted to organise protests against the removal of Salvation Church's cross, was arrested by plainclothes police officers and faces up to a decade in prison. *International Christian Concern Aug 2014 & The Telegraph (www) 26/8/2014*
 - August 2014 - On 7th August, defender of religious minorities and Nobel Peace Prize nominee, Gao Zhisheng, was released after his three-year sentence. A recent report shows that he can barely talk and suffers from physical and mental health problems. The Chinese government is giving him full freedom. *International Christian Concern Aug 2014; Christian Worldwide Solidarity Aug 2014 & Christians in Crisis (CIC) 18/8/2014 & Release Magazine Issue 82 Nov-Dec 2014*
 - August 2014 - In less than four months, more than 200 churches and Bible studies have been forcibly demolished, or closed by the Chinese authority. *International Christian Concern Aug 2014*
 - July 2014 - Pastor Zhang Shaojie, who on 4 July was sentenced to 12 years in prison and fined approximately £9,400 for fraud and 'gathering a crowd to disturb public order', has lost his appeal. *CSW Sept 2014 & CSW 22/8/2014*
 - July 2014 - Gao Zhisheng, a Christian human rights lawyer, was tortured and imprisoned for defending religious minorities. He is supposed to finish serving his 8-years sentence by August 2014, but was told that 'the prison would need to communicate with Beijing first'. *International Christian Concern Jul 2014*
 - July 2014 - Over 160 churches are affected by the ongoing anti-church campaign. *International Christian Concern Jul 2014*
 - July 2014 - 60 churches in Zhejiang province have received notice that either their crosses or their buildings must be demolished regardless of whether it is a government-approved church. *International Christian Concern Jul 2014; 3 & 24/2014, 13/10/2014; China Aid [WWW] 4/7/2014 & 24/9/2014, 9/10/2014; The Guardian [WWW] 5/7/2014; New York Times [WWW] 2/9/2014*
 - July 2014 - Congregants rushed to the Longgang Huai En Church in Wenzhou to protect their building – but to no avail. They ended up watching helplessly as police used a crane to tear off the 10-foot-tall cross that topped the building's steeple. *International Christian Concern & The Spectator [WWW] 06 Aug 2014*
 - July 2014 - Authorities in eastern Anhui province have told house churches that they are required to register with the Government. Christians speculate that the forced registration is a move ultimately to gain control over house churches in the region. *Release Magazine Issue 80 Jul-Aug 2014*
 - June 2014 - On 30th June the White Crane Church in Zhejiang Province received a demolition notice and was later told by the local authorities that they must demolish the house used for gatherings by 7th July. This notice was part of Dongzhou Province's 'Three Rectifications and One Demolition' campaign which has resulted in the persecution of 160 churches across the province. *International Christian Concern & China Aid [WWW] 11/7/2014*
 - May 2014 - 'Taobao.com', a Chinese website similar to eBay and Amazon, was ordered to remove all religious books from the site. "Taobao.com's service of purchasing Christian books from overseas has been forced to stop," one Christian said. "Many of Taobao's stores, (run by individuals or small businesses), have received notices to delete pictures of the books." *International Christian Concern & China Aid [WWW] 15/5/2014*
 - May 2014 - In Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, two Christian ladies were detained because they were distributing Gospel flyers. They were accused of "disclosing state secrets." Police also confiscated more than 150 Bibles and 500 other books from their church. *International Christian Concern & China Aid [WWW] 16/05/2014*
 - April 2014 - Thousands of Christians formed a human shield around a newly constructed church in Zhejiang Province after the authorities threatened to demolish the building. The Sanjiang Christian Church, which is a part of the official Three-Self Patriotic Movement, was built over a six year period. It is facing demolition after believers refused to remove the cross on top of the building. "When the Party Secretary Xia Baolong visited the local areas, he found the cross on top of the church very conspicuous", said Zheng Leguo, a young church leader. He ordered that the cross be demolished. Then the officials from Yongjia County demanded that the church tear down the top floor. When the believers heard that the Government was threatening to demolish the church, as many as 5,000 gathered in order to protect the building. *Release Magazine Issue 79 May-Jun 2014*
 - April 2014 - Nanle County Christian Church, Henan province, was listed as a 'dilapidated and dangerous' building during the second day of an annual, three-day worship service. Police barricaded the church and stopped believers from other cities and provinces from arriving at the church.

Evidence (6)

One member of Nanle County Christian Church was detained and several had musical instruments confiscated after using them to worship in front of the blocked gate. *International Christian Concern & China Aid [WWW] 8/4/2014*

- April 2014 - China's Communist Party gave Beijing's prominent underground churches a warning banning any reporting about the Protestant Shouwang Church's outdoor Easter services. Shouwang is one of the city's largest and most prominent unregistered or "family" churches. The new government is targeting any organisation perceived as a threat to Chinese Communist Party policy. *International Christian Concern & UCA News [WWW] 24/4/2014*
- March 2014 - Huizhou Loving Care Centre are concerned that the government is pressuring their landlord to shut their Huizhou farm centre down. *International Christian Concern & China Aid Assoc. [WWW] 28/3/2014*
- January/February 2014 - All religious groups are required to register with the government. Those refusing are regarded as 'illegal' and may be forced underground. Some unofficial churches have been able to worship openly without obvious pressure from the authorities. *Release Magazine Issue 77 Jan-Feb 2014*
- January/February 2014 - Some Christians have faced intimidation, detention and even torture for their faith. Uyghur Christian, limjan Yimit, a House Church leader from Xinjiang, is serving a 15-year sentence on the contrived charge of 'providing state secrets to overseas organisations' - simply for speaking to visiting Christians from the US. *Release Magazine Issue 77 Jan-Feb 2014*
- January 2014 - In Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong, police have disrupted gatherings of the Guangfu House Church twice a week since the beginning of January. *Release Magazine Issue 78 Mar-Apr 2014*
- January 2014 - In Neihuang county, Henan, many Christians say they are too scared to attend church meetings after persecution from several local government agencies. Meanwhile, three members of Nanle County Christian Church in Henan province were released in January after being detained for more than two months. One of the nine who remain in custody, associate pastor Zhao Junling, has been allowed to see his lawyer for the first time. *Release magazine Issue 78 Mar-Apr 2014*
- January 2014 - Fifteen Christians of Holy Love Fellowship were detained in Beijing after they attempted to bring food and medicine to a fellow church member, Zhang Wenhe, who remains under house arrest. Those arrested while trying to deliver food and medicine to Wenhe included a 14-year-old boy. Wenhe was also taken into custody. Another of those detained, Wang Chuyan, is reported to have begun having heart trouble whilst in custody. *Release Magazine Issue 78 Mar-Apr 2014 & International Christian Concern & China Aid Assoc. [WWW] 11/3/2014 & International Christian Concern & China Aid Assoc. [WWW] 26/01/2014*

Colombia

- November 2014 - Angelica Rincon Alonso, of Justapaz and the Colombian Council of Evangelical Churches (CEDECOL), briefed US State Department officials, US Commission on International Religious Freedom and staffers from the US Senate and House on a report which outlined five categories of religious freedom violations in Colombia. She highlighted the extortion of pastors and churches, assassinations of and threats against religious leaders, prohibitions of religious activity imposed by illegal armed groups. CEDECOL and Justapaz have documented 336 murders of and 880 threats against church leaders over a ten-year period. *Christian Solidarity Worldwide 24/11/2014*

Crimea (Ex-Ukraine)

- September 2014 - Many communities wishing to remain part of Ukrainian religious organisations - including the Moscow Patriarchate and Kiev Patriarchate dioceses, the Greek Catholic Exarchate and Roman Catholic, Lutheran and Armenian Apostolic parishes - are uncertain as to whether this will be allowed. Nikolai Barylyuk of the Crimean Department of the Russian Justice Ministry refused to confirm whether religious communities' previous registration under Ukrainian law remains valid. *Forum 18 Sept 2014*
- September 2014 - Fr Rosochack, serving as priest of Simferopol's Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary parish at the invitation of the Odessa and Simferopol Roman Catholic diocese, lodged his application to extend his residence permit to the Crimean branch of Russia's Federal Migration Service in Simferopol in the second half of August. He was told verbally that his application was being refused and asked for this in writing. However, on 3 September a written response from the head of the Crimean branch of Russia's Federal Migration Service, Pyotr Yarosh, does not directly reject the application but says "they recommend that the application be lodged at a later date," Fr Rosochack lamented. "It gives no reason or explanation." *Forum 18 Sept 2014*
- June 2014 - Russia's annexation of Crimea has resulted in various hindrances and obstacles for several religious communities. Several Greek Catholic priests entering the region were informed that they can only stay for three months at a time and will have to then leave for at least one month. *International Christian Concern Jun 2014 & F18News 27 Jun 2014*

Cuba

- October 2014 - Reverend Mario Felix Leonart Barroso of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Taguayabon, Villa Clara Province, was officially summoned to the State Security Unit in Camajuani, on 8 October. A Lieutenant Colonel read out an Official Warning or "Acta de Advertencia" (counter-revolutionary links), a document that can be used as justification for future arrests and criminal charges. This is the third time that government agents have unsuccessfully pressured Reverend Barroso into signing an "Acta de Advertencia". Authorities used this as a pretext to warn the pastor off continuing to visit people in the eastern areas of the country. On 16 October, his wife, Yoaxis Marcheco Suarez, was also arrested on the same charges. *Christian Solidarity Worldwide 16, 18, 25 Oct & 1 Nov 2014; Barnabas Persecution Update 24 Oct 2014*
- August 2014 - Despite granting limited concessions and privileges to select religious groups, the Cuban religious freedom violations continue to rise. *International Christian Concern Aug 2014*
- July 2014 - Severe sustained harassment of protestant pastors and lay people prompted Reverend Homero Carbonell who had led his church for over 50 years to resign and accept asylum in the United States on 31 July, in the hope of lessening persecution against his congregation. In his absence, Cuba only increased the pressure against his church. *International Christian Concern 7/8/2014*
- June 2014 - Reverend Mario Felix Leonart Barroso and his wife, who are religious freedom activists, and regularly targeted by the Cuban authorities, have been detained. *CSW Campaign Team Jun 2014*

Democratic Republic of Congo

- July 2016 - On 5th July in yet another attack in the Christian-majority eastern DRC, uniformed men armed with guns and machetes attacked three Christian communities near the town of Oicha. They looted homes and stole livestock, killing five women and four men, including a church elder. The attack took place less than two miles from a United Nations base. Local sources claim that an Islamic militant group called the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) was responsible. *Barnabas Aid Magazine September/October 2016*
- May 2016 - On the evening of 3rd May, armed with axes and machetes, the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), an Ugandan Islamist group, infiltrated a village in North Kivu province, leaving 17 people dead. Many were left seriously wounded and three days later the death toll rose to 34 as those terribly hurt succumbed to their injuries. Thousands have fled the area leaving hundreds of abandoned homes. *Barnabas Persecution Updated 12/05/2016 & Barnabas Aid Magazine Jul/Aug 2016*

Egypt

- December 2017 - Nine people are dead after Christians leaving a church service in Egypt were gunned down by extremists. At least two assailants opened fire on worshippers as they left the Mar Mina Church in Helwan district on the morning of 29th December. Prior to arriving at the church, at least one of the church attackers first fired on a Coptic-owned appliance shop, killing two sons of the owner. *Open Doors 03/01/2018*
- September 2017 - Sixteen-year-old Marilyn, has been released and returned to her family following 92 days in captivity after being kidnapped on 28th June 2017 for 'conversion to Islam, then married off or sold'. Police found her and arrested her kidnappers in a city just outside Cairo. Christian girls in Egypt are targeted by Islamist networks, who kidnap and force them to convert to Islam and then marry them off or sell them for large amounts of money. *Open Doors 09/10/2017*
- August 2017 - A church in Egypt's Minya province was closed down by authorities in early August, after Muslim extremists threatened to riot. At least 15 other churches in Minya province remain closed after the government voiced similar "security concerns" in recent years. Islamists have repeatedly tried to either close down or destroy church buildings in Minya. After President Morsi's strongly Islamist government was ousted in 2013, more than 1,000 Muslim Brotherhood supporters attacked and set fire to churches there. In 2015, after 21 Christians were beheaded by Islamic State in Libya, Islamists attacked and set fire to the church to which 13 of those killed had belonged. *Barnabas Aid magazine Nov/Dec 2017*
- July 2017 - A 22 year old Christian Egyptian army recruit was beaten to death on 20 July, hours after arriving at a new camp near Cairo, only four days into his mandatory military service. Joseph Helmy's body was found with serious bruises and signs of torture, according to a lawyer representing the family. At the time of writing, there are no reports that anyone has been charged for his murder. Immediately following his death, military police detained three non-commissioned officers who claimed that an officer ordered them to beat up Joseph; the family's lawyer believes he was targeted because of his faith. Following his murder, Joseph's death was announced from the loudspeakers in mosques in his village, where he is said to have been well loved by both Christians and Muslims. *Barnabas Aid magazine Nov/Dec 2017*

Evidence (7)

- May 2017 - At least 29 Coptic Orthodox Christians have been killed and 24 wounded for refusing to denounce Christ, after masked gunmen opened fire on their vehicles. The Christians, including men, women and children, were travelling to the Monastery of St. Samuel, near Minya, for Ascension Day on 25th of this month. *Open Doors 01/06/2017, Barnabas Fund email 29/06/2017 & Release Magazine Jul/Aug 2017*
 - April 2017 – ISIS attacked the police checkpoint guarding St. Catherine's Monastery in Sinai by shooting from a nearby hilltop, leaving one officer dead and four injured. The attack comes just a week before Pope Francis' scheduled visit to the persecuted minority and raises questions about his safety. *International Christian Concern email 20/04/2017*
 - April 2017 – on 9th April suicide bombings at two churches killed at least 45 people. The attacks during Palm Sunday services in Tanta and Alexandria were claimed by the extremist group Islamic State (also known as ISIS). *Aid to the Church in Need 13/04/2017; Human Rights Watch [WWW] 12/04/2017*
 - April 2017 – 45 people died when bombs went off in two church services – one inside St. George's Church in Tanta (Nile Delta region) killing at least 29, injuring 75 and one outside St. Mark's Cathedral in Alexandria, killing at least 16 and injuring 33. Both were timed to coincide with Palm Sunday celebrations for impact and IS has claimed responsibility for these attacks. *Release International Prayer Alert email 10/4/2017 & Aid to the Church in Need email 13/4/2017*
 - March 2017 - A Coptic Christian mother, Nabila Fawzi Hanna, (65) saw her son and husband killed in front of her in their home. She then saw the gunman calmly tick off her loved ones from a hit-list he carried. This came after an Egyptian Islamic State affiliate posted a video message, vowing to "eliminate" Egypt's Christians and to "liberate Cairo" *World Watch Monitor [WWW] 02/03/2017*
 - February 2017 – on 23rd February, according to AFP news agency, an unnamed 40 year old Coptic man was shot in the neck at his home in Al-Arish, which was subsequently set on fire. While no group has claimed responsibility for the murders, on 20th February IS affiliate known as the Sinai Province released a video railing against Egypt's Christian population, describing Christians as their 'favourite prey' and identifying the Coptic Orthodox Pope and Christian businessmen as specific targets. *CSW email 25/2/2017*
 - February 2017 – on 22nd February the bodies of two murdered Coptic men, Saied Hakim (65) and his son, Medhat (45) were found in Al-Arish. Saied had gunshot wounds to his head and Medhat had been burned alive. These are the latest in a series of sectarian killings since 31 January. *CSW email 25/2/2017 & Release International Prayer Alert email 23/2/2017*
 - February 2017 – A teacher, Gamal Tawfik Girgis, who also owned a shoe shop, was shot dead in a crowded market on 16th February. *CSW email 25/2/2017 & Middle East Concern email 20/2/2017*
 - February 2017 – Adel Shawky, (57) a labourer from the Samaran district of Al-Arish was shot in the head on 13th February. *CSW email 25/2/2017*
 - February – on 12th February, 40 year old veterinary surgeon, Bahgat William Zakhar, was shot in the head as he left his clinic. *CSW email 25/2/2017 & Middle East Concern email 20/2/2017*
 - January 2017 – Coptic trader, Wael Youssef (35) was shot dead in his grocery shop in front of his wife and son on 31st January by masked men in Al-Arish. *CSW email 25/2/2017 & Release International Prayer Alert Prayer Alert email 23/2/2017*
 - December 2016 – On 11th December, 27 Christians died and over 60 more were injured in a bomb attack on the packed chapel adjoining the Coptic Orthodox cathedral of St Mark. All but three of those who died are women and children. *Open Doors 12/12/2016 & Barnabas Aid Magazine Mar/April 2017*
 - June 2016 - On 30 June a church minister in Al Arish, northern Egypt, was gunned down as he prepared to return home following a church service. Raphael Moussa was shot four times in the head by gunmen in a taxi. Islamic State (IS) claimed responsibility on social media for his murder, saying the minister had been "waging war against Islam." It is the second murder of a church leader in Al Arish by IS. The first was shot outside his church in 2013. *Barnabas Aid Magazine Sep/Oct 2016*
 - June 2016 - On 29 June in the village of Kom Al Lufi, Minya province, a crowd of Muslim extremists, shouting "Allahu akbar (God is Great)" set fire to four Christian homes following false rumours that one of them was being converted into a church. The rioters beat children and prevented a fire engine from reaching the burning houses. There is no church in Kom Al Lufi even though the Christian community applied for a licence to build one ten years ago. *Barnabas Aid Magazine Sep/Oct 2016*
 - June 2016 - Christians in the town of Qaryat Al Bayda, in Egypt's Alexandria province, who were attacked by Muslims, have been forced to agree to so-called "reconciliation" meetings. This means the Christians have to give up their recourse to justice by a proper legal process. Worse still, such "reconciliation" processes in rural Egypt usually end up with the Christian victims having to yield further to Muslim demands while their attackers go unpunished. On 17 June, Muslim extremists attacked Christian buildings and homes citing false rumours that the believers were in the process of building the village's first church.
- After being held under house arrest and threatened with prosecution for 'rioting', the Christians felt they had no choice but to agree to the reconciliation process. "There was no way we could say 'no'," said a local Christian, "especially because we had been threatened with police arrest." *Barnabas Aid Magazine Sep/Oct 2016*
- May 2016 - A crowd of around 300 Egyptian Muslims attacked, ransacked and set on fire the homes of seven Christian families near Abu Qurqas, Minya province on 20 May. An elderly Christian woman was dragged from her home, stripped of her clothes and made to walk naked in the streets while the mob chanted "Allah Akbar (God is great)." The incident was provoked by rumours that her son had been involved in an affair with a Muslim woman. "They burnt my house and went in and dragged me out, threw me in front of the house and ripped my clothes," the woman (aged 70) recalled. "I was just as my mother gave birth to me and was screaming and crying." Egypt's President al-Sisi later released a statement calling the attacks 'regrettable' and said none of those responsible will 'escape without justice.' He also ordered the Egyptian military to repair the homes within a month and at no cost to the owners. *Barnabas Aid Magazine Jul/August 2016*
 - July 2015 - Prisoner of faith, Bishoy Armia Boulos, (formerly known as Mohammed Hagazy) is being beaten several times a week by staff in Tora Prison, according to his lawyer Karam Ghobriel. His jailers appear to be humiliating him to try to make him recant his faith. *Release Magazine Jul-Aug 2015*
 - March 2015 - On March 27, Muslim rioters stormed the Egyptian village of Al-Our, home to 13 of the Egyptian Christian men who were beheaded by Islamic State militants in Libya in a video released on 15/2/2015. Enraged by a statement issued by Egypt's President granting permission to local Christians to build a church, Muslim residents rampaged through the village shouting 'No church will be built on this ground'. At least six local Christians were wounded in the attacks, three of them sustaining serious injuries. *Barnabas Aid Jul-Aug 2015*
 - March/April 2015 - Christians remain vulnerable to persecution despite being encouraged by their country's new constitution which advocates religious freedom and equality for all its citizens. Violence is continuing against Christians by Muslim extremists but on a smaller scale. President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi made a historic visit to St Mark's cathedral in Cairo during the Christmas celebrations but just hours before two policemen, one a Coptic Christian, guarding a church in Upper Egypt's Minya City were gunned down. The implementation of the equal rights advocated in the constitution is the major concern for Christians. The constitution which appears to offer more rights to Christians continues to uphold Islam as the state religion and Sharia as the principal source of legislation. The constitution will be applied solely by Islamic judges because no real provision has been made for Christians to serve as judges in Egypt. *Release International Issue 84 Mar-Apr 2015*
 - March/April 2015 - A convert from Islam, Bishoy Armia Boulos (also known by his former Muslim name of Mohammed Hegazy), remains in jail due to longstanding blasphemy charges relating to his attempt to change the religious status on his ID card. Bishoy, won a partial victory in an appeals court in December when a judge found him not guilty of charges relating to alleged reporting of religious persecution but guilty of an unidentified charge carrying a one year prison sentence. *Release International Issue 84 Mar-Apr 2015*
 - March/April 2015 - Last year Christian Kerolos Shouky Attallah from the Luxor area was sentenced to six years in prison for blasphemy simply for 'liking' a Facebook page used by Christian converts, while Dimyana Abd Al-Nour was sentenced to six months in prison for 'blasphemy' after primary school pupils and parents complained about her social studies class. Dimyana has fled abroad. *Release International Issue 84 Mar-Apr 2015*
 - September 2014 – On 17th September police in Al-Minya harassed and assaulted members of the Coptic community in Deir Gabal al-Tayr Village, referring to them as infidels. They detained 12 people, all were later released. The raids occurred after members of the Coptic community protested outside the police station in Samalout Town in Minya Province on 16 September. They were frustrated at police inaction over the abduction of Iman Morqos Sarufim, a 39-year-old Christian mother of five, on 3rd September. She subsequently escaped her captors on 26th September. *Christian Solidarity Worldwide Prayer Alert 05 Oct 2014.*
 - August 2014 - Wahid Jacob, a young Christian deacon from St. John the Baptist Church, part of the Coptic Qusiya diocese in Asyut, was kidnapped on Aug 21 by 'unknown persons' who demanded an exorbitant ransom from his impoverished family – 1,200,000 Egyptian pounds (equivalent to \$171,000 USD). Because his family could not raise the sum, he was executed and his body dumped in a field where it was later found. The priest who conducted his funeral service said that the youth's body bore signs of severe torture. *Christian Telegraph [WWW] 21/11/2014*
 - August 2014 – On 5th August the homes of Christians in Minya, Upper Egypt, were pelted with Molotov cocktails by Muslim residents. The violence broke out after Muslims learned that believers in Yaacoub planned to build a new church. A dozen people were arrested following the violence, which reportedly spread to the city of Minya from nearby Yaacoub village. *Barnabas Persecution Update & Barnabas News in Brief 15/8/2014*

Evidence (8)

- July 2014 - Believers in Egypt, continue to be vulnerable to kidnappings, violence and blasphemy accusations despite positive political change in their country. *Barnabas Prayer Focus Jul 2014*
- July 2014 - A noted convert released on bail in July for the appeal of his disputed conviction for 'inciting sectarian violence' was quickly imprisoned again on charges of 'defaming Islam'. Bishoy Armia Boulos, previously known as Mohammed Hegazy, has been detained by the Ministry of the Interior to face blasphemy charges filed five years ago. *Release magazine issue 81 Sep-Oct 2014*
- June 2014 - Egyptian Christians are hopeful, as the country's new President, Al-Sisi, promises that all citizens will be treated equally and Christians look forward to the implementation of the country's new constitution. *Barnabas Fund Jun 2014*
- June 2014 - Two Christians have been kidnapped in El-Arish in the Sinai Peninsula by suspected Islamic militants. Wadie Rameses, a well-known surgeon was seized on 14 June. The assailants opened fire on his vehicle and took him away wounded. They later demanded a ransom of ten million Egyptian pounds (£800,000 or 998,000 euros). Two days later, Christian merchant, Gemal Shenouda, was captured near his home. No immediate ransom demand was made. It is thought that Islamic militants with links to al-Qaeda are responsible for the kidnappings. *Barnabas Persecution Update 26/6/2014; Daily MailOnline [WWW] 16/6/2014; UK Copts.org.uk [WWW] 20/6/2014, Barnabas Prayer Focus 213 Jul 2014; Barnabas Prayer Focus update 1/7/2014 & Barnabas Aid magazine Sep/Oct 2014*
- May 2014 - Islamists attacked Christian property in El-Mahameed village, near Luxor, following the arrest of a young Christian for blasphemy. Kerolos Shouly Attallah has been convicted of showing contempt for a heavenly religion and inciting sectarian violence, and he has been sentenced to six years in prison. Kerolos' 'crime' was having clicked the 'Like' button on a Facebook page run by a group of converts from Islam to Christianity, the Knights of the Cross. Muslim villagers attacked Kerolos' home on 28 May after taking offence at a cartoon that was posted on the page, which features posts about Islamic and Christian teachings and is intended to encourage converts in their faith. *Barnabas Prayer Focus Number 213 Jul 2014, Barnabas Prayer Focus updated 1/7/2014 & Barnabas Aid magazine Sep/Oct 2014*
- March 2014 - A Christian shot in the head by a suspected Islamic extremist in Libya in March, died of his injuries. Family members said Salama Fawzy Tobia (23) died in El Reay El Saleh Hospital in Samalut, Minya Province. *Release Magazine Issue 79 May-Jun 2014*
- March 2014 - Four people were killed in an Islamist attack on a church in Egypt on 28 March. Supporters of the Muslim Brotherhood shot at the church building in Ain Shams, a suburb of Cairo, and set parked cars on fire. A young Christian woman, Mary Sameh George, was among those killed. She was in a car outside and was targeted by the Islamists when they spotted a cross hanging from the rear-view mirror. An eyewitness said that Mary was savagely attacked by the Muslim mob. Christians remain vulnerable to Islamist hostility. *Barnabas Aid Magazine Jul-Aug 2014, Barnabas Persecution Update & Utd. Copts of Great Britain [WWW] 4/4/2014 & Barnabas Prayer Focus Update May 2014*
- March 2014 - Coptic Lawyer, Said Fayeze, has handled nearly 318 cases of kidnappings or disappearances since 1970s. He reports that Islamic cells in Egypt have been fully occupied with kidnapping, forced marriages, extorting, converting and blackmailing Coptic girls of age or under-age. The abuse that takes place in many of these instances, which often goes unreported, is heart-breaking. *International Christian Concern & CAN Poland [WWW] 5/3/2014*
- February 2014 - Arabic media has reported the murder of a Syrian Christian family who had been living in Alexandria. A 44-year-old man, his 35-year-old wife, their six-year-old son and the wife's brother were stabbed to death at their home. The attackers set the house on fire. *Barnabas Aid Magazine May-Jun 2014*
- February 2014 - On 8 February, a 30-year-old Christian woman, Madline Wagih Demian, was killed in an attack on a Christian Community in Kom Ombo, Upper Egypt. A knife-wielding Muslim man went on a rampage, targeting two Christian owned pharmacies. In one of these he stabbed Madline in the neck; she died at the scene. The assailant then stabbed Marian Kamal Shafik (19), who was walking along the street with a friend. She survived the injury. Christian women in Kom Ombo have been afraid to leave their homes alone. The suspected attacker was arrested. *Barnabas Aid Magazine May-Jun 2014*
- February 2014 - In February, a 25 year old Christian was kidnapped at gun point on his way home from Minya City. Over the past two years, there have been over 150 reported kidnappings of Christians in Minya Province. Payments extorted from families in exchange for their loved ones range from US\$7,000 to US\$500,000. Kidnapping for ransom remains a serious and persistent problem for the Christian community, and younger victims are being targeted more frequently. *Barnabas Aid Magazine May-Jun 2014*
- February 2014 - On 16 February, jihadist group, Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis, carried out a suicide bombing on a tourist bus carrying 31 South Korean Christians who were visiting historical Christian sites in Sinai. Four people were killed and 14 injured. *Barnabas Aid Magazine May-Jun 2014*
- January 2014 - Muslim Brotherhood members, used violence to try and prevent Coptic Christians in the villages of Upper Egypt, Reida and Bani Ahmed of Minya, from accessing the polls to vote in Egypt's new constitutional referendum, which strengthens the rights of Christians. Most reported attacks were in Minya Province, an Islamist heartland with a large Christian population. In the city of Minya, a Christian owned pharmacy was smashed by Morsi supporters, while the attempted robbery at the home of a prominent Christian businessman was foiled. *Barnabas Aid Magazine May-Jun 2014 & International Christian Concern & Asia News [PIME] 14/01/2014*
- January 2014 - One policeman was shot dead and another injured during an armed assault targeting a church in the Giza governorate. *International Christian Concern & Madr Masa [WWW] 28/1/2014*
- January/February 2014 - A Christian, from Dalga Minya Province, Iskander Toss was kidnapped, severely beaten and dragged through the streets of his hometown, until he died. A few days later members of the Muslim Brotherhood opened up his grave, his body was seized and dragged through the town again causing Christian families to flee. *Barnabas Aid Jan/Feb 2014*
- January/February 2014 - A church was attacked in Sanieem Village, Minya. Pastor Mahrous Narouz Saed and his family recognised some of the attackers who descended on their church and family home at 2.30am. Their neighbours were among them armed with firebombs, knives - even stolen tasers from the police station. The attackers threw molotov cocktails at the church whilst the pastor and his family were sleeping in their apartment above. The family were trapped upstairs. Their assailants began to break everything in the church, they called on the family to come down. They wanted to burn the family. The family managed to escape by placing a table as a connection to their neighbours building and they climbed to the other side. *Release International Issue 77 Jan-Feb 2014*
- January/February 2014 - Two boats belonging to Christians were burnt out - The *Dahabeya* a floating Christian seminary and The *Mermaid* a restaurant. This happened in Minya where a 700 strong mob of Brotherhood supporters had headed before splitting up to hit various targets. Two employees on the *Mermaid* had heard the mob coming and hid together in the bathroom. They never emerged from the flames. One was a Christian, the other a Muslim. *Release International Issue 77 Jan-Feb 2014*
- January/February 2014 - Speaking of the exodus of Christians from the country, Bishop Thomas of Quosia and Mair, Assuit said "We always will be the scapegoat for a lot of things that happen in Egypt." Since the revolution in 2011 it is believed that 100,000 Christians have left. He also experienced deliverance from a violent mob. He was in his home adjoining the cathedral at Assuit when word came that a huge crowd was coming towards them. They were told that more than 1,000 people were coming, some with machine guns, some with petrol bombs and other churches had been burned on the way. He gathered with 20 other Christians to pray. God gave him an idea. The Bishop asked the people to soak the narrow alley leading up to the church with water and then pour liquid soap on it. As the mob entered the alley they stumbled and fell and fearing an ambush fell back. The church was spared, though the rioters took out their anger on the town. *Release International Issue 77 Jan-Feb 2014*
- September 2013 - The leader of the Coptic Church, Egypt's largest denomination has been forced into hiding by death threats, while another senior church leader narrowly escaped assassination when his car was showered with bullets on 30 September in el-Sairo in Abou Qorqas, Minya province. The Brotherhood has destroyed scores of churches, Christian institutions, homes and businesses, and several Christians have been killed. They have accused the Christian community of being instrumental in the protest movement that resulted in Morsi's fall. Christians have suffered unprecedented violence at the hands of angry Islamists since the ousting of Mohammed Morsi at the beginning of July, but they became much more severe after the authorities dispersed the Muslim Brotherhood's sit-in protests on August 14. *Barnabas Aid Jan/Feb 2014*
- August 2013 - The Muslim Brotherhood carried out violent attacks against Christians in August 2013 especially in Upper Egypt. They were revenge attacks as the military had cleared out Muslim Brotherhood protestors from Cairo and Giza, killing hundreds. They burned tPastor Amir Labib's Baptist Church in Bani Mazar, Minya. The militants had attacked the police station and then armed with molotov cocktails had vaulted the walls of the Baptist Church and set it alight. The mob looted the pastor's possessions including his money and clothes. He and his family, including two young children had to flee to safety. *Release Magazine Issue 77 Jan-Feb 2014*

Eritrea

- July 2017 - Following a campaign of house to house raids, the number of Christians known to have been detained in desert camps and military facilities is now 210. During the first week of August, 23 Christians were rounded up in the capital city of Asmara; in July, 16 female national service conscripts in their late teens were taken from Adi Halo and detained in Metkel Abiet camp. They experience harsh prison conditions and recently a mother of three died in the camp. *Jubilee Campaign USA email 22/08/2017*

Evidence (9)

- May 2017– Eritrean security officials have arrested all members of the Kale Hiwot Church in Adiqual, near the Ethiopian border, including 12 children, the youngest being two months old. They were apparently picked up one by one from their homes by the officials. *Release Magazine Jul/Aug 2017*
- March 2016 - Hundreds of Christians are imprisoned in horrific conditions inside Eritrea or are forced to do manual labour. Eritrean Christians are loving and praying for those who persecute them - they are sharing the gospel with everyone who is willing to listen explained Peter James from Release. Temesgen spent three years in jail in brutal conditions because he was accused of overhearing a conversation between two men planning to escape from Eritrea and had failed to report it to the police. "Eritrea today is like one giant prison, made up of dozens of jails, detention centres and prison camps," said Release partner Dr Berhane Asmelash. "It's like North Korea, but in Africa. The military Government arrests all opposition without trial." *Release Magazine Mar/Apr 2016*
- December 2014 - The government has been seizing and destroying Orthodox monasteries and demanding a share of the monks' income. As a result monks are increasingly joining the ranks of refugees. *Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) 20/12/2014*
- July 2014 - Thousands of Eritrean Christian refugees, who have fled from escalating anti-Christian persecution in their home country, are being detained in prison in Egypt, where the horrific conditions have worsened. *Barnabas Fund Jul 2014*
- June 2014 - 27 June 2014 was a historic moment for Eritrea, when the UN agreed to set up a Commission of Inquiry to investigate the horrific human rights abuses. *CWS Aug 2014*
- January/February 2014 - Since 2002 free churches are not recognised and there is an open campaign of persecution against Christians. Many are kept in very inhumane conditions in camps. Many pressures including torture are used to try and get them to denounce their faith. *Release International Issue 77 Jan/Feb 2014*

Ethiopia

- October 2017 - Wasihun from Ethiopia was seven (Aug 2013), when he witnessed his father being murdered for his faith in Jesus. Wasihun had to go to school with the children of the men who killed his father. Today Wasihun goes to a different school. He says, "I am happy to go to school. I have friends to play with and I love learning." *Open Doors 27/10/2017*
- January 2014 - It is reported that public evangelism is not possible. *African Enterprise Jan-Mar 2014 edition*

France

- November 2017 – A court in France has ruled that Christmas nativity scenes cannot be displayed in public buildings unless they are installed for cultural, artistic or festive purposes alone. *International Christian Concern email 24/11/2017*
- October 2017 - The French State Council ordered the removal of the cross atop the statue of Pope John Paul II in the community of Ploërmel because the symbol violates French secularism laws. *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians 25/10/2017*
- April 2017 - A Muslim woman, dressed in a white cloak and face hidden behind a Venetian mask, vandalised the church of Sainte-Marie-Madeleine. She attacked the holy water font with an axe, decapitated a statue and placed a Quran in the church. Police arrested the woman and when asked why she committed these acts, the woman responded "Today is the day of the presidential election, whilst in Syria Western bombs kill children. You are all disbelievers. My husband is over there." *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians 23/04/2017*
- July 2016 - Father Jacques Hamel was murdered on 26th July as he celebrated Mass with his congregation at Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray in Northern France. *Aid to the Church in Need 29/07/2016*
- January 2016 - Thibaud de La Serre Dec 30 and Jan 6, wax statues - more than a century old and familiar to the faithful of Sainte-Catherine parish - in the nativity scene were vandalised. *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians 06/01/2016*
- January 2016 – In an email to the blog Le Bon Combat, Pastor Daniel O. described the beatings, stabbings, disappearance, and presumed murder of an Iranian Christian at the hands of Muslim refugees in Grande-Synthe refugee camp. He confirms: "Christians are mistreated on the site of Grande Synthe... A young Christian had a broken nose, another received two stab wounds, and another after being abused is not found." [He was later found dead, presumed murdered]. *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians 18/01/2016*
- November 2015 - At the Church of Saint-Cyprien, Poitiers on 13th November a large concrete statue of the Virgin Mary located at the church entrance was thrown to the ground and irreparably broken as well as other destruction of the church. *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians 04 Dec 2015*
- November 2015 - Visitors to the Mazères cemetery on 1st November discovered five graves and a central cross, sprayed with orange paint with references to "Satanists", among others. An investigation to determine the perpetrators has been opened. Municipal officials had to clean the central cross so that it would be presentable for a religious ceremony. *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians 04 Dec 2015*
- September 2015 - On 3rd September 43 graves were discovered vandalised in the small French village of Montjavoult. Swastikas were spray-painted on 6 of them and crosses were broken off and left on the ground. Authorities have reason to believe that this act was political in nature, and not just the prank of drunken young people. *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians 9 Nov 2015*

Gaza

- August 2014 - The Christian community in Gaza City, like its counterparts elsewhere in the Middle East, has been shrinking because of both conflict and unemployment, but few say they are staying. *International Christian Concern Aug 2014*

Germany

- Sept 2017 - Berlin police reported that a 23-year-old man from Afghanistan was attacked and injured in Neukölln for wearing a chain with a cross on it. One of the two perpetrators tore the chain from the man's neck and beat him while the other held him down. The police called the incident 'dangerous bodily harm' with a 'religious background.' *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians 11/09/2017*
- July 2017 – Three apparently North African teenagers attacked a 39-year-old man on a tram who was wearing two wooden Christian crosses on a chain around his neck. The teenagers proceeded to taunt him with insults and slapped him in the face repeatedly. While the victim did not suffer serious injuries, the National Criminal Police Office took over the investigation because it has jurisdiction over offences which endanger the symbols, values, the facilities and existence of the German state. *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians 14/07/2017*
- August 2016 - An Afghan refugee (31) who converted from Islam to Christianity was attacked by four Muslim Afghans in Maintal near Frankfurt am Main. It was the third attack targeted against him. Benjamin Dauth a volunteer of the Frei evangelische Gemeinde Hanau (the church attended by the victim), said: "Whoever, as a convert, speaks openly about his beliefs among Muslims and does not hide his cross, is not safe - even in Germany." *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians 17/08/2016; Kath.net 28/08/2016 on [WWW] http://kath.net/news/56469*
- August 2016 - A young Christian asylum seeker was approached by several men on the street near Berlin and was asked whether he is Christian. When he said yes, he was insulted in Arabic and badly beaten. *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians 14/08/2016; Steglitz Lutherisch Church 17/08/2016 on [WWW] https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=481415735401468&id=417213035155072*
- August 2016 - Bundestag member, Erika Steinbach, was advised by Pastor Mahin Mousapour that Christians staying at migrant shelters are being told that they are impure and that they deserve to die for rejecting Islam. "Many Muslim asylum seekers call all Christians unclean. Church services are held in secret, bibles and crucifixes have to be hidden." Steinbach said that all German politicians recognize the problem, but no one dares to bring up the subject. *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians 08/08/2016; Die Welt 09/08/2016 on [WWW] https://www.welt.de/politik/deutschland/article157586994/Muslimische-Fluechtlinge-bedrohen-Christen-mit-dem-Tod.html*
- August 2016 - Fourteen young Christian Iranians fled their accommodations after being threatened with death for months by a group of Muslims living in the tent city at Schloss Holte-Stukenbrock. After making a complaint the Christians were moved to new housing, but safety there was short-lived because some of the Muslim residents who had been threatening them were later moved there too. *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians 04/08/2016*
- June 2016 - Two young Afghan men attacked a woman from Iran because she converted from Islam to Christianity, according to police. The Muslim perpetrators hit the 46-year-old woman in the face and strangled her. She was hospitalized as result of her injuries. *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians 25/06/2016*
- June 2016 - A group of 30 people, led by a self-proclaimed imam, attacked a Syrian Christian and his roommate at the Rottach-Egern refugee accommodation. Authorities said that the group had been devoted to the 'imam' and were becoming radicalized, showing intolerance toward not only Christians but also against other Muslims who were not "devout enough." *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians 07/06/2016; Tegemseer Stimme 13/07/2016*

Evidence (10)

- March 2016 - Stefan Geib, president of the district court in Saarbrücken, announced the removal of crosses from meeting rooms. They are to be replaced by the state seal. Calling the cross a 'symbol of authority, but not the one from which the court gets its authority', he said that it has no place in the courthouse. *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians* 02/03/2016; <http://katholon.de/2016/03/02/kreuze-ab-und-weg-damit-welche-eine-dummheit/>.
- February 2016 - Muslim refugees at the Berlin Office for Health and Social Affairs complained about having to sit in the waiting room with 'impure Christians'. Arabic-speaking security staff responded by banning the Christians for six months. *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians* 02/03/2016; *Kath.net* [WWW] *Katholische Nachrichten* 08/02/2016
- February 2016 - On 3rd February a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Berlin-Steglitz was attacked in the refugee camp where he lives because of his Christian faith. According to Dr. Gottfried Martens, Pastor of the church, 15 Muslim occupants of the refugee camp attacked the man and another member of the church, ripping the cross from his neck. This was at least the third attack on this church member in the camp. Frustrated by the lack of official response, Martens said "Converted Christians are treated as third class in our country." *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians* 03/02/2016
- January 2016 - A 19-year-old man told another refugee that he was no longer a Muslim, but had become a Christian. The other refugee responded: "Then I will cut your throat. For this, I do not even need permission from IS." This threat was made on January 1, 2016 at a refugee camp in Schnelsen and the victim alerted the police. Officials arrested the perpetrator. *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians* 01/01/2016; *Bild* [WWW] 05/01/2016
- January 2016 - In a community shelter for refugees in Ballenstedt (Harz), a Muslim Syrian threatened an Eritrean Christian woman that he would kill her baby while she slept. The police took the threats seriously and brought the man and his extended family back to the central receiving point for refugees in Halberstadt. It is unclear whether he has been charged with a crime. *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians* 06/01/2016; *Mitteldeutsche Zeitung* [WWW] 08/01/2016
- January 2016 - Hegumen Daniel (Irbits), Father Superior of St. George the Victorious Monastery in Gotschendorf, wrote to the Federal Minister for Special Affairs and Head of the German Federal Chancellery Peter Altmaier, saying "Christian refugees from Syria, Eritrea and other countries are exposed to humiliation, manhunt and brutal harassment at the camps for refugees by Muslim neighbours...The cases when humiliation comes to injuries and threats of death are frequent." In fear for their lives refugees have to spend nights outside the camps, many at the Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Berlin district Steglitz. "Many Christians who came from the Middle East are suffering from such a strong harassment that they want to come back home, because their situation there seems to them a lesser evil as compared to the circumstances at German refugee accommodation centres." *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians* 11/01/2016; *Orthodoxie.com* [WWW]
- January 2016 - Pastor Gottfried Martens of the Trinity Lutheran Church reports stories of security guards in asylum centres looking the other way when Christians were beaten or threatened. In Martens' view, the security firms recruit their personnel under strange conditions. "Actually it is enough to have strong arms and Arabic language skills". Ismail Tipi, the spokesman for integration questions from the CDU, warned about Salafism. "As a matter of fact, the Salafists and the Islamists try to come into the refugee camps. There are also sources in the Internet for it. I am absolutely sure that there are also Islamists in the ranks of the security personnel." *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians* 18/01/2016 & 10/12/2015; *Die Welt* [WWW]
- December 2015 - On 26th December an unidentified Muslim in Berlin-Tiergarten asked five Orthodox Christians from Serbia and Montenegro, "I am Muslim. What are you?" After asking this question the unidentified Muslim and others beat up the five. *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians* 26/12/2015; *Der Tagesspiegel* [WWW]
- December 2015 - Hamburg police arrested Afghan asylum seeker, Amir Mahaballa, on 14 December for attacking and seriously injuring a 24-year-old Iranian Christian at a refugee camp in October. He allegedly declared that it was not a sin to kill him. He is charged with attempted manslaughter. *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians* 14/12/2015; *Die Welt* [WWW]
- November 2015 - Iranian Christian Ajdin (name changed) was attacked by four security personnel in the Oberurseler Asylum Center (Frankfurt Rhein-Main). "They accused me of insulting Islam, beat me, and kicked me in the face," He said he and 13 other Christians were insulted by Muslim refugees, particularly when they went for worship. "From some roommates we expected this, but that guards also despise our faith, we could have never imagined." *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians* 30/11/2015; *Die Welt* [WWW]
- September 2015 - An Iranian Christian living in a camp in southern Brandenburg, said "I fled the Iranian intelligence, because I thought in Germany I can finally live freely according to my religion. But I cannot openly admit that I am a Christian in my home for asylum seekers. I will be threatened.

They wake me before dawn during Ramadan and say I should eat before the sun comes up. If I refuse, they say I'm a kuffar, an unbeliever. They spit at me... They treat me like an animal. And threaten to kill me."

Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians 27/09/2015; *Die Welt* [<http://www.welt.de/politik/deutschland/article146919471/Islamisten-bedrohen-Christen-in-Fluechtlingsheimen.html>].

- September 2015 - A young Syrian from Erstaufnahmelager in Giessen, who has reported threats against him, said he is concerned that among the refugees are followers of the Islamic State (IS): "They shout Quranic verses. These are words that IS shouts before they cut off people's heads. I cannot stay here. I am a Christian." *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians* 27/09/2015; *Die Welt* [<http://www.welt.de/politik/deutschland/article146919471/Islamisten-bedrohen-Christen-in-Fluechtlingsheimen.html>]
- September 2015 - A Christian Iraqi family housed in a refugee camp in Bavarian Freising said they lived like prisoners in Germany, so returned to Mosul in Iraq. The father told a TV crew how Syrian Islamists had attacked them in Germany: "You have my wife yelled at and beaten. My child they say... We will kill you and drink your blood." *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians* 27/09/2015; *Die Welt* [<http://www.welt.de/politik/deutschland/article146919471/Islamisten-bedrohen-Christen-in-Fluechtlingsheimen.html>]

Hungary

- April 2014 - European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) rendered judgment on the country's 2012 Church Act, determining that it violated the applicant churches' rights to freedom of thought, conscience and religion and freedom of association protected by the European Convention on Human Rights. The 2012 Church Act forced all churches to go through a re-regulation process, during which the government could decide which churches will be given status as such and receive state subsidies. Many churches that were out of favour with the government failed to regain their status as churches. *Barnabas Persecution Update* 24/4/2014 & ifex [WWW] 11/9/2014

India

- December 2017 - More than 30 priests and seminarians singing carols at a village near Madhya Pradesh's Satna town were detained after Bajrang Dal activists accused them of forced conversion. One priest was also arrested under the state's anti-conversion law. Some of those released, alleged they had been roughed up by members of the right-wing group on the police station's premises. Both the police and the Bajrang Dal activists denied the allegations. *International Christian Concern* email 17.12.2017
- September 2017 - Hindu women raided Pastor Samuel Karjee's church in Abasing village, Odisha, dragged outside the 12 Christians present and handed them over to a 300-strong mob. The crowd beat them with sticks, kicked and insulted them. Police resolved the issue by closing the church. *Release Magazine* Sept/Oct 2017
- September 2017 - The leader of a Hindu nationalist organisation, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, has called upon Hindus to make India a 'Hindu Nation by 2023. Speaking at a gathering of Hindu organisations, Sadhvi Sarawati asserted that the goal of establishing a Hindu nation would not be hindered by the Indian constitution-which defends the rights of minorities - because 'the [true] constitution is one that was written by Ram and Krishna [Hindu deities]'. *Barnabas Aid Magazine* Sept/Oct 2017
- August 2017 - The state of Jharkhand has passed an 'anti-conversion bill' at its Assembly meeting. If approved by India's President, using 'force', 'allurement' and 'fraudulent means' to encourage conversion, "The anti-conversion law will ruin the lives and the witness of the church," says an anonymous local church leader. "The BJP, having the power both at the national level and the state, wants to implement its Hindutva (Hindu nationalist) ideology." *Open Doors* 17/08/2017
- July 2017 - Pastor Sultan was gunned down by two people on a motorbike on 15th July outside his Pentecostal Church in Ludhiana, where he had served for 20 years and he also ran a school for the poor. *Open Doors* 27/07/2017
- March 2017 - Hindu extremists (from the youth organisation Bajrang Dal) in the state of Bihar, lured Assemblies of God Pastor, Ajay Kumar and a Bible college student, Assaryav, to a market place and beat them. The pastor refused the offer of money to officiate at a wedding, suspecting that this was a trap in order to accuse him of taking money, so both he and Ajay were punched and kicked. When senior police officers arrived, the two Christians were arrested rather than the assailants, detained until after midnight and charged with 'malicious intention of outraging religious feelings'. *Release Magazine* May/Jun 2017 & *Release International Prayer Alert* email 29/08/2017
- January 2017 - Umesh, a young man, gave out gospel tracts to fellow students on the computer course he was taking in Chhattisgarh state. However, one student was a member of the Hindu nationalist group Bajrang Dal. He informed his friends and later a group of about 50 attacked Umesh before taking him to the police station where he was charged under one of the sections of the anti-conversion laws.

Evidence (II)

He was released, but later, he, his parents and his pastor were beaten up by the same group. *Release Magazine Jan/Feb 2017*

- January 2017 – Bartu Urawn (50), a Christian convert from Jharkhand state, died on 20th January after being bound by local villagers and immersed, along with his wife, in a cold pond for 17 hours. During this time he was pushed to renounce his faith, but he repeatedly said “I will not deny Christ...I will continue to believe until my last breath”. Following this immersion both he and his wife fell ill; Bartu died shortly afterwards, but his wife survived. *Barnabas Aid magazine May/June 2017*
- January 2017 - A Christian pastor was beaten up and his brother murdered in an Indian village – because of the impact of the gospel. Pastor Shudura faced repeated threats from family and villagers in Mandara, where the local church met at his home. He was told to give up his gospel ministry, but refused to do so. After one worship service a member of his family took him to the centre of the village where about 400 Hindu activists had gathered. ‘You belong to an Indian family – yet due to you all the people are becoming Christians!’ they said. They beat him up and vandalised his home, before physically throwing him out of the village. He later learned that on the same evening his elder brother Lachhu – who had become a Christian – was murdered. His killers have never been discovered. Shudura told Release: ‘I will never leave this place, even though I am still being threatened.’ *Release Magazine Jan/Feb 2017*
- December 2016 – a mob of 25 radicals broke into a private house in Sarangi village, where 30 Christians were singing Christmas carols. The Christians were dragged onto the streets and beaten, the radicals reportedly accusing them of carrying out forced conversions in the village. The local pastor said “because of the fear of attacks from the radical Hindu groups, the Christians of this area are scared and cannot celebrate Christianity freely”. *International Christian Concern email 23/12/2016*
- December 2016 – On 11th December 20 Christians in the village of Tikiriya were beaten by 30 suspected radicals with wooden clubs. Men and women were beaten on their hands, legs and backs. Children ran away and the nuns in the house escaped the beating. Fr. Stephen Rawat, a parish priest badly injured in the attack, said “Christians are being targeted specifically for their faith. I have no enemies, I was beaten because of my Christian faith”. *International Christian Concern email 23/12/2016*
- October 2016 - According to a report by the Evangelical Fellowship, in the first six months of 2016 there were 134 recorded incidents of hate and violence against Christians in India, up from 103 in the first six months of 2015. Christians in central and northern India continue to be the worst affected. Eight of the recorded incidents against Christians during the first half of 2016 took place in Punjab, the only Sikh majority state in India. *Barnabas Fund Email dated 6/10/2016*
- October 2016 - Dhanasekharan, 34, a Christian politician was stabbed to death in a church in Padappai, in the South Indian state of Tamil Nadu on 2nd October. He was at a church service when a phone call lured him outside, where five men were waiting for him. He ran into a nearby church but was attacked with sickles and other sharp weapons and killed. Dhanasekharan was a member of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), a state political party, serving as both a councillor and youth wing secretary. A senior police official reported, “Preliminary inquiries have given us clues and we will arrest the killers soon.” He continued, “Either business or political rivalry could be the reason for the murder.” However, Sajan K. George, president of the Global Council of Indian Christians, said, “This killing is yet another proof that Christian minorities are particularly vulnerable.” He adds, “Police are investigating but we believe Dhanasekharan was also killed because of his faith.” *Barnabas Fund email dated 6.10.16*
- October 2016 – On 16th October, Samari Kasabi (55), a Christian from the village of Dokawaya, District Sukma, Chhattisgarh, was stripped naked, beaten to death, and her body was burnt by people from her village. *Open Doors 05/12/2016*
- September 2016 - In Punjab state, a seven-year old girl and her grandmother were thrown out of their home by the girl’s Hindu father because of their conversion from Hinduism to Christianity. The decision was made by the father after the young girl gave her life to Jesus following her grandmother who became a Christian five years ago. The father also filed a police complaint against the pastor of the church which the girl and her grandmother attend. *Barnabas Aid Magazine Sep/Oct 2016*
- September 2016 - In Karnataka state, Christian volunteers were assaulted and Bibles destroyed as around 20 Hindu extremists attacked a Gideons International stall during a festival which began on 24 September. The attack on a stall run by Gideons International, a ministry which distributes Bibles and Scriptures, took place during a four-day annual agricultural festival called Krishi Mela. The charity rented a stall at the festival from which they offered free copies of the Bible in various Indian languages. The attack against them was unprovoked. It is not yet known how many Christians were attacked and the extent of their injuries. *Barnabas Fund email dated 6/10/2016*
- September 2016 - A 55-year-old Christian woman in a rural village in Punjab, North India, bled to death after she was attacked outside her house on 11th September. Balwinder Kaur – who suffered from a mental disability caused by an accidental electric shock around 20 years ago – was arrested last year following accusations that she desecrated the Guru Granth Sahib (the Sikh holy book). She was released on bail. It is not yet clear who is responsible for her murder, but local Christians claim that at least three people were involved. Local police have said that radical Sikhs may have been involved, given the accusations of blasphemy levelled against her, but they did not rule out other possible motives. *Barnabas Fund Email 6/10/2016 & Barnabas Prayer Focus email 10/10/2016*
- September 2016 - On 16 September, Prashant Bhatnagar, a 45-year-old Christian man, was abducted and severely beaten by a group of armed men, believed to be from Shriram Pratishtan (a local Hindu organisation), whilst distributing Christian literature in Kharghar and Talaja, near Mumbai. He was taken by car to a secluded spot in Talaja, where he was beaten and threatened with death if he continued distributing the literature. *Barnabas Prayer Focus Email 10/10/2016*
- August 2016 - Hindu extremists forced their way into a private home in Uttar Pradesh on 26 August and beat up a church pastor who was leading a prayer meeting. The pastor, who is a convert to Christianity, was accused by the mob of proselytising Hindus. *Barnabas Fund Prayer Focus Email 10/10/2016*
- May 2016 – Christians in central Chhattisgarh state are facing intense opposition from Hindu extremists. In one village, 28 Christians including children, were beaten and driven from their homes twice in two days. In Katholi village, local Hindus summoned four families to a public meeting, demanding they recant their faith, but they refused. Six believers were badly injured and needed medical treatment and when they returned to the village the next day, they were beaten again and expelled from the village. Between January and April, 49 incidents of organised attacks on Christians in Chhattisgarh state were reported. *Release International Email 27/5/2016; Open Doors 08/06/2016; Release Magazine Jul/Aug 2016 & Express Online 07/06/2016*
- May 2016 – In Sukma village, Hindu extremists subjected two Christians to a two-hour ‘purification’ ritual: one of them known only as Jaisingh, was burned with heated coins. When the men refused to deny Christ, they were fined. *Release International Email 27/5/2016*
- May 2016 – A 55-year-old Pastor, living in Rae Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh, who goes by the single name of ‘Rampal’, had his shop vandalised and was attacked by Hindu extremists who broke his hand. They also attacked his wife and daughter. He stated “I am joyful that I am chased and beaten up for His name’s sake”. Hindu extremists then stormed his home where about 80 members of a house church, led by five pastors from Kanpur were worshipping. One pastor, Santosh Kumar (80), sustained bone fractures on both hands, abrasions on his body and cuts on his head. *Release Magazine May/June 2016*
- April 2016 - on 9th April in Jaunpur, extremists attacked Pentecostal Pastor Samuel Marikuda Joseph (57), kicking and beating him with sticks, demanding that he stop holding worship services. Police filed a case against his attackers, but they absconded. No arrests have been made. *Release International Prayer Alert Email 9/5/2015*
- April 2016 – on 9th April, Joginer Gold (30), was taken from his home in Uttar Pradesh by Hindu extremists who tortured him for three hours, whilst trying to force him to reconvert to Hinduism. He was hung upside down by his feet from a tree, his soles were beaten and a stick pushed into his mouth. After being left for dead in a shallow pit, a villager rescued him and called the police. No arrests have been made. *Release International Prayer Alert Email 9/5/2016*
- April 2016 – Over the weekend of 8-10th April 210 believers had gathered for a conference in Nabinagar, in the district of Aurangabad, in Bihar state. On the last day, following the baptism of 30 new believers, 35 radicals from the Bajrang Dal raided the meeting, beating several believers, including Pastor Suresh Lakhra and conference organiser, Jebakumar Dhanraj. Abusive words were also hurled against the women present. Police were called to the incident, but they did not want to register the case against the Hindus. Instead they arrested the Pastor on three charges, two of which do not allow bail release. Two local newspapers also provided false reporting on the incident including the accusation that the conference was attempting forceful conversions. Sajan K George, president of the Global Council of Indian Christians, said, “It is worrying ... that the police are biased against the Christian minority, while they should maintain order and protect citizens.” He adds that “intolerance against Christians is growing in secular India.” *Barnabas Fund Persecution update email 21/4/2016*
- April 2016 – On 5th April a Bible College graduate called Deepak, was attacked by gangs from the Bajrang Dal and Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), two Hindu groups, whilst he was travelling to the village of Budhani Chak, in the district of Patna in the state of Bihar. They bound his hands, legs and neck with chains, before beating him with rods, a belt, shoes and a sickle. After falling unconscious, the extremists gave Deepak water and rubbed alcohol into his wounds and forced him to drink urine. The attackers, having made Deepak strip naked, took his clothes to hide evidence of the crime and wrote a false statement accusing him of offering ten thousand rupees to convert people to the Christian faith.

Evidence (12)

They then gave him electric shocks and threatened to throw him on a railway track unless he insulted the name of Jesus. Deepak refused, saying, "Kill me, but I will not abuse the name of Jesus." *Barnabas Fund Persecution update email 21/4/2016 & Barnabas Aid Magazine Jul/Aug 2016*

- March 2016 – Pastor Avdhesh Savita (35) was picked from his home in Randhar village, Uttar Pradesh by Hindu extremists posing as police. They beat him, shaved half of his head, one eyebrow and one side of his moustache, put him on a donkey and led him in procession through Orai, Jalaun District, with a mob calling for him to be cut to pieces, falsely accusing him of forcible conversion. Pastor Savita said that he was thankful that he was counted worthy to suffer for the name of Christ and kept telling the mob that faith unites, it does not divide. The assailants were reportedly members of Yuvavahini (Youth Brigade), a Hindu nationalist group. *Release Magazine Mar/Apr 2016 & May/June 2016*
- February 2016 - 7 Christian families from Myanmar who have been living as refugees in India were expelled from a refugee camp in India in which they had been taking shelter. This was because, "The Muslims in the camp are afraid that (the families) would convert people to Christianity." *Open Doors 18/02/2016*
- January 2016 – On 13th January Mr. Pandayya and his wife, Seethamma, were murdered after elders in the village of K. Kamuduvalasa, falsely accused the Christian couple of having murdered a young boy in the village by black magic. The boy died following a leg wound that did not heal. The elders hired men to come to the village, and they beat the couple with sticks and burned them to death. *Barnabas Aid Magazine May/June 2016*
- January 2016 - Pastor Avdhesh Kumar, 45, from Uttar Pradesh, India, was abducted by Hindu extremists who disguised themselves as policemen. The event took place on 29 January. He had his head shaved and was paraded in the streets because of an allegation that he had 'forcibly' converted a man called Jatav to Christianity. The police took the pastor into protective custody. *Open Doors 09/02/2016 & Hindustan Times [WWW] 30/01/2016 & Barnabas Aid magazine May/June 2016*
- October 2015 - Several Christians were injured and others forced to reconvert to Hinduism after a village church in India's central Chhattisgarh state was attacked by Hindu hardliners. The independent Pentecostal Church in Kohkameta was attacked during a Sunday morning service in October. Christians were dragged from the church and beaten with sticks. *Release Magazine Jan-Feb 2016*
- September 2015 - Evaluating the first year of the Hindu-nationalist BJP majority coalition government, which came to power in May 2014, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches in India, Roger Gaikwad, said, 'We have nothing to celebrate. Rather, we have reasons to be concerned.' In 2014 there were 147 anti-Christian incidents recorded, including attacks on churches, arson, assaults on pastors, intimidation and harassment. This compares with only 38 recorded in the whole period between 1964 and 1996. *Barnabas Aid Magazine Sept/Oct 2015*
- September 2015 - Church leaders in India's Rajasthan state have recently disclosed that Hindu extremists have threatened to kill and 'cut them into pieces' if they go back to church, utter the name of Christ, have any church meetings and do not convert to Hinduism. Ten families have fled the village of Nakhnool due to these death threats. According to the Regional Secretary of Friends Missionary Prayer Band (FMPB), Rajamman Johnson, approximately 600 Hindu worshippers gathered in front of Pastor Singh's house and forcefully converted him and 10 members of his family. No arrests have been reported. *International Christian Concern email 4/9/2015*
- September 2015 - Hindu extremists launched a vicious attack on a prayer meeting in Jharkhand state which left six Christians needing hospital treatment. One woman aged in her 60s was beaten unconscious. The extremists were armed with guns, axes, spades and clubs. *Release Magazine Nov-Dec 2015*
- August 2015 - Villagers in Sagarkatta, in Jharkhand state, were ordered not to allow the village's seven Christian families to use water from the village well or to graze their animals on village pastures. According to the Evangelical Fellowship of India, 'this decision was conveyed to the Christians at a village meeting on August 28, 2015 by one Gomiya Biruwa'. The properties of the Christian families were then to be destroyed or seized, and their tribal certificates (which allow them benefits to help access to education and work) would be annulled, because they refused to renounce their Christian faith. Similar threats were repeated to Christian families in other villages in Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh states. *Barnabas Aid Magazine Jan-Feb 2016*
- July 2015 - A mob, said to be members of the Hindu militant group Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), attacked three pastors during a prayer meeting in Nangloi, Nihal Vihar, West Delhi, in July leaving one of them with a damaged eardrum. The pastors claimed that the police stood back without intervening, and that initially officers refused to register a case against the assailants.
- The three pastors had gathered at the home of Ayaid Prasad to pray for his sick daughter when the militants accused them of forceful conversion. "They pulled us out of the house to the road where another 50 extremists were waiting, and beat us up", said Pastor Singh of Shalom Mission. *Release Magazine Sept/Oct 2015*
- July 2015 - A Christian couple were shot dead in India's notorious Kandhamal district in Odisha state (formerly Orissa) by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) accused of being Maoist. Dhubaleswar and his wife, Bhubudi Nayak, had gone up to the top of a hill in Pangalpadar village on 26 July to make their weekly phone call to their children who worked in Kerala state. But as their son was talking to his parents that Sunday, the call was interrupted. "I could hear my mother shrieking and protesting as if someone was trying to rape her" said Rahul. "My father was also shouting. Then I heard gunshots and the last words of my father: 'I am dying'. Afterwards, there was no response from the phone and soon it was switched off. It was a murder." When the couple failed to return home, villagers went to look for them but found only bloodstains, a man's vest and two pairs of slippers. Police eventually handed over the bodies, but Bhubudi's hair had been cut to make her look like a Maoist. The Indian military are targeting Naxalite-Maoists in remote tribal areas, and Christians are often 'caught in the crossfire'. *Barnabas Aid Magazine Nov-Dec 2015*
- May 2015 - More than 700 Hindu extremists attacked 45 Christians during the burial of an elderly Christian woman at a cemetery in Faridabad, near the capital New Delhi. "The Christians were beaten very severely", said the Rev Virender Kumar of Bethenia Church. "Around 35 Christians were hospitalised. Some were seriously injured", he said. The Christians were forced to flee, taking the body of the deceased woman with them. The assailants said the Christian burial ground, was too close to their village. However, believers in Faridabad said they have all necessary permissions and papers. *Release Magazine May-June 2015*
- May 2015 - Three churches located in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, have come under attack by Hindu radicals. Extremists threw stones at the churches, destroyed crosses, vandalised, and attempted to set fire to one of the churches. Local police successfully intervened, but much of the damage was already done. These most recent attacks follow a report by the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) that said religious intolerance in India is rising, something the Indian government has been quick to deny. *International Christian Concern email 18/5/15*
- May 2015 - Joining other Christians in India, Pastor Christopher has raised concerns over the Indian government's attempt to deny the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom's (USCIRF) Annual Report which labelled India a 'Tier 2' religious freedom violator. After the report was released, the BJP-led government reacted sharply, slamming the USCIRF report publicly questioning its validity and authenticity, despite the fact that attacks on India's Christian community continue to escalate. *Email from International Christian Concern 22/5/15*
- April 2015 - Three people including a young girl were seriously injured and many other Christians were wounded when a 100-strong Hindu extremist mob armed with swords and sticks raided Amtola village in Assam in April. Pranita Rabna seven, suffered serious chest and head injuries. *Release Magazine Jul-Aug 2015*
- April 2015 - On 29 April India's Delhi High Court demanded a status report from the federal and Delhi governments, as well as the Delhi Police Commissioner, about attacks on Delhi places of worship and the protective measures taken. After six attacks against churches since December with no arrests, Advocate Reegan S Bell, filed Public Interest Litigation seeking the protection of churches, which was later amended to include all places of worship. Though the Home Ministry insists the proper records were registered, the court has requested that a detailed report be presented on July 1st. *Barnabas Aid Magazine Jul-Aug 2015*
- April 2015 – Disrupting the Easter Sunday worship service on 5 April at a church in Makthal Mandal, Telangana state, a mob of Hindu extremists hung two Hindu saffron flags in the church premises. When the Christians took the flags down, a mob of Hindu extremists gathered outside the church and hoisted a new one. The Hindu radicals demanded that the pastor stop the Easter Sunday worship service and that he come with them to the Hindu temple. "The extremists pushed, slapped and kicked me as they took me to the temple while they continued to hurl verbal abuse against my faith," said Pastor Meesaul. Police later rescued the pastor and allowed him to resume the worship service, but they ordered that he move back the front boundary of the church premises by three feet. *Barnabas Fund Prayer Focus Email 2/6/15 & Barnabas Fund Persecution Update email 7/5/15*
- March 2015 - A group of 20 evangelical Christians were reportedly detained illegally in March while on a trip to northwest India and then beaten by the police. Several of the group were left with severe bruising after police in Jaipur beat them on their hands with sticks, according to a human rights group that helped secure their release. *Release Magazine May-June 2015*

Evidence (13)

- March 2015 - Christians of all denominations and Civil Society groups came together in New Delhi on March 19, to protest the past 300 days of Modi's rule. Modi has failed to restrain hate and violence against religious minorities, specifically Christians and Muslims, in various states of India. Instead, the civil society has responded to these religious minorities with unbridled targeted hate and violence with near complete impunity. *International Christian Concern Email 27/3/15*
- January 2015 - Christians in the Capital New Delhi claim that in the early hours of January 3rd there was another attempted arson attack on a Catholic Church where a crèche caught fire and damaged the outside of the church building. After a brief police investigation, the fire was attributed to a short circuit. Christians from the area claim that the fire was set by an unknown individual and they say they have video evidence of something being thrown into the crèche before it caught fire. *Christian Solidarity Worldwide email Jan 2015*
- January 2015 - Radical Hindus have declared their intention to rid India of Christianity in seven years. Rajeshwar Singh, head of the nationalist Dharm Jagran Manch (Faith Awakening Forum), made the claim in public just before Christmas, arguing that Christians and Muslims have no right to live in India. There has been a Hindu nationalist drive to 'reconvert' non-Hindus, using cash inducements. The 'Ghar Wapsi' ('homecoming') campaign is based on the conviction that every Indian is Hindu, and that those who have embraced Christianity have strayed. The programme consists of conducting very public Hindu re-conversion rituals, and has apparently been targeted at mainly poorer communities in rural and semi-rural areas. It has been reported that Hindu nationalist groups have earmarked funds for this, offering as much as 200,000 rupees (about £2,100) for every Christian who returns to Hinduism. Christian leaders have been falsely accused of perpetrating 'forced' conversions during the course of their gospel ministry – often as a follow-up to being physically and violently attacked by Hindu militants. And yet no-one seems to have denied the cash inducements that form part of the Hindu re-conversion programme. Anti-conversion laws currently exist in six Indian states, and have been promoted in two more where they are awaiting approval of governors. *Release International Issue 84 Mar-Apr 2015*
- January 2015 - Pastor Tilda Bedia was leading a prayer meeting in his home when ten Hindu extremists broke in and started beating him and his 60-year-old mother. 'They asked why they were following Christ instead of their tribal god and threatened to kill them if they continue to follow Christ. They left saying that they were going to teach them a lesson.' The next day a mob appeared, led by village head, Rohan Bedia, and Suresh Upadia, leader of the local Vishwa Hindu Parishad, the youth wing of the extremist Bajrang Dal. 'They dragged about fifteen people from the church to the compound and abused us for following Christ, for being low caste, and warned us to convert to Hinduism or face harm', said Pastor Bedia.' Two teenagers Meenu and Manita Kumari, did not deny Christ but were forcefully reconverted to Hinduism after the extremists slapped them and abused them for their faith in Christ. The extremists mocked and beat Tilas and his brother Chandra, Chandra's family, and Jodhan. The extremists slapped and kicked the Christians and struck them with clubs. Tilas's mother fell to the ground, spraining her ankle. They dragged Tilas, Chandra and another leader along the road, parading them half-naked as they jeered, beat and dragged them to the outskirts of the village. Since Tilas, Chandra and Jodhan began following Christ about five years ago, their families have been shunned and faced continual threats, says area pastor Rampath Nath. 'They are not allowed to fetch water from the public well, or to walk on the main road and they are prohibited from buying or selling. They are often beaten up and warned to renounce Christ or to face harm'. *Release International Special Appeal Report Jan 2015*
- January 2015 - As 2015 begins, Christian persecution in India looks to be on the rise. Hindu radicals have proclaimed their plans to make the country 'Christian free' by 2021. In a statement to India media Hindu radicals said that Christians and Muslims have no rights in India and should be driven from the country or be converted to Hinduism. *International Christian Concern email 1/1/2015*
- December 2014 - In December BJP officials announced that Christmas Day would henceforth be known in India as 'Good Governance Day' in honour of Atal Behari Vajpayee, the first BJP Prime Minister, who governed from 1998 to 2004. The outcry that followed ensured that Christmas remains as a holiday at present, but Christian leaders fear that the establishment of 'Good Governance Day' may be used to sideline the Christian festival in years to come. *Release International Issue 84 Mar-Apr 2015*
- December 2014 – On 18th December in Agra, Hindu radical organisation, Dharm Jagran Samiti, said it intends to 'free India of Muslims and Christians by 2021' and that 'Muslims and Christians have no right to stay in India.' 'They would either be converted to Hinduism or forced to run away from here,' Uttar Pradesh DJS head, Rajeshwar Singh said. *International Christian Concern & MailOnline India [WWW] 19/12/2014*
- December 2014 - On Christmas Day police in Uttar Pradesh stopped Christian celebrations in at least four towns, following allegations by Hindu extremist groups of forced and fraudulent conversions.
- The Evangelical Fellowship of India's Religious Liberties Commission recorded 31 attacks on Christians during December. 'The incidents range from physical violence, false accusations, disruption of church services and Christmas functions to the hate campaigns and pressure to convert to Hinduism that the Christian community is facing on a daily basis in India' it said. *Release International Issue 84 Mar-Apr 2015*
- December 2014 – On 13th December, Christians were brutally attacked and beaten by 30 Hindu radicals for singing Christmas carols in Hyderabad. Hindu radicals claimed the Christians were attempting to forcefully convert people to Christianity by singing Christmas carols. *International Christian Concern 13/12/2014*
- December 2014 - Ten Christian workers and three young girls (under the age of six) were arrested in the central region of India and charged with 'deliberate and malicious acts intended to hurt religious feelings'. Hindu nationalists put pressure on police to arrest the Christians after a healing celebration, accusing them of forcing conversions and insulting the gods and goddesses of the village. *Release International Issue 84 Mar-Apr 2015*
- December 2014 - During a major Hindu festival Pastor Sanjaeev (48) was preparing a Bible study at home when a group of Hindu Nationalists broke in and brutally stabbed him seven times with long knives. As they fled the scene one of the young men struck Pramella, his wife, with an iron rod fracturing her arm. They were both rushed to hospital but Sanjaeev died three days later. He had been threatened verbally days before the attack. Pramella and her four children have moved to another city. They are still grieving but find strength in God. *Release International Issue 83 Jan-Feb 2015*
- December 2014 - Christians in New Delhi protested outside of police headquarters demanding an investigation into the burning of St. Sebastian's Church on 01 December. Witnesses suspected foul play. Delhi's Archbishop Anil Couto asked India's government to order an investigation into the cause of the fire. Later, empty kerosene cans were found among the ruins indicating arson. *International Christian Concern 2 & 10 Dec 2014; Pakistan Today [WWW] 2 Dec 2014; Christian Solidarity Worldwide 13 Dec 2014; Morning Star News [WWW] 9 Dec 2014; Barnabas Persecution Update 12 Dec 2014*
- November 2014 - In Tamil Nadu more than 100 radical Hindu nationalists attacked a church, setting more than a dozen cars ablaze in the church parking lot. Five Christians, including the church's Pastor, were hospitalized in critical condition. This is just one of scores of attacks targeting religious minorities across India since the rise to power of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in May. *International Christian Concern 11/12/2014*
- November 2014 – On 23rd November a violent attack by 25 Hindu radicals, led by a Mr Rajendran a local BJP leader, took place on a service in Calvary Apostolic Church, Bangarapet, Karnataka. The church was vandalised, and eight worshippers injured and at least two were held in the hospital for serious injuries. *International Christian Concern 26/11/2014; Barnabas Persecution Update 5/12/2014*
- November 2014 - On November 4th a group of Hindu radicals Bajrang Dal activists attacked a meeting of eight Christians at a church in the village of Kotla in Madhya Pradesh. After stripping and beating the Christians, the radicals brought them to the police. The Hindu group accused the Christians of planning forced conversions. The Christians were arrested and refused bail. *International Christian Concern & Indian Christian Activist Network (ICAN) 8/11/2014, Barnabas persecution Update 20/11/2014 & Barnabas Aid magazine Mar-Apr 2015*
- November 2014 - Cases of martyrdom are rare but harassment, threats, accusations and violence seem to be on the increase. The landslide victory of the nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has left Christians concerned that Hindu extremists will become bolder in opposing Christian activities. Recently the Hindu nationalist groups have taken to running local smear campaigns against church members, in particular maligning the pastors. This has been the case for Pastor Daniel in Andhra Pradesh who has seen rising opposition from Hindu nationalist movement, including the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). Despite the campaign against him and fellow Christians, Pastor Daniel said the Christians are very forgiving. *Release International Issue 83 Jan-Feb 2015*
- November 2014 - In Bangalore, Pastor Ashwath Paul, has been threatened many times and beaten up on one occasion. Pastor Joshua from Andhra Pradesh state is from an upper-caste Hindu background. After he came to faith many people including his own family opposed him. Undeterred he began a prayer meeting. Now he says local Hindus regularly throw stones at the building where his small congregation meets. They have threatened to beat him up on more than one occasion. *Release International Issue 83 Jan-Feb 2015*
- November 2014 - Pastor Samuel, from Hyderabad, has seen his congregation grow to 50 people. When the congregation sought to build a small chapel, a local Hindu gathered a mob of around 200 activists, many bearing anti-Christian slogans, who damaged cars and broke windows. The police were called and the local authorities were involved. The Christians were frightened and the outcome of such incidents for Christians can depend on who happens to be the local presiding judge. *Release International Issue 83 Jan-Feb 2015*
- November 2014 - In India, pastors face beatings, eviction, death threats and even murder. A 2014 report says that in 2013 around 4,000 Christians in India were targets of violent attacks.

Evidence (14)

Of these more than 1,000 were women, and around 500 were children. The attacks included murder, rape and brutal assault. More than 400 church and community leaders were targeted, and there were around 100 attacks on churches or worship meetings. The report refers to laws and other measures categorised as 'systematic and institutional persecution. These include anti-conversion laws which are used against Christians as a pretext for violence.

Release International Jan 2015 Special report

- October 2014 – On 25th October, twelve Christians were injured in an assault by a group of around 50 Hindu extremists in the Bastar district of India's Chhattisgarh. The Christians were among 40 believers who had gathered in Madota village for a mediation meeting to resolve rising tensions with the local Hindu community. When the Christians arrived for the meeting, there was no-one from the district administration to greet them, and instead they were attacked. *Barnabas Persecution Update 30/10/2014; Barnabas Fund 29/10/2014*
- October 2014 – On 25th October, Hindu extremists in Odisha state, summoned a Christian family to a public meeting for a 'compromise' on religious conflict but instead beat them nearly unconscious. Irma Markami and four members of his family received hospital treatment which came 10 days after nearly all the villagers from Gumkaguda, Malkangiri beat them for refusing to renounce Christ. *International Christian Concern 01/12/2014; Morning Star News [WWW] 30/11/2014*
- October 2014 – On 10th October, the Minister for Social Justice, Thavar Chand Gehlot, has said that the new government will not grant to Dalit Christians or Dalit Muslims the rights afforded to their Hindu, Buddhist and Sikh counterparts. He said that Dalit Christians and Muslims, who have "left the Hindu fold to escape the scourge of untouchability", are not affected by India's rigid caste system. This may be theoretically true from a religious point of view but is not the case in reality. *Barnabas Persecution Update & Barnabas Fund 30/10/2014; International Christian Concern & World Watch Monitor [WWW] 27/10/2014*
- August 2014 – On 31st August, police in Surajpur (District Gautam Buddha Nagar) detained and interrogated 10 Christian religious leaders from the village of Kulesra, Uttar Pradesh. Police confirm the pastors were taking part in a fasting ritual, which did not involve any religious conversion. Having received many complaints accusing forced conversions from the local Hindu population, officers were forced to bring them in for questioning. Once brought into the police station, a mob surrounded the building, preventing the police from releasing the 10 following their interrogation. *International Christian Concern & Asia News [WWW] 3 Sep 2014*
- August 2014 – On 30th August, a band of men forcefully entered the home of Shri Lal Khatiyani in Balwanazir, Kaliyanganj, calling him and his wife, Asha Devi, pagans as they beat them. Local Pastor Ajayan reported that they required hospital treatment. Later, about 100 Hindu extremists with clubs surrounded the village threatening to cut into pieces any Christian who tried to leave the area to file a police complaint, said area Pastor Laxmi Prasad. Authorities that evening sent two policemen to provide protection to Christians. On Sept. 2, after police had left the village, the extremists held a public meeting at which they resolved to kill the couple. *International Christian Concern 15/9/2014; Morning Star News [WWW] 13/9/2014 & Release Magazine Issue 82 Nov-Dec 2014*
- August 2014 - Six years ago over 100 people were killed and over 54,000 people were displaced, in a horrific outbreak of anti-Christian violence in Kandhamal District. On Monday 25 August human rights organisations around the world mark 'Kandhamal Day'. *CSW Aug 2014*
- August 2014 – On 3rd August, Hindu nationalists disrupted a prayer meeting with Rev. Simon Stanley at the home of Mr Bagavathi in Coimbatore, in the state of Tamil Nadu. A group of ten assailants broke into the house, barred the door from inside and beat the believers with iron bars. Women and children were among those attacked, as was the pastor; some of the victims were hospitalised. Police arrested two people in connection with the incident. *Barnabas Persecution Update & Barnabas News in Brief 15/8/2014; Barnabas Prayer Focus Update Sep 2014*
- August 2014 – A Seventh-Day Adventist church in Asroi village in Aligarh district of Uttar Pradesh used by Dalit Christians (untouchables) was converted by Hindus from Dharam Jagram Vivad Aligarh to a temple and the Hindus claim some 72 Christians were forcibly converted to Hinduism. *Barnabas Persecution Update 19/9/2014; Ecumenical News [WWW] 27/9/2014*
- July 2014 - Demolition of a wall at Holy Spirit School in Khandwa took place on the orders of the authorities 'under pressure from Hindu nationalists'. After the wall's demolition on 23 July torrential rains flooded several places in the school compound and girls' hostel. Bishop of Khandwa Alangaram Durairaj said that the incident was "a regrettable fact because our educational apostolate is a service to nation-building. Christians are a tiny part in our schools, which is instead open to everyone without discrimination of caste and creed. We call on everyone to have the gift of reciprocity." *Barnabas Persecution Update 1/8/2014; Asia News [WWW] 26/7/2014*
- July 2014 – On 22nd July, Hindu extremists attacked Christians in the area of Balwanazir, Kaliyanganj. A local police officer, Sajat Hussain, told the Christians to resolve the matter themselves – "We cannot always give you protection". *International Christian Concern 15/9/2014 & Morning Star News 13/9/2014*
- July 2014 - The Nazarene Church at Sehkar Nagar, Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh, was ransacked on July 16 by activists of the Hindu extremist group, *Bajrang Dal*. The gang physically assaulted the pastor and vandalised church property, threatening dire consequences if the church was not permanently closed. *Release magazine issue 81 Sep-Oct 2014*
- July 2014 - Christian Communities in the Baster district of Chhattisgarh state have been ordered to leave their villages by 1 August or suffer the consequences. *Barnabas Fund Jul 2014*
- July 2014 - Chandrashekar, an evangelist in India, was beaten for leading Hindus to Christ and teaching them about the faith. He continues to share the gospel with much boldness. *The Voice of the Martyrs Jul 2014*
- June 2014 - Around 250 Christians have been left homeless after the authorities demolished their houses in Behera slum in Bhubaneswar, Orissa state. A church building was also partially destroyed in the action on 11 June. It is understood that the slum was cleared to make way for a new road. *Barnabas Prayer Focus update Aug 2014*
- June 2014 - On 18 June, Dominic and Christina Bhutia, both Christians who had converted from Buddhism, were hacked to death in their home in a slum in Darjeeling district, West Bengal. *Barnabas Prayer Focus update Aug 2014*
- June 2014 - Ten Christians in India's Chhattisgarh state whose faith cost them their food rations were hospitalized after a Hindu extremist mob attacked them for objecting to the discrimination on June 16 in Sirisguda, Bastar town, Jagdalpur. *Morning Star News 23/6/2014; Barnabas Persecution Update 26/6/2014*
- June 2014 - A Christian couple were brutally murdered in India on 18 June. During the attack, their 12-year-old daughter Rinjee's eye was gouged out. Thankfully, the couple's younger daughter escaped unharmed and her condition following the attack was stable. *Middle East Concern Jul 2014*
- May 2014 - On May 26, the day BJP government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi took power, Hindu extremists abused Christians in Balwanazir, Kaliyanganj. Badly bruised was widow Rajo Devi, 12-year-old Nutan Kumari, Janardan Singh, Sadanandan Singh, Upendra Kumar Singh, Ravender Kumar Singh, 14-year-old Heera Devi, Vipin Kumar Singh, Jitendra Kumar Singh and Rajo Devi, reported Pastor Laxmi Prasad. They continued to harass and beat the Christians for more than a week, pressuring them to leave their faith, finally locking the church doors shut on 6th June. *International Christian Concern 15/9/2014; Morning Star News 13/9/2014*
- April 2014 - There are concerns for Christians following the BJP's election success. The BJP is the political wing of Hindutva, a Hindu nationalist movement that strives to make India religiously 'pure'. The party has given support to Hindu extremist groups that target Christians. The stance of the party's leader, Narendra Modi, on anti-Christian violence has alarmed Christian leaders. When asked in a television interview, what steps he would take, if elected, to protect churches from attack, he replied, "I have never heard of such incidents taking place." Yet last year, around 4,000 Christians were targeted in acts of violence, which were mostly carried out by Hindu extremists, and there were around 100 attacks on churches and worship meetings *Barnabas Prayer Focus Number 212 Jun 2014; International Christian Concern & Union of Catholic Asian News (UCAN) [WWW] 17 Apr 2014 & Barnabas Aid Magazine Sep-Oct 2014*
- April 2014 – The Digals' home, (a Christian family in Budruka village in Orissa) was attacked and destroyed in the week before Easter for the third time since 2007. Three people were arrested in connection with the incident but were subsequently released. *Barnabas Persecution Update 15/5/2014*
- March 2014 - Some 30 Hindu militants forcefully entered the home of Pastor Ramsai Netam in Bhanuratapur, Chhattisgarh, accusing him of forcible conversions and practising witchcraft. The mob beat the pastor who suffered a serious head injury. The police, however, recorded the cause of the wound as, 'falling from a tree.' *Release Magazine Issue 79 May-Jun 2014*
- March 2014 – Hindu extremists attempted to forcibly convert several church members after disrupting a home worship service at the house of Pastor Tilas Bedia, beating them and parading them half-naked through the street. Virender Singh, the police official at the station in Patratu Thana, verbally abused the Christians who fled their homes, rebuked them and sent them away without taking their complaint after the Hindu extremists beat them on two consecutive days, stripped off their clothes and chased them from Pali village. Police subsequently registered a case of forcible conversion against four Christians. *Barnabas Persecution Update 4/4/2014 & Morning Star News 26/3/2014*
- February 2014 - Hindu extremists in the village of Pradhanpada, in the Kandhamal district of Orissa state, attacked a partially completed church building and also threatened 15 Christians who were working on the site. Two suspects were arrested following the attacks on February 27 and police were searching for others. Sajjan George, President of the Global Council of Indian Christians, said that our brothers and sisters in the area 'live in fear of the radical Hindu groups' who subject them daily to acts of discrimination and intimidation. *Barnabas Prayer Focus Number 210 Apr 2014*
- January 2014 - Pastor Sanjeevulu died and his wife was injured after he was stabbed by unknown men requesting to pray.

Evidence (15)

The only arrests made in this case to-date were Christian leaders protesting the attack, demanding the arrest of the culprits. *International Christian Concern & Asia News [PIME] 14/1/2014; Barnabas Persecution Update. 23/1/2014*

Indonesia

- November 2016 – On 13th November a church in Samarinda, East Kalimantan, was bombed killing a child and injuring three others. Two-year old Intan reportedly died from severe burns. Alvaro (4), Trinity (3), and Anita (2) are currently in intensive care in a local hospital suffering from severe burns. The bombing was carried out by an Islamic extremist who had previously been convicted for terrorism, and had even attacked a church before. *Open Doors 18/11/2016*
- November 2016 - Around 100,000 Muslim radicals took to the streets to protest against Indonesia's only Christian governor, whom they accuse of blasphemy. Ahok, Governor of Jakarta, will now stand trial following his use of a Quranic verse in a speech, which he said was being used by Islamic groups to deceive voters and discourage support for him in Jakarta's 2017 governorship elections. This is the first instance of persecution blatantly being used against a high-ranking public official at a national level and may encourage further persecution of Christians at all levels of Indonesian society. *Open Doors 29/11/2016; 01 & 13/12/2016*
- April 2016 - A 60-year-old Christian woman in the province of Aceh, Indonesia, was whipped 30 times with a rattan cane for breaking sharia law. The punishment, carried out on 12th April before a crowd of hundreds, was imposed because the woman had been convicted by the Indonesian authorities of selling alcohol. *Barnabas Fund Persecution Update email dated 21/4/2016*
- January 2016 - On 11th January, the Indonesian Assembly of Baptist Evangelistic Church (GPIB) in Telagawaru Village, West Nusa Tenggara province, was banned from holding future church activities after 13 years of existence. *Open Doors 10/02/2016*
- January 2016 - The Abdiel Christian Church (GKA), a house church in Bendungan, East Java, has been banned from holding collective Christian activities by local leaders and Muslim organisations. *Open Doors 10/02/2016*
- January 2016 - On 17th January, a mob of 100, armed with machetes and clubs, attacked the Filadelfia Pentecostal Assembly Church (GSPDI) in the Kampar regency, Indonesia. The violence took place after the Sunday service. No one was injured, but all of the church equipment was destroyed. *Open Doors 26/01/2016*
- November 2015 - Local authorities used sledgehammers to destroy two Protestant churches and one Catholic church in Aceh, citing a lack of proper building permits for the three. "There was no issue during the demolition as there was a joint agreement with the Christian community," said Abdul Manaf, a local official, speaking with AFP. In another violent incident in Aceh (the only province that follows Islamic law – Shari'a), thousands of Christians fled for neighbouring areas after Islamic groups set fire to a church and attacked a village, local newspaper the Jakarta Post reported. Police and military officers were outnumbered and failed to stop the attacks. Ensnuing clashes left one Muslim dead while four people were injured. "On a day-to-day basis, the communities live in peace with each other and there is no pressure to close down these churches," said Genti Brutu, the chief of a village in Aceh Singkil where churches were destroyed, speaking with Reuters "But what we are told is that it is a matter of permits so we have to abide by the rules." Approximately 20 churches in Aceh Singkil were accused of not having the proper permits. Local officials have closed churches in the past bowing to demands from hard-line groups. *Jubilee Campaign Email dated 22.11.15*
- November 2015 - Indonesia's President Joko Widodo has called for tolerance, "Stop the violence in Aceh Singkil," he tweeted. "Violence of any kind, particularly one motivated by religion and faith, will only damage plurality." Indonesia is the world's most populous Muslim nation known for its tolerant form of Islam. After a separatist movement, Aceh was granted special autonomy in 2005 following a peace deal allowing it to implement Sharia law. Gambling and drinking are both punishable by caning. *Jubilee Campaign Email dated 22.11.15*
- October 2015 - Authorities in Indonesia's Aceh province tore down twelve churches in late October after Muslim hardliners protested against the area's churches, arguing that they did not have the required permits and must be destroyed. Bowing to their demands, local authorities met with the church leaders on 18 October and forced them to sign agreements to demolish ten church buildings, but before they could implement the order a mob, armed with axes, sticks and machetes, burned three churches to the ground on 13 October. Despite the initial statement capping the number at ten, authorities demolished twelve churches in all. A 2006 decree has made it extremely difficult for churches to gain permission to build, and authorities often cave in to pressure from Muslim extremists. One church leader who watched the demolition of his church from afar said that he had applied for the required permit numerous times, but had been refused on every occasion. *Barnabas Aid Magazine Jan-Feb 2016*
- September 2015 - A Baptist Church that recently survived an arson attack has been told to shut down by the authorities. The Bantul regency administration told the congregation in Sewon district temporarily to close their church while their building permit application is reviewed. *Release magazine Sep/Oct 2015*
- September 2015 - A mob of around 750 Muslims carrying axes, sticks, and machetes set fire to a church in a Christian enclave of Indonesia's Aceh province and attempted to attack another, taking the law into their own hands as they alleged the churches did not have proper permits. *Barnabas Fund Persecution Update email 15/10/15*
- December 2014 - Muslim fundamentalists have issued warnings and threats, stating that Muslims are not allowed to wear Christmas symbols or exchange greetings with Christian friends and colleagues. Moderate Muslim groups have criticised hard-liners and stressed the pluralistic and multicultural vision of the world's most populous Muslim nation. *International Christian Concern 23/12/2014; Asia News [PIME] [WWW] 22/12/2014*
- August 2014 - The world's most populous Muslim nation, is becoming one of the main centres of Islamic activism in the Asia-Pacific region. Islamic extremism has been rising with a decline in religious pluralism in the country. *International Christian Concern Aug 2014*
- August 2014 - Anti-terrorism experts from Malaysia and Indonesia have reported more are joining the Islamic State terror group (ISIS). Over 30 known Indonesians have joined the Jihadist movement and have also established ISIS branches in their homeland. *International Christian Concern Aug 2014*
- June 2014 – Shari'a law may be extended to non-Muslims in the Indonesian Province of Aceh, under a controversial proposal. Sharia police have already started reprimanding non-Muslim 'offenders'. Women were told to wear a headscarf and men who dressed in shorts were told to wear trousers. Three-time violators could be publicly caned. *Barnabas Aid Magazine May-Jun 2014 & Barnabas Prayer Focus Number 210 Apr 2014*
- June 2014 – Seven churches have been closed by authorities under pressure from Islamic extremists: Cianjur district chiefs closed the churches over alleged irregularities in building permits. *International Christian Concern & Asia News [PIME] [WWW] 3/6/ 2014*
- June 2014 - Men in robes, carrying what were described as "bladed weapons," attacked a Catholic Christian home in central Java, where members of a local parish were meeting to pray. The owner of the house and six other people were assaulted and injured, along with a neighbouring journalist, Michael Irawan, who tried to take photographs of the incident. He said later the attackers had identified themselves as followers of a notorious Islamist militant, Jafar Umar Thalib. *Barnabas Persecution Update 6/6/2014 & CNSNews [WWW] 2/6/2014*
- May 2014 - On May 4th, a church in Kinale, West Sumatra province, was almost destroyed in an arson attack that took place before a Sunday service. An assailant entered the building and doused the front of the church with kerosene before setting it alight. Church members noticed smoke coming from the building and put the fire out, but not before significant damage was caused to the interior. *Barnabas Prayer Focus Number 212 Jun 2014 Barnabas Fund News in Brief [WWW] 12/5/2014*
- April 2014 - Following the discovery of a suspected bomb at a Christian school in Balikpapan in East Kalimantan province, an Easter service at the adjoining church had to be postponed following the discovery of the suspicious package on 20 April. A security officer found the package while on patrol at around 3am. He heard two people talking in the bushes outside the school building; they ran away when he went to investigate. The police bomb squad cleared the package, which was taken away for tests. *Barnabas Prayer Focus Number 212 Jun 2014 & Jakarta Globe [WWW] 21/4/2014*
- February 2014 - Hundreds of armed men, led by local Muslim leaders, forcibly occupied a plot of land owned by the Indonesian Christian community Huria Kristen Batak Protestan (HKBP) in the village of Talang Kelapa, located in the sub-district of Alang-alang Lebar in the regency of Palembang, South Sumatra province. *Barnabas Persecution Update 6/3/2014 & Jihad Watch [WWW] 21/2/2014*
- January 2014 - An Islamist campaign has been mounted to force a local Government Chief out of office, because she is a Christian. A protest was mounted and an intimidating rally took place. A protest was also mounted against a church building. *Barnabas Aid Magazine Jan/Feb 2014*
- January 2014 - A church in Ciledug, Tangerang regency, Banten province, received a building permit on 11 September 2013, enabling it to reopen after nine years. But as soon as Islamists found out, they launched a protest campaign, demanding that the place of worship be sealed up again. They took to the streets carrying signs, chanting and making threats. *Barnabas Aid magazine Jan-Feb 2014*
- January 2014 - Home Affairs Minister, Gamawan Fauzi, spoke out against a new bylaw that would force residents of Bengkulu Province in South Sumatra to pray five times daily and visit the mosque on Friday or face punishment. *International Christian Concern & Jakarta News 1/1/2014*

Evidence (16)

Iran/Iraq

- January 2015 – On 25th January, the Rev. Y. M. Nisan from Urmia wrote to the Secretary of The Archbishop of Canterbury's Assyrian Mission stating that the day after the departure of missionaries on the 3rd January 2015, 'Kurds and Turks and a great number of Moslems began to raid, kill and make captives from a large part of the Christian villages.' Urmia on the Iran/Iraq border was a spiritual centre for Assyrian Christians. Rev Nisan describes how 25,000 Christians sought refuge in American, French and British premises. There was not enough food and many died. Rev Nisan put the causes of death in this order; fear, inadequate shelter, cold, hunger, typhoid. He estimates that 6,000 Christians were slaughtered during the attacks and that at least another 3,000 fled and died of other causes.
Patrick Sookhdeo Bamabas Aid Jan-Feb 2015

Iran

- July 2017 – Eskandar Rezaei & Soroush Saraei were arrested in July and are being held in Adel-Aabad prison. Several hundred New Testaments were discovered at Eskandar's home in Lar and confiscated. Both have been verbally charged with 'acting against national security'. *Release Mag Nov/Dec 2017*
- July 2017 - An Iranian pastor has paid a high price for refusing to obey official orders about how he should run his church – he's been given a ten-year jail sentence! Almost a month after his hearing, Pastor Victor Bet Tamraz has learnt he's been declared guilty of 'evangelism', among other charges. Two Christians on trial with him – Amin Afshar Naderi and Hadi Asgari – also face long prison sentences, on charges which included 'acting against national security'. The three men appeared in court on June 11 – two-and-a-half years after Victor and Amin were arrested at Pastor Victor's house in Tehran province on Boxing Day 2014. Hadi was arrested last August at a picnic in Firuzkuh, along with Pastor Victor's son Ramiel. Judge Ahmadpour has now sentenced Victor to ten years' imprisonment, Amin to 15 years and Hadi to ten years plus a two-year travel ban. They plan to appeal. Pastor Victor's wife, Shamiran Issavi, has been charged with 'participating in foreign seminars' and 'acting against national security'. Both she and her son Ramiel are released on bail and are now awaiting trial. *Release International Email Prayer Alert 06/07/2017 & Release Magazine Sept/Oct 2017*
- February 2017 – Two Christian converts, Anousheh Reza-bakhsh (known as Veronika) and her son Soheil Zagarzadeh Sani (known as Augustine) were arrested by Revolutionary Guard intelligence officers following a raid on their home in Urmia. Augustine has been a keen follower of online Christian theological training programmes and Christian satellite TV. It is believed that they are being held at the intelligence building of the Revolutionary Guards, where access to information and detainees is strictly denied.
Release Magazine May/Jun 2017 & Middle East Concern email 104/07/2017
- February 2017 – The lawyer representing Yaser Mosibzadeh, Saheb Fadayee and Mohammad Reza Omid (originally arrested in May 2016 for drinking communion wine) attended an appeal hearing on their behalf and stressed the point that as converts to Christianity, it was not illegal for them to drink wine. Alcohol is prohibited for Muslims in Iran; however, it is permitted for Christians and other recognised minorities to do so. The judge will deliver a verdict on them receiving 80 lashes after 20 days. *Middle East Concern email 13/02/2017*
- December 2016 - Christian prisoner, Maryam Naghash Zargaran, has had her sentence extended by 42 days to make up for time spent outside of prison on medical leave. Maryam was arrested in January 2013 in connection with her work on an orphanage with the Christian ex-prisoner Saeed Abedini. She was charged with 'acting against national security' and sentenced to four years' imprisonment, which she started serving on 15 July 2013 in the women's ward of Evin Prison. *Open Doors 18/11/2016*
- October 2016 – Three believers from Muslim backgrounds have been sentenced to 80 lashes each for drinking wine in a communion service. Yaser Mosibzadeh, Saheb Fadayee and Mohammed Reza Omid (known as Youhan) were arrested earlier this year at a house church gathering in Rasht and charged primarily with 'action against national security' and released on bail after spending several weeks in detention. They are to appeal against the verdict. *Middle East concern email 7/10/2016*
- June 2016 - Iranian security agents arrested Eldar Gurbanov, Yusif Farhadov and Bahram Nasibov along with seven others at an engagement party on 24/06/16 in Tehran. The seven other believers were later released. Mr. Gurbanov, Mr. Farhadov and Mr. Nasibov - who had travelled from Baku, Azerbaijan - were taken to an unknown location in Tehran to be interrogated and have since been held in solitary confinement. They have not been allowed access to a lawyer, nor have they been allowed contact from their Embassy. *Open Doors 10 & 11/08/2016*
- June 2016 – Maryam (Nasim) Naghash Zargaran (36), a believer from a Muslim background, has been held for nearly three years in Evin Prison, Tehran, charged with 'acting against national security'. A re-trial was refused.

Whilst imprisoned she has suffered a number of health issues – nausea, headaches, severe weight loss; and has a heart condition known as Atrial Septal Defect (ASD) – which has caused concern amongst her family and fellow prisoners. Following a hunger strike protest, she was granted permission to leave prison for treatment, after a deposit bond of 350 million toma (US\$ 100,000) was agreed. Although still not well, she was forced to return to prison on 27th June after the prosecutor's office refused to extend her medical leave to complete treatment. *Middle East Concern email 28/6/2016 & Bamabas Aid magazine Sep/Oct 2016*

- December 2015 - The Iranian human rights agency HRNA received reports that at least ten Christians were arrested in Shiraz during a ceremony to celebrate Christmas Day. The ceremony took place at a house church, which was raided by police who transferred the group to an unknown location. Please pray for their safety and swift release. *Christian Solidarity Worldwide Email 9/1/2016*
- September 2015 - Saeed Abedini, imprisoned in Rajaei Shahr Prison in Iran since 26th September 2012 may have new charges brought against him. Since Saeed was imprisoned, the government has repeatedly said that his eight-year sentence could be extended. Intelligence officers have interrogated Saeed abusing him verbally and physically. During interrogation officers repeatedly used a taser gun. The interrogators said Saeed will face new charges. They claimed he has connections with anti-government groups and has made statements and taken actions against the government. Saeed denies these allegations. Saeed was detained in 2012, while visiting his parents and conducting humanitarian aid work, and in January 2013 he was convicted on charges relating to anti-state activities (derived from his involvement with house fellowships) and sentenced to eight years' imprisonment. Saeed has joint Iranian-US citizenship; his wife Naghmeh and their two children are in the US. Iran's President Rouhani visited the United Nations in New York but declined to meet Saeed's wife Naghmeh. *Release Magazine Nov-Dec 2015 & Middle East Concern email dated 24/9/2015*
- September 2015 - Pastor Farshid Fathi has been told he will be released from prison this December - two years earlier than his scheduled release date. Farshid was arrested in Tehran in 2010 and was sentenced to six years in jail, with an additional year added to his sentence recently. Meanwhile Pastor Benham Irani was allowed a 15-day furlough from Ghezel Hesar prison on payment of bail equivalent to about £32,500. *Release Magazine Sept/Oct 2015*
- August 2015 - At least eight Christians were beaten and arrested when armed officials raided a house church on 7 August in the city of Karaj, northern Iran. More than 15 plain-clothed security officers confiscated books and satellite dishes at the house church and took the Christians to prison in a van. The authorities proceeded to search the homes of some of those arrested and confiscated personal items. There is still no news as to the whereabouts of those detained. On 3 August, the day that marked two years since Hassan Rouhani became president of Iran, the USCIRF issued renewed calls for the release of hundreds of prisoners of conscience. This list includes Pastor Behnam Irani, a Muslim convert to Christianity, who has been held in prison since 2011. *Bamabas Aid Magazine Nov-Dec 2015 & Bamabas Fund Prayer Focus Update email 2/9/2015*
- July 2015 - Prisoner of faith, Pastor Farshid Fathi, currently serving six years' imprisonment for alleged crimes 'against national security', has lost his appeal against an additional one-year sentence. He is now due to be released in December 2017. The additional sentence was first given last year, when following a raid on his cell by prison guards, Farshid was accused of possessing two litres of alcohol. Despite denying the charge, the Revolutionary Court sentenced him to one extra year in jail and 74 lashes. Farshid, who is being held in Rajai Shahr prison, Tehran, is apparently being kept on a ward with violent criminals, in contravention of Iran's own laws regarding the separation of prisoners. 'The Iranian authorities are sending a message that they are determined to increase their pressure on him and arbitrarily keep him in prison longer', said the Mohabat news agency. *Release Magazine Jul-Aug 2015*
- June 2015 - Saeed Abedini, an American-Iranian pastor serving an eight-year sentence for evangelism and planting house churches, was assaulted on 3 June by a group of inmates. *Bamabas Aid Magazine Sept/Oct 2015*
- May 2015 - Believers celebrated the release from prison of two Christians detained for allegedly 'disrupting national security'. Vahid Hakkani was freed at the end of January, and Mojtaba Hosseini in March. Homayon Shokouhi continues a three-year prison sentence. *Release Magazine May-June 2015*
- May 2015 - The Iranian Revolutionary Court has sentenced two Christians, Ebrahim Firouzi and Sevada Aghasar, to five years each in prison for 'action against national security through collusion and gathering'. According to Mohabat News, this is the maximum sentence for the charge, which both men will attempt to appeal. *Bamabas Fund Persecution Update Email 15/5/15*
- May/April 2015 - In April and May alone, 18 Christian converts from Islam were imprisoned for evangelism and forming house churches. Most of the 18 had been arrested in February 2013.

Evidence (17)

Ayatollah Jafar Sobhani, an Iranian Islamic religious expert, has warned Iranians 'to be cautious and not let house churches be planted'. *Barnabas Aid Magazine Sept/Oct 2015*

- April 2015 - American-Iranian Pastor Saeed Abedini remains in prison in Iran, serving an eight-year sentence for his religious beliefs and activities. According to his family, Saeed has repeatedly been told that if he were to deny his Christian faith he would go free, and that if he refuses to convert to Islam they will continue to extend his sentence. He has already been held for more than two and a half years. *Email from International Christian Concern 24/4/15*
 - February 2015 - It is estimated that 90 Christians are in prison, detained, or awaiting trial because of their religious beliefs and activities, according to the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF). Despite President Hassan Rouhani's promise to improve religious freedom, Iran continues to employ measures of extreme severity to prevent the growth of the Church. *Barnabas Aid Magazine Nov-Dec 2015 & Barnabas Fund Prayer Focus Update email 2/9/2015*
 - January 2015 - Many churches have been closed or restricted to conducting services in Armenian or Assyrian - as many of Iran's Christians are ethnic Armenian or Assyrian. Many Churches have gone underground. *Release International Issue 83 Jan-Feb 2015*
 - January 2015 - A number of Iranian Christians who were raised as Muslims remain in detention, some suffering severe ill health due to lack of medical treatment and beatings from prison staff and other inmates. For example Pastor Behnam Iranis from Karaj was sentenced to a total of 12 years in jail because of his Christian faith. He has suffered poor health as a result of regular beatings, but an early release on health grounds has been denied. He will serve the second half of the sentence in Zabol Prison on the Afghanistan border: a jail known to house many dangerous drug dealers and smugglers. *Release International Issue 83 Jan/ Feb 2015*
 - January 2015 - On 3rd January, Amin Khaki, was conditionally released from prison. He was arrested by armed security and intelligence officials on 5th March 2014. *Email from Middle East Concern 5/1/2015*
 - December 2014 - Over the Christmas period it was recorded that 24 Christians were arrested, 11 of whom were detained. *Email from Middle East Concern 10/1/2015*
 - November 2014 - Vahid Moshkani Farahani, the lawyer representing Pastor Behnam Irani, Pastor Matthias Haghnejad and Deacon Silas Rabbani, was denied access to his clients ahead of their appeal hearing on 24 November in the Sixth Branch of Karaj Revolutionary Court. Following appeals on 24th November and 9th December, the charges against two of these prisoners, Abdolreza Haghnejad and Reza Rabbani, were dropped and they have since been released. Behnam Irani has had an additional six years imprisonment that were added removed. *Christian Solidarity Worldwide 24/11/2014; International Christian Concern 25 Nov & 15 Dec 2014; Christian Post [WWW] 25/11/2014; Middle East Concern 15/12/2014*
 - November 2014 - Originally arrested on Friday, 19 October 2012, along with another church member, newly converted Christian man Masoud Rezaei, began his five year prison sentence (c. 09 Nov) in the Iranian prison of Adel Abad of Shiraz. Rezaei was charged for acts against national security and propaganda against the regime in revolutionary court, but the status of the other member is unknown. *International Christian Concern & Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA) [WWW] 11/11/2014; Middle East Concern 17/11/2014*
 - November 2014 - Following an appeal from his family, Iranian Christian, Homayoun Shokouhi, was granted conditional release from prison on 10 November. Initially arrested on 8 February 2012 during a raid on a house church, Homayoun Shokouhi was sentenced to five years, four months imprisonment for charges relating to practising Christianity. Iranian law permits prisoners to appeal for conditional release once they have served half their sentence. *Barnabas Aid magazine Mar- Apr 2015*
 - November 2014 - The mother of Saeed Abedini has been forced to flee the country after facing increasing threats and challenges. Saeed remains imprisoned in Iran serving an eight year prison sentence for his Christian faith. Naghme Abedini, wife of Saeed, posted a message detailing the ordeal her mother-in-law faced as she pursued clemency for her son and detailed injuries he has suffered since being imprisoned. *International Christian Concern & FoxNews [WWW] 4/11/2014*
 - October 2014 - A UN report compiled by Ahmed Shaheed, the UN's Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, undermines the claim that President Hassan Rouhani has ushered in a new era of tolerance. Religious minorities, particularly Evangelical Christians and Baha'i continue to be subject to abuses, including imprisonment, torture, and even execution. *International Christian Concern & FoxNews [WWW] 27/10/2014*
 - October 2014 - Pastor Haghnejad has been sentenced to 6 years imprisonment which will be served in exile in remote regions of Iran. Pastor Matthias Haghnejad, was originally charged on 3rd August with 'Moharebeh' or 'enmity against God', a crime that can be punishable by death.
- On 30th September, sources state that the Moharebeh charges appear to have been dropped and replaced with charges of 'action against national security' and 'creating a network to overthrow the System'. *Christian Solidarity Worldwide 5/8/2014; Barnabas Persecution Update 15/8/2014; Barnabas Prayer Focus Update Sep 2014; Middle East Concern 19/8/2014, 7 & 20 Oct 2014; Christian Solidarity Worldwide 5/9/2014, 2 & 25 Oct 2014*
- September 2014 - On 27th September, the actor who played Jesus in the Iranian version of 'Jesus', Shahram Ghaedi, was arrested in Foolad-Shahr, Isfahan with two other believers, Heshmat Shafiei, and Emad Haghi. They are currently detained in Dastgerd prison. *Middle East Concern 7/10/2014; International Christian Concern 7/10/2014; National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCR) 5/10/2014. Barnabas Persecution Update 30/10/2014; Barnabas Fund 20/10/2014*
 - September 2014 - Pastor Behnam Irani faces 18 new criminal charges, including 'spreading corruption on earth' which is a capital crime. *CSW Sept 2014*
 - September 2014 - On 1st & 2nd September, five Christians were arrested in Isfahan. Bibles, computers and mobile phones were confiscated and Mohammad Taslimi, Hamidreza Borhani and his wife Zainab Akbari, Moluk Ruhani and her sister, Sepideh Morshedi, were arrested, taken to Dastgerd prison, Isfahan and have yet to be charged. *Middle East Concern 16 Sep 2014 & Release Magazine Issue 82 Nov-Dec 2014*
 - September 2014 - An Iranian pastor and convert from Islam have been charged with enmity against God, a crime that can be punishable by death in Iran. *Barnabas Fund Sept 2014*
 - August 2014 - There is concern about the recent emigration of Christians from Iran, those arrested for their faith in Jesus are charged with crimes against national security. *Middle East Concern Aug 2014*
 - August 2014 - On August 12th Iranian security authorities arrested two Christian men at a house church in Tehran. They are being held in Ghezal Hesar prison, Karaj. *Middle East Concern 16/9/2014*
 - August 2014 - In a development that is greatly concerning, Pastor Matthias Haghnejad was charged on 3 August with Moharebeh, 'warring against God' a crime punishable by death. *Christian Solidarity Worldwide Aug 2014*
 - July 2014 - Three Christians, including Pastor Matthias Haghnejad, have been arrested again by Iranian security forces. American Pastor Saeed Abedini also remains in jail in Iran for developing home church centres. *International Christian Concern Jul 2014, Christian Today [www] 8/7/2014 & Middle East Concern 19/8/2014*
 - July 2014 - Mohamma Roghangir and Soroush Sarrie were arrested on Saturday 5th July 2014 for their faith in Jesus. *Middle East Concern Jul 2014*
 - June 2014 - Pastor Behnam Irani, imprisoned since May 2011 on charges of offences against national security, who had been transferred from prison to an unknown location was returned to his cell at Ghezal Hesar prison in Karaj on 23rd June 2014. Family and friends are now able to visit him. In August 2014 Pastor Irani was charged with "Mofsed-e-filarz", translated as "spreading corruption on Earth" which is a capital crime. *Middle East Concern 27/6/2014; Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) [WWW] 3/9/2014; International Christian Concern 3/9/2014*
 - May 2014 - A Christian, Silas Rabbani, was arrested and detained for his faith in Karaj. Three agents of the Ministry of Intelligence and National Security (VEVAK) came to arrest him and hinted at further arrests to come in Karaj. *Middle East Concern 9/5/2014*
 - May 2014 - Saeed Abedini has been detained since 26th September 2012. In March 2014 he was transferred from prison to a hospital where he received limited medical care. On 20th May 2014 Saeed was forcibly removed from the hospital - reportedly he was given an electric shock. He was returned to Rajai Shahr Prison. It is unclear the reason for this change in treatment. It is reported one of the guards made comments in relation to negotiations surrounding Iran's nuclear program. Saeed has joint Iranian-US citizenship; his wife Naghme and their two children are in the US. *Middle East Concern & International Christian Concern 21/5/2014; Barnabas Persecution Update 30/5/2014 & Christian Post [WWW] 21/5/2014*
 - May 2014 - Six Christians arrested in a home-service during Easter worship have not been charged or released after one month. The latest reports by Iranian Human Rights activists indicate families were told that their loved ones are in custody, and after the investigation is complete they will be able to contact them. These families were strongly warned against publicizing this case, or "accepting any interviews by people they don't know." *International Christian Concern & Mohabat News [WWW] 25/5/2014*
 - April 2014 - Harsh conditions inside Tehran's Evin prison are taking a heavy toll on the health and well-being of Christian prisoner of faith, Alireza Seyyedian. He was recently described as having a blank stare, trembling hands and the symptoms of psychosis, and had also started vomiting and having seizures. *Release Magazine Issue 79 May-Jun 2014*
 - April 2014 - Hassan Saddat-Barikani, a Christian convert who was imprisoned in Evin prison and later conditionally discharged, recently fled to seek asylum outside of Iran. He claims many stories of persecution of Christians are never told, especially from the smaller cities around Iran. *International Christian Concern & Mohabat News [WWW] 10/4/2014*

Evidence (18)

- April 2014 - Pastor Farshid Fathi, a former Muslim, is serving a six-year prison sentence for anti-state political activity, derived from his leadership of a network of house fellowships. He was injured on 17th April when revolutionary guards attacked a number of prisoners held in Evin prison, Tehran. Farshid suffered a broken foot and toe after he intervened in the beating of another prisoner and a guard stamped on his foot. Three other Christians were included on a list of those who had been beaten: namely Ebrahim Firouzi, Rasoul Abdullahi and Alireza Seyyedian. Their injuries are understood to be minor. *Middle East Concern 23/4/2014 & Barnabas Persecution Update 24/4/2014*
 - April 2014 – On 18th April, Iranian security forces raided a house-church in southern Tehran holding an Easter Service resulting in the arrest of Ehsan Sadeghi, Nazi Irani, Maryam Asadi, Ali Arfa, Vahid Safi, Enayat Safi, Amin Mazloomi and one other. The whereabouts of these detainees is unknown. *International Christian Concern & Mohabat News [WWW] 28/4/2014 Middle East Concern 27/6/2014*
 - March 2014 - Pastor's wife, Shahnaz Jayzan, was granted conditional release from jail in January. She was the last of four Christians from an Assemblies of God Church in Ahvaz to be released after being sentenced to a year in jail on charges which included 'converting from Islam'. She must report to the Revolutionary Court of Ahvaz every four months. *Release magazine Issue 78 Mar/Apr 2014*
 - March 2014 - Eight Christians in Iran were arrested at a social picnic on March 5. The believers were taken away, blindfolded and interrogated for several hours by armed intelligence and security agents. Although most of the group were released, three of the Christians, Amin Khaki, Hossein Barunzadeh and Rahman Bahman were held. *Barnabas Prayer Focus Number 210 Apr 2014 & Middle East Concern 10/3/2014*
 - March 2014 - Four Christians have been sentenced to 80 lashes each for drinking communion wine. They were convicted by a court in Rasht on 6 October 2013, on charges of drinking alcohol, which under Shari'a law is a crime punishable by lashing, and of possessing a receiver and satellite antenna. Two of them had previously been detained by the authorities in a crackdown on house churches. *Barnabas Aid magazine Mar-Apr 2014*
 - March 2014 - Six Christians failed to get their prison sentences overturned on appeal and the ruling is now final. They were each sentenced to three years and eight months in prison following their conviction in June 2013 for attending a house church, spreading Christianity, having contact with foreign ministries, propaganda against the regime and disrupting national security. *Barnabas Aid Magazine Mar-Apr 2014*
 - March 2014 - Iranian-American pastor Saeed Abedini is suffering grievously in Rajai Shahr Prison, which is one of the deadliest in the world. He is in a ward with violent prisoners and has been robbed at knife point; he has also awoken to find men standing over him with knives. His health is suffering severely; he is covered in lice and has also lost weight due to lack of nutrition. Saeed is serving an eight-year jail term for planting churches. The report of Ahmed Shaheed, Special Rapporteur to UN Human Rights Council, and Germany's First Secretary of the Permanent Mission to the UN Office, Gudrun Masloch, mentioned Iranian-American Pastor Saeed and how he has been withheld critical medical treatment. *Barnabas Aid magazine Mar-Apr 2014 & International Christian Concern 17/03/2014*
 - March 2014 - Six members of a group of eight Christians from Shiraz who were sentenced to various prison terms have had their sentences upheld on March 29 following an appeal. The Christians were charged in July 2013 with 'action against national security'. Mohammed Roghangir was sentenced to six years in prison, Massoud Rezaei to five years; Mehdi Ameruni and Bijan Farokhpour received three-year sentences, Shahin Lahouti and Suroush Saraie received two and a half years, and Eskandar Rezaei and Roxana Forghi each received a one-year sentence. However charges against Roxana were dropped on appeal and Shahin was released from prison in December 2013. *Release Magazine Issue 79 May-Jun 2014*
 - March 2014 - Vahid Hakkani sentenced in 2012 to serve almost four years in prison for Christian activities began a hunger strike after authorities denied him the conditional release that inmates are eligible to obtain after completing half their prison terms. *Barnabas Persecution Update 10/4/2014 & Christian Today [WWW] 6/4/2014*
 - January 2014 - Iranian authorities have made a number of arrests targeting Christians. Security officials arrested four Christians in Karaj as they celebrated the New Year in a private home. Plain clothes officers beat them, searched their property and confiscated many personal belongings. They have been named as Sara, Mostafa, Majid and George. When their families when to Evin prison to inquire about them they were turned away. The raid followed the arrest of five other Christians in a house church in east Tehran during a Christmas Eve celebration. The five have been named as Faegheh, Mastenah, Amir-Hossein, Ahmad and Mr Hosseini. *Release magazine Issue 78 Mar/Apr 2014*
 - January 2014 - Significant numbers of believers have been imprisoned for Christian activities. Most Christians now meet in private homes.
 - More prominent believers, such as pastor find themselves under scrutiny and being monitored by the Islamic Ministry of Guidance. Most Christians are discriminated against in education, employment and property ownership. Christians from a Muslim background pay a particularly high price. *Release Magazine Issue 77 Jan-Feb 2014*
 - January 2014 - Two Christian women, Maryam Jaiili and Mitra Rahmati, were among eleven prisoners of conscience and political prisoners released from jail in Iran in September 2013. Then on 23 September, Iran announced that it had released 80 prisoners arrested in political crackdowns. *Barnabas Aid Magazine Jan-Feb 2014*
- ## Iraq
- March 2017 - Two women suicide bombers targeted Iraqi troops, killing one soldier and wounding several others. They hid among civilians fleeing the city. On Sunday, at least 14 people, including a police colonel, were killed and 20 others were wounded in another attack at a camp for displaced people by a suicide bomber dressed in a woman's all-covering robe, a provincial official said. The colonel had grown increasingly suspicious and embraced the attacker moments before the bombs were detonated. *International Christian Concern newsbite article from email dated 07/07/2017*
 - December 2016 – ISIS has recently vowed to ramp up attacks on those from any religion other than Islam during the Christmas season. *International Christian Concern email 23/12/2016*
 - May 2015 - Christians in Baghdad are filled with fear since Islamic State (IS) militants captured the geographically strategic city of Ramadi on Sunday 17 May. With Ramadi located just 60 miles (100 km) west of Baghdad, Christians in the capital city are wondering where to flee. IS fighters went door-to-door through Ramadi, hunting out government sympathisers and throwing bodies into the Euphrates River. Around 25,000 Iraqis fled the city heading east towards Baghdad. Aid workers are concerned about government blocks in place to prevent the displaced Iraqis from entering the capital city. They have been set up because of a fear that there are militants among the refugees. Unable to reach Baghdad, they are trapped in IS's direct line of advance. *Barnabas Fund Prayer Focus Email 5.6.15*
 - May 2015 - As more than 3 million people are displaced inside of Iraq, four women working to preserve both people and history in Iraq testified before congress on the attacks they are facing, "the most brutal in our history," Sister Diana told a hearing. "This uprooting, this theft of everything that the Christians owned, displaced them body and soul, stripping away their humanity and dignity." Christian women are being raped by ISIS fighters as a way to convert them to Islam, historical sites are being destroyed and hundreds-of-thousands of Christians and other minority religious groups have been forced to flee their ancient homes. *International Christian Concern email 13/5/2015*
 - April 2015 - ISIS jihadists continue their campaign to erase Christianity from Iraq. They've not only driven hundreds of thousands of Christians from their homes and destroyed churches, but now they are destroying the graveyards of Christians in Mosul. They've posted evidence boasting of their exploits for the world to see on Jihadist forums. *Email from International Christian Concern 24/4/15*
 - April 2015 - Hundreds of thousands of Christians ran for their lives last year to escape the terror of Islamic State militants. Most arrived at their place of refuge with just the clothes on their backs. In late 2014 Islamic State militants published a document giving a price list for Christian and Yazidi slaves in their captured territories in Iraq. Afterwards, in December 2014, IS published a pamphlet entitled *Questions and Answers on Taking Captives and Slaves*. The document outlines IS's interpretation of permissible and prohibited practices in treating captives. It states that: 'Unbelieving [women] who were captured and brought into the abode of Islam are permissible to us, after the imam distributes them [among us]...If she is a virgin,[her master] can have intercourse with her immediately after taking possession of her. However if she isn't, her uterus must be purified [first]...It is permissible to buy, sell, or give as a gift female captives and slaves, for they are merely property, which can be disposed of...It is permissible to have intercourse with the female slave who hasn't reached puberty if she is fit for intercourse; however if she is not fit for intercourse, then it is enough to enjoy her without intercourse...' Many victims have been forced to convert to Islam. A Yazidi activist speaking out on the enslavement said that this was a deliberate strategy by IS to end the culture, religion and bloodline of their captives. It is estimated that at least 3,500 non-Muslim women and children are now being traded and held as slaves in Iraq. *Barnabas Aid Magazine March-April 2015*
 - March 2015 - Islamic state (IS) released online images on 16 March showing militants destroying churches in Iraq with sledge hammers. Other pictures show fighters replacing crosses and bells from the top of churches with the group's black jihadist flag. Fighters are seen removing wrought-iron crosses from the front gates of a church. It is not known which churches are shown in the images released. Islamic state also bulldozed ancient sites and artefacts in the area. *Barnabas Aid Magazine Jul-Aug 2015*

Evidence (19)

- January 2015 - A rising tide of violence, since the fall of Saddam Hussein in 2003, and increased terrorism has destabilised the country. An estimated one million Iraqi Christians have been forced to flee the country. The rapid growth and power of Islamic state will mean that Christians will continue to be targeted in 2015. Lena had lived for 45 years in Basra. When the British pulled out, hostility to foreign 'occupiers' spilled over. One of Lena's daughters worked for a large western company and the family became a target. They received verbal and written threats including a letter containing a bullet and felt they had no choice but to leave. Lena's other daughter Dahlia became a Christian in 2006. Extremists said the family had to leave or they would be shot. Lena and her daughters moved to Erbil in Kurdistan. *Release International Issue 83 Jan-Feb 2015*
- January 2015 - When IS fighters took over Iraq's second city, Mosul, they issued an ultimatum to Christians: convert to Islam, pay *jizya* protection money or get out and leave everything behind. If not you will be killed. *Release International Issue 83 Jan/feb 2015*
- January 2015 - In Mosul a slave market has been established for selling Christian and Yazidi women and girls. *Barnabas Aid Jan- Feb 2015*
- December 2014 – Vicar of Baghdad, Canon Andrew White reported that four Christian children under the age of 15 years were given the choice by ISIS to convert to Islam or die. The children refused to convert and all four were beheaded by ISIS. *International Christian Concern 3/12/2014; MailOnline [WWW] 12/12/2014*
- October 2014 - Christian, Ayad, from Tel Keppe, a village outside of Mosul, stated ISIS militants are setting up explosives inside of homes and along the roads so they will explode if residents returned. "We, all Christians, we miss our homes and villages but we can't go back without guarantees for security. We want international protection." *International Christian Concern & Christian Post [WWW] 30/10/2014*
- October 2014 - Archbishop Bashar Warda of the Chaldean Archeparchy of Erbil told Aid to the Church in Need on 5th October that with more than 70,000 Christians displaced from their homes in Mosul and surrounding areas, Christian leaders have been frustrated about the lack of assistance that has been given to them by the Iraqi government in Baghdad. *International Christian Concern & Patheos [WWW] 8/10/2014*
- September 2014 – There are at least two cases in which local Iraqi Muslims have spoken out behalf of their Christian compatriots. Both were killed instantly by IS. *Barnabas Fund Sep 2014*
- September 2014 - Christian women held captive in Mosul's Badush prison by ISIS have been given the option, convert to Islam or suffer daily rape. Badush prison houses hundreds of Christian, Yazidi and Turkmen (Shia Muslim) women and girls who are suffering sexual violence at the hands of ISIS. Some as young as 14 years old are being sold to ISIS fighters as sexual slaves. *Barnabas Persecution Update 19/9/2014; Pamela Gellar [WWW] 17/9/2014; Barnabas Prayer Focus Update 1/10/2014*
- August 2014 - On 13th August, a United Nations statement highlighted abductions and sexual violence against women, girls and boys. The report stated that some 1,500 Christians and Yazidis may have been forced into sexual slavery. *Barnabas Aid Magazine Nov/Dec 2014*
- August 2014 - Two Christians, the parents of a 5 year-old boy named Andrew, who was cut in half by IS (Islamic State) militants during the attack on Qaraqosh, are fleeing for their lives along with many other Christians. *International Christian Concern Aug 2014*
- August 2014 - During the night of 6th-7th August, IS militants attacked town of Qaraqosh, Karamlis, Bartella and Tel Kayf, which are the ancestral home of Iraq's Christian communities. This area is now virtually emptied of Christians. *Middle East Concern Aug 2014, Barnabas Emergency Update 7/7/2014; International Christian Concern 07 & 11 Aug 2014; Christian Today [WWW] 7/7/2014*
- August 2014 - Hundreds of thousands of Iraqi Christians face an unprecedented humanitarian crisis after fleeing from ISIS militants. They are short of food, water, shelter, blankets etc. *Barnabas Fund Aug 2014 & Barnabas Aid Magazine Nov-Dec 2014*
- July 2014 - On 20 July, IS overran the Syriac Orthodox monastery of Mar Behnam, 30 km south east of Mosul, violently expelling all residents. Within Mosul, the cross on the Cathedral of Mar Afram, the Archbishopric of the Syriac Orthodox church, has been removed. It was replaced on 22nd July with loudspeakers for broadcasting the call to prayer. *Middle East Concern 24/7/2014*
- July 2014 – On 17th July, IS in Mosul summoned Christian leaders to a meeting to notify them of Islamic rules to be applied to non-Muslims. Christian leaders did not attend this meeting. An ultimatum on 19 July announced that remaining Christians should leave the city without taking any of their property or else face execution. Most Christian families fled, but some families were stopped at checkpoints by IS militants who confiscated valuables. Some Christians were compelled to convert to Islam by reciting the Islamic declaration of faith before a Shari'a court. *Middle East Concern 18 & 24 Jul 2014; Barnabas Persecution Update 23/7/2014; Bible Society 25/7/2014; International Christian Concern 21/7/2014*
- July 2014 - ISIS painted a symbol, the letter 'N' in Arabic, on Christian homes in Mosul to identify the homes as followers of the Nazarene/Christian. The last Christian has left Mosul or was forced to convert. *Jubilee Campaign Jul 2014 & Barnabas Fund Jul 2014*
- July 2014 - Nadir, Pastor of an evangelical church in Kirkuk, Iraq, has survived two bombing attempts. *The Voice of the Martyrs Jul 2014*
- July 2014 - ISIL also known as ISIS, may have unearthed the remains of the Prophet Jonah in the city of Mosul. An official, Zuhair al-Chalabi told Iraqi News there's information 'certainly confirming' the group dug up and disturbed the grave of the prophet. The group has also torched 11 out of 35 churches and monasteries in the city. *International Christian Concern 16/7/2014*
- June 2014 - Thousands of Christians have been forced to flee their homes since jihadist militants (IS) seized the cities of Mosul and Tikrit in an invasion that began on June 6th. Believers in Mosul were advised to leave by police. IS has published rules for people living in Mosul that include shari'a penalties such as the amputation of limbs for thieves, crucifixion for criminals and the death penalty for apostasy. All women are required to cover themselves and not to leave homes unless necessary. *Barnabas Prayer Focus Number 213 Jul 2014 & Barnabas Aid magazine Sep-Oct 2014 & Release magazine issue 81 Sep-Oct 2014*
- July 2014 – On 28th June two nuns and three orphans in their care were abducted in Mosul by Islamic militants close to the Chaldean Monastery of Maskenta in Mosul. The nuns and orphans were released on Monday 14th July. According to the Chaldean Patriarch, no ransom was paid for their release, all are in good physical health and they were treated well during their abduction. *Middle East Concern 15/7/2014*
- January 2014 - Most Christians are now living in the North of Iraq, Christians were targeted in Christmas bombings in 2013. It is reported that this bomb attack killed 37. Al Athorian, a Christian district was targeted killing 11 and wounding 21. A car bomb in Dora killed 26 and injured 38. *Release International Issue 77 Jan/Feb 2014 & Barnabas Persecution Update 9/2/2014*

Israel

- May 2014 - Christian Arabs from the village of El-Khader in Bethlehem were attacked by local Muslim extremists. When they were asked to leave, one of them stabbed a Christian man. He was hospitalized. Several then started throwing stones. 7 or 8 Christians were injured. The police didn't show up for an hour. *International Christian Concern & Arutz Sheva [WWW]15/5/2014*

Italy

- November 2015 - Lucca Photolux photo exhibition, with the theme 'Sacred and Profane', and sponsored by the Ministry of Heritage and Culture and Tourism, will run from mid-November to mid-December. Among others are a photograph of a crucifix submerged in a jar of urine. Another piece is a Virgin Mary portrayed in a sexually provocative manner. *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians 4/12/2015*

Jordan

- June 2017 – Two Christian girls were forced off a bus travelling between Amman and Aqaba on 5th June for eating during Ramadan, when Muslims observe a strict daytime fast. A Muslim passenger had complained and the driver ejected the girls at the next intersection where they were met by police. Muslims are permitted by shari'a law to eat during Ramadan if they are travelling. Although Jordan is generally viewed as one of the more tolerant countries in the Middle East, Islam is the state religion and eating in public during Ramadan is technically a criminal offence. *Barnabas Aid Magazine Sept/Oct 2017*

Kazakhstan

- November 2017 - Courts in Kazakhstan have banned two churches from all activities, including meeting for worship, for three months. A court fined and banned New Life Protestant Church in Oskemen – because church members sang religious songs at a summer camp. The church has appealed to East Kazakhstan Regional Court. Asked what would happen if the ban enters into legal force and church members continue to meet for worship, a state religious affairs official said: 'We'll fine them again'. A court in Almaty fined the Protestant Source of Life Church and banned it for three months because it was meeting in a venue away from its registered address – even though the church said that they had informed the authorities. *Release Magazine Nov/Dec 2017*
- December 2015 - The City Court in Kazakhstan's capital Astana was due to hear the appeal in the case of Protestant Christian Yklas Kabduakasov on 22 December, according to case documents seen by Forum 18 News Service. Judge Gulnara Mergenova is due to preside.

Evidence (20)

Both the state prosecutor and Kabduakasov himself have appealed against the sentence of seven years' restricted freedom handed down on 9 November to punish him for talking to others of his faith. *"The state prosecutor wants Yklas to serve the seven years in prison!"*, Astana Seventh-day Adventist Pastor Andrei Teteryuk told Forum 18 on 4 December. Despite repeated calls, Forum 18 was unable to reach state prosecutor Asylzhan Gabdykaparov to find out why he is seeking to have Kabduakasov imprisoned. His colleagues either told Forum 18 he was out of the office or his telephone went unanswered between 2 and 8 December. Although Gabdykaparov led the prosecution case in court, the National Security Committee (KNB) secret police spent more than a year preparing the prosecution. The written verdict sentencing Kabduakasov orders that nine religious books seized in raids on his home and other locations - among other items - should be destroyed.

Extract from Forum 18 email dated 20.11.15

- July 2015 – On 30th July, about 20 officials, including police and Prosecutor's Office officials, raided a church-run children's camp in Almaty Region near Kazakhstan's commercial capital, camp organisers have reported. *"Officials questioned the minors without the presence of their parents."* Pastor Sergei Li of Kapshagai Baptist Church said. *"One seven-year old girl was frightened and cried, and after that I told them to stop questioning the children."* Asked why police and other authorities questioned children in the absence of their parents and frightened them, Lieutenant Colonel Bayken Shalkarov, Deputy Head of Kapshagai Police, refused to answer. *"I will not answer you, send your official letter to us"*. Forum 18 Email 17.8 2015 & Barnabas Persecution Update email 20.8.15.
- January 2015 - A court order has fined a Christian-run drug and rehabilitation centre and closed it down for 3 months. The police seized religious books and materials and accused the Centre of illegal activity (religious worship without authorisation.) On January 19 the court order was upheld meaning that the centre in Pavlodar Region had to pay a fine of 185,200 tenge (£660). The centre's director was also fined. Barnabas Aid Magazine May-Jun 2015
- December 2014 - In defiance of binding international legal obligations demands have been made that groups of people can exist as a religious community and exercise freedom of religion or belief only if they have state permission. The most recent known examples of communities facing official obstruction are: the Full Gospel Church in Atyrau where the Anti-Terrorism Police with the Justice Department are bullying people identifying themselves as religious community founders on registration applications. Forum 18 News Summary 19/12/2014
- December 2014 - Two Christians have received heavy fines for exercising their right to freedom of religion without state permission but have refused to pay, making them subject to further punishment. In Uralsk, West Kazakhstan, Nikolai Novikov, a Baptist, was fined three times between 2013 and 2014 for meeting to worship without state permission. He described the fines as 'illegal', (indeed they violate legally binding international agreements) and he could face up to three years in jail for refusing to pay the fine. On 19th December Maxim Volikov was fined for talking to people on the street about his faith whilst giving out religious literature in North Kazakhstan. He was issued with a three month 'ban on his activity' but he intends to appeal the fine and seizure of his materials. Barnabas Aid Magazine May-Jun 2015 & Forum 18 email 17/4/15
- October 2014 – On 6th October, Vyacheslav Cherkasov and Zhasulan Alzhanov began ten-day prison terms in Akmola Region for offering passers-by a book which a religious 'expert analysis' controversially claimed contains 'elements inciting religious hatred and discord'. It is not known if the book 'Jesus: More than a Prophet' has been banned by a court. Forum 18 News Summary 10 & 08 Oct 2014; Barnabas Persecution Update 24/10/2014; Barnabas Prayer Focus Update Nov 2014
- September 2014 - Nurlan Bizhanov, a Deputy Prosecutor of East Kazakhstan Region, warned local officials in mid-September about the 'activity of non-traditional religious movements which is not declining'. Bizhanov identified Grace Church, New Life Church, the Baptists and Jehovah's Witnesses. He insisted that 'new forms and methods of countering religious activity by non-traditional religious movements need to be prepared and implemented'. Forum 18 News Summary 14/10/2014
- July 2014 – on 8th July, Judge Aslambek Koshenov of Petropavlovsk Specialised Administrative Court, imposed a five-day prison term on Baptist Nizamov under Administrative Code Article 524. For 'failure to carry out court decisions' with a fine or imprisonment of between five and ten days. Nizamov is a member of a Petropavl [Petropavlovsk] Baptist Council of Churches congregation in North Kazakhstan Region. These Baptists refuse on principle to register their congregations with the state, and are frequent targets of administrative punishment for continuing to meet for worship and share their faith without state permission. Forum 18 News Summary 21/7/2014
- July 2014 – Anatoly Stakhnev's 10-day prison term in July and Nikolai Novikov's five-day term in August were enforced for refusing to pay earlier fines imposed in punishment for refusing to seek state permission to exercise the right to freedom of religion or belief. Forum 18 News Summary 8/10/2014
- July 2014 - Retired Presbyterian Pastor Bakhytzhn Kashkumbayev and atheist writer Aleksandr Kharlamov are being investigated on criminal charges, to punish them for exercising the right to freedom of religion or belief. Kashkumbayev - who has already been convicted in one criminal case - faces possible further punishment for allegedly harming a second church member's health. Kharlamov faces possible punishment for articles he wrote in defence of atheism. Forum 18 News Summary 9/7/2014
- July 2014 - President Nursultan Nazarbayev signed into law Kazakhstan's new code of Administrative Offences and Criminal Code which may fear will restrict religious freedom and belief, and this takes effect on 1 January 2015. Forum 18 News Jul 2014; 'Breakthrough' SFA newsletter Oct-Dec 2014 & Barnabas Aid Magazine Nov/Dec 2014
- July 2014 - Proposed punishment that could have seen people jailed for leading or taking part in unregistered religious activity has been dropped from Kazakhstan's new criminal code. Barnabas Fund Jul 2014
- May 2014 - Viktor Kandyba, leader of a Baptist congregation in Semei in East Kazakhstan Region, began a ten-day prison term on 27 May. He had refused to pay a fine handed down in 2013 for leading the unregistered church. Forum 18 News Summary 29/5/2014
- May 2014 - Anyone who leads meetings for religious purposes without state permission could face up to 60 days' imprisonment under Kazakhstan's new Criminal Code now in the Senate. Those who attend but do not lead religious meetings could face up to 45 days' imprisonment. These 'offences' are currently punished with fines under the Code of Administrative Offences. International Christian Concern & Forum 18 [WWW] 15&16/5/2014
- April 2014 - Baptist Denis Yenenko was imprisoned for six days over Easter. He refused to pay a fine in 2013 imposed to punish him for leading worship without the compulsory state permission. Forum 18 News Summary 22/4/2014; Barnabas Persecution Update 9/5/2014; Worthy Christian News 16/5/2014
- March 2014 - Yegor Prokopenko, aged 87, a religious prisoner of conscience in the 1970s and 1980s - has been fined for exercising the right to freedom of religion or belief. In the first 10 weeks of 2014 seven individuals were imprisoned for between one and 10 days for refusing to pay similar fines. Forum 18 News Summary 13/3/2014
- March 2014 - On 28 March, Tatyana Vongai and Oksana Alekseyeva for speaking to others about their faith on the street were found guilty of violating Administrative Code Article 375, Part 3 and fined. Forum 18 News Summary 21/5/2014
- February 2014 – Eight months after his arrest, retired Presbyterian Pastor Bakhytzhn Kashkumbayev, 67, was convicted on 17 February of harming the health of a church member, despite the supposed victim's insistence that the pastor is innocent. Pastor Bakhytzhn was given a four year prison sentence suspended for three years and ordered to pay 'moral damages' of two million Tenge (£6,500; US\$ 10,800). Further charges were brought against the pastor, including two counts of 'religious extremism' but all these were dropped apart from one, "causing serious mental disorder" to a church member (Lyazzat Almenova). Pastor Bakhytzhn's lawyer has warned that another case could be brought against him. If the pastor is convicted of another offence in three years, he would have to serve four years imprisonment to which he has already been sentenced in addition to any other punishment handed down. Court judges in Astana state that, Christian preaching is "extremely harmful to mental health of the people". Barnabas Prayer Focus Number 209 Mar 2014 & Release Magazine Issue 78 Mar/Apr 2014 & Barnabas Aid Magazine May-Jun 2014; Barnabas Persecution Update; Fides News Agency 20/02/2014 & Forum 18 News Summary 17/02/2014
- February 2014 - Bishop Maxim Maximov, head of Kazakhstan's New Life churches and founder of Russian language CNL-TV, was prevented from leaving the country to attend this year's National Religious Broadcaster's conference in the USA. Two days later he was able to leave for the conference. Church members believe original prevention was linked to a 'tax investigation' of the church. Barnabas Persecution Update 20/2/2014; CBN News [WWW] 1/2/201 & Forum 18 News Summary 21/2/2014
- January 2014 - After raids on a Baptist church and a Christian centre in Kazakhstan's capital Astana in October 2012, a court in December 2013 fined two Protestants the equivalent of nearly four weeks' state-calculated average wage each for having 'extremist' materials. Only one of seven confiscated items is known to have been banned as 'extremist' through the courts. People in Kazakhstan remain unaware of what has and has not been banned. 'Extremism' bans are part of a harsh system of state-imposed religious censorship. Forum 18 News Jan 2014
- January 2014 - A court ruled that Pastor Bakhytzhn Kashkumbayev (67) should be transferred from prison to house arrest after five months in detention. The following day, he was freed and reunited with his family. But officials were waiting at the prison gates and detained him again on extremism charges. His son, Askar, said, *"These new accusations are complete rubbish. They are trying to turn my father into a terrorist."* Pastor Kashkumbayev's family are extremely concerned about the state of his health.

Evidence (21)

As well as suffering physical ailments, he has been subjected to abusive psychological examinations while in custody. He rejects the charges of harming health, inciting hatred, propagating extremism and leading an organisation that harms others. *Forum 18 News Summary 22/1/2014 & Barnabas Aid Magazine Jan 2014*

- January 2014 - Aleksandr Surkov the owner of a bookshop in Oral (Uralsk) in West Kazakhstan Region was discovered during state 'verification measures' in October 2013 to be selling icons and Bibles without the required state licence. An employee of Surkov's shop lamented that, "We can't sell such things now". Saktagan Sadvokasov, for the Agency of Religious Affairs (ARA) in the capital Astana, defended the seizure of the icons and Bibles. "The Kazakh state must defend our citizens from harmful materials. Religious materials need to be checked." *Forum 18 News Summary 8/1/2014*
- January 2014 - Vyacheslav Cherkasov and Zhasulan Alzhanov, Baptists from Kazakhstan's northern Akmola Region were imprisoned for 48 hours for refusing to pay fines handed down in 2013 to punish them for exercising their right to freedom of religion or belief. *Forum 18 News Summary 14/01/2014*
- January 2014 - Courts fined and deported foreign citizens legally resident in Kazakhstan for exercising the right to freedom of religion or belief. Polish cardiologist Robert Panczykowski had preached at a Jehovah's Witness meeting, while Kyrgyz citizen Shamurat Toktoraliev had discussed his faith in a private flat. *Forum 18 News Summary 23/01/2014*
- January 2014 - Maksim Kandyba, a Baptist, was jailed 10 days for refusing to pay a fine for attending a meeting for worship without state permission. Sentenced on the same day to three days' imprisonment was fellow Baptist Pavel Leonov. *Forum 18 News Summary 28/1/2014*
- January 2014 - Unregistered churches are not allowed to gather together in Kazakhstan. Distribution of Christian literature is allowed in church buildings only and it is strictly forbidden for a foreigner to preach – even in a registered church. *Barnabas Aid Jan/Feb 2014*

Kenya

- November 2017 – Villagers from Bobo in Lamu county were badly shaken after al Shabaab extremists slit the throats of three men – Guchu, Jared and Joseph – because they were Christians. The militants reportedly abducted a few local people and forced them to reveal the names of Christians in Bobo and identify where they lived. One of the informers, a Christian named Hillary, was also later killed. *Release Magazine Nov/Dec 2017*
- July 2017 - The Somali terrorist group al-Shabaab killed 13 people, mostly Christians, in coastal Kenya in July. Locals in the Pandanguo settlement of Lamu County helped the Islamists identify where the Christians lived, said a survivor of the attack. Several of the victims were beheaded. The assailants killed four people in Kipini and nine in Jima. "The Christians were asked to recite the Islamic dogmas, which they could not, hence they were killed, a source told the Morning Star news agency. *Release Magazine Sept-Oct 2017*
- June 2017 – on 14th June, Ely Ojiema, a Christian teacher, from Fafi in Garissa, was murdered by Al-Shabaab militants. Local Muslims warned the Christian community that an attack was imminent and around 9pm armed men entered the school compound. It is understood that Ely was found under the bed, shot in the leg, dragged out and then his throat was cut. *Barnabas Aid magazine Sept/Oct 2017*
- October 2016 - Twelve Christians were killed in the town of Mandera, north-east Kenya, on 25 October 2016, when al-Shabaab Islamist militants attacked a guest house. Earlier in the month, on 6 October, another al-Shabaab attack in the same town, killed six Christians in a residential compound. The Christian community in the region are living in fear of attack. The security forces appear to be unable to protect people from these targeted attacks; two in a month. *Barnabas Aid Magazine Jan/Feb 2017*
- February 2016 – Hassan (26), a Somali Christian living in Kenya, is seriously ill in hospital after Muslim relatives beat him unconscious. He is unable to see, walk or eat after the assault ten days ago. He was ambushed as he walked to church on the outskirts of Nairobi, with his 15-year-old brother. His attackers said they'd heard he had been meeting with other Christians for midweek prayer and devotions. This is the second time in five years that Hassan has been attacked: in October 2011, he was left for dead after Somali Muslims beat him brutally when they learnt some of his family had turned to Christ. Hassan says his Muslim relatives and other Somalis monitor his movements constantly. Hassan was raised as a Christian but most Somalis believe that to be Somali is to be a Muslim. His mother, a widow with nine children, says some of her relatives are police officers so she is too scared to report the attack. She fears her family's only option will be to relocate to another area. *Release International Prayer Alert email 17/2/2016*
- January 2016 - Islamist extremists Al Shabaab killed at least four Christians, beheading one of them, during an attack in a predominantly Christian area of coastal Kenya on 31st January.
- Survivors described how in January five or six heavily-armed men in military uniform attacked the Kaisari area of Mapromoko village, about 25 miles inland from the Indian Ocean town of Lamu. "As I fled for my life bleeding, I could see two houses burning", said one believer. "Those who were attacked are Christians, I am very sure that the attackers were looking for Christians". *Barnabas Aid Magazine May/June 2016 & Release Magazine Mar/Apr 2016*
- November 2015 - A Christian, Hassan Ali, has had to leave his family and flee his home for fear of being killed. He says his in-laws were among a group of armed men armed with knives who came to his door in Witu Lamu County, in November, demanding to see him. He escaped through a window when he heard the visitors questioning his wife about her faith. His wife and their children, aged seven and four, have been taken back to live with her relatives. Her parents are reportedly insisting the children attend a madrassa (Islamic school). Hassan was raised as a Muslim but became a Christian about a year ago. He believes that Muslims may have noted his lack of attendance at the local mosque. *Release Magazine Jan-Feb 2016*
- October 2015 - Islamic extremists set fire to two church buildings in Tiribe near Mombasa on October 30. Pastor Mutuku of Faith Victory Church says his congregation now meet in a tent. Pastor Nyawa of Holistic Church says most of his members have left the church: the remainder were forced to meet outside, under heavy police protection, where they have had to cope with rain and heavy flooding. *Release Magazine Jan-Feb 2016*
- July 2015 - Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for an attack outside Mandera town in the early hours of 7 July. Gunmen blew open the gates to a compound housing Christian workers and shot people inside two buildings and those sleeping outside. At least 11 were killed and 14 injured, according to Kenyan police; most were quarry workers from other parts of Kenya. *Barnabas Aid Magazine Sep/Oct 2015*
- June 2015 - Nearly 100 schools in areas bordering Somalia were reported closed by early June with teachers, many of them Christians, too afraid to work in the light of recent al-Shabaab attacks against education institutions. It was thought unlikely then that many would re-open before the August-September holidays, and some may close indefinitely. *Barnabas Aid magazine Sep/Oct 2015*
- May 2015 - Somali Islamic terror group al-Shabaab is dropping leaflets in Kenya warning of future attacks on Christian schools inside the country, similar to the massacre at Garissa University College that killed 148 people on April 2. Kenyan officials are beefing up security and investigating the origin of the leaflets. Al-Shabaab has clearly stated its goal in the past to force Kenya to stop its war on Somalia, but in the process, has intentionally targeted Christians, waging horrific persecution that has terrorized eastern Kenya. *International Christian Concern email 13/5/15*
- April 2015 - Islamist extremists from the Somalia based al-Shabaab group attacked Garissa University College in north-eastern Kenya, just before Easter, killing at least 148 people, including two policemen. More than 79 were injured. The victims included Pentecostals, Anglicans and Catholics, among others. Survivors reported that the militants went through the dormitories asking if the students were Christians or Muslims. Those who could not recite passages from the Koran were gunned down or beheaded. One of the victims who received treatment at Garissa General Hospital said, "They started questioning the students whether they were Christians or not before shooting. I heard some of my fellow students reciting from the Koran", he said. "That is when I was shot on my left hand, but I managed to escape to a nearby military base, then was taken to the hospital." The attack began about 5a.m. "I heard several gunshots as I woke up in the morning, and this continued for several hours within the university compound", said a local pastor. After talking with some of the injured at the hospital he was convinced that Christians were targeted. "It was a selective kind of attack, as many Muslims went unhurt," he said. Finding a scene of total carnage, where bodies littered the student accommodation block, aid worker Reuben Nyaora reported, "Everyone seemed dead. But then, as we talked, some students who had been hidden for hours came out – some from wardrobes, others from the ceiling, and then others who had lain down with the dead, covered in blood, hidden among their friends who had been killed". *Release Magazine May-Jun 2015 & Barnabas Fund email 24/4/2015 & International Concern email dated 17/4/15 & Barnabas Aid Magazine Jul-Aug 2015*
- March 2015 – "There have been progressive acts against the church" says Bishop 'Elisha' (not his real name) from Mombassa, Kenya. Militants are attacking the soft targets. Basically they are Muslim youths who have been radicalised. Al-Shabaab is now targeting Christians in Kenya. "Christians are a consistent target for extremists" says Bishop Elisha. "The security forces are not sufficient to take care of church security, especially on [Sunday] when all are worshipping." Sarah lost her husband when gunmen burst into her church and sprayed the congregation with machine gun fire. Five other members of the church lost their lives. *Release International Issue 84 Mar-Apr 2015*

Evidence (22)

- March 2015 - Three groups of terrorists killed 70 people during a four hour attack, apparently designed to drive Christians from their homes and land. *Release International Issue 84 Mar-Apr 2015*
- March 2015 - Islamist militant group al-Shabaab has taken responsibility for a grenade attack in the town of Wajir, Kenya that killed four Christians on March 17, and a shooting in Mandera on March 15 where a Kenyan pastor has died. Christians in northern and eastern Kenya continue to face persecution for following Christ on a regular basis from al-Shabaab. *Morning Star News 23.3.15 & International Christian Concern email 27.3.15*
- January 2015 - On Sunday 11 January, church official, George Karidhimba Muriki, was gunned down by assailants on a motorbike. He was standing inside the entrance gate of his church, located in Majengo neighbourhood of Mombasa City when the attack occurred. It was reported that the police stopped gunmen from getting inside the church preventing further carnage. No one has yet claimed responsibility for the attacks, but many suspect Somali Islamists Al-Shabaab to be behind the incident. *Barnabas Aid Magazine May-Jun 2015*. January 2015 - George Muriki, a 25-year-old believer, was shot dead by militants in January as he arrived at Maximum Revival Ministries Church, Mombassa, apparently being mistaken for the church pastor. The following day a 70-year-old Christian, Ngoro Nyaga, was shot near Kenya Methodist University in Mombassa. *Release International Issue 84 Mar-Apr 2015*
- November 2014 - Prompted by news coverage of alleged illegal activity by pastors promising miracles, Kenya's Attorney General has banned new religious organizations from registering indefinitely. The Kenyan government justifies the ban as necessary in order to amend its religious organization registration policies to better protect Kenyans. Christians have expressed their intention to fight the ban. *International Christian Concern 19/11/2014; Christianity Today [WWW] 14/11/2014*
- November 2014 - Up to 28 Christians were slaughtered by Somali extremists Al Shabaab in November. Gunmen stopped a bus in Northern Kenya separated out the non-Muslims and then shot them. The extremists reportedly ordered off the bus those who could not recite the Koranic *shahada*, an Islamic profession of faith. *Release International Issue 83 Jan-Feb 2015 & Barnabas Aid Mar-Apr 2015*
- July 2014 - Christian communities in Kenya's coastal region were targeted in attacks by al-shabaab militants that left more than 30 dead. One victim was found with a Bible on his back. *Barnabas Fund & Barnabas Prayer Focus Jul 2014*
- June 2014 - The mainly Christian town of Mpeketoni was targeted by Islamist group al-Shabaab in two days of brutal bloodshed that left 50 people dead. The gunmen went door-door on 15 June asking occupants if they were Muslim or spoke Somali, killing those who responded in the negative. Some were killed because they could not answer questions about Islam or recite verses from the Quran. Six children of pastors are said to be among the dead. The militants also targeted people who were watching a World Cup football match at bars and hotels, forcing women to watch their male loved ones die. Several buildings were torched. The violence continued the following night with raids on villages around Mpeketoni, in which at least 15 people were killed. *Barnabas Prayer Focus number 213 Jul 2014 & Barnabas Aid magazine Sep-Oct 2014*
- June 2014 - More than 30 Christians have died in a spate of brutal attacks on predominantly Christian areas in eastern Kenya. Suspected Islamist extremists armed with guns and knives killed at least 13 people in Hindi village in Lamu County, and a further 20 people at Gamba village in neighbouring Tana River County. Eyewitnesses said attackers had told non-Muslims to leave the area or convert to Islam. *Release magazine issue 81 Sep-Oct 2014*
- May 2014 - Within three weeks of putting his faith in Christ, Hassan Hussein Mohammed, a 26-year-old former Muslim intern from a mosque in Nyahururu, was beaten and later arrested without charges. *Barnabas Persecution Update 30/5/2014 & Morning Star News [WWW] 22/5/2014*
- March 2014 - At least seven Christians were killed and several others critically injured when gunmen opened fire on a church near Mombasa in March. Two suspected Islamic extremists burst into Joy in Jesus Church in Likoni during the Sunday worship service and fired into the congregation. Assistant Pastor Phillip Musasa was among those killed; a number of children were among the wounded. Following the raid a bullet was removed from 18-month-old Satrin Osinya's head, whose mother had died in the shooting. Local church leaders said they believed the attack was in retaliation for a recent police raid on a mosque with suspected ties to Islamic extremists Al Shabaab. This group has been linked with many attacks on Christian in Kenya. Local Christians said the gunmen also tried to attack the nearby Redeemed Gospel Church. *Release Magazine Issue 79 May-Jun 2014; Barnabas Persecution Update 27/3/2014 & 4/4/2014; BBC World News [WWW] 24/3/2014 & 1/4/2014*
- February 2014 - A Pastor was killed in Mombasa, in the violent aftermath of a police raid on a local mosque believed to be holding a youth recruitment forum for militant Islamist group al-Shabaab. Lawrence Kazungu Kadenge (59), an assistant pastor, was murdered at his church, Glory of God Ministries on the night of 2 February.

A neighbour had heard one of the two suspects say, "Make sure you have killed him – he has been promoting his religion near our mosque." *Barnabas Prayer Focus Update Jan 2014 & Reformed Global Prayer Wordpress 13/2/2014*

Kosovo

- June 2017 – In the Serbian Orthodox Cemetery in Mitrovica, relatives discovered that 90% of the graves had been desecrated. The cemetery is in the Muslim Albanian section of Mitrovica and due to the divide between Serbia and Albania, relatives are only permitted to visit the cemetery once a year. In the northern part of the city there are two Muslim cemeteries which have remained unharmed. *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians 06/06/2017*

Kyrgyzstan

- September 2017 - The government of Kyrgyzstan is proposing amendments to the already restrictive 2009 Religion Law which would ban the sharing of beliefs in public, censor all religious literature and make it harder for church congregations to register. Among the proposed amendments is the full state censorship of all religious literature imported or distributed in the country, and restricting its use to existing registered religious organisations. The registration of religious community, including churches, would require 500 adult citizens to supply their details. Even the 200 adults required for registration under the current law is unattainable for many churches. *Barnabas Aid magazine Sept/Oct 2017*
- October 2016 - Marat Nizalyev, a Kyrgyzstan church leader, was arrested on 6 October 2016 on the trumped-up charge of attempting to rape an eight-year old girl. Marat started a small home church in 2011 that now has 40 members all from a Muslim background. He was under increasing pressure from the authorities and local Muslim leaders. *Barnabas Aid Magazine Jan/Feb 2017*
- November 2014 – Reported ahead of the United Nations Human Rights Council January 2015 Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Kyrgyzstan, the country has not fully implemented its commitments to implement freedom of religion or belief for all. Despite official promises, the state continues to limit this fundamental freedom and other human rights in both law and practice. *Forum 18 News Summary 4/11/2014*
- November 2014 - Two Jehovah's Witnesses, Nadezhda Sergienko and her daughter Oksana Koryakina, have been under arrest since March 2013 for alleged swindling. Judge Sheraly Kamchibekov acquitted the two women of all charges. The two women remain under house arrest as the prosecution has appealed against the acquittal. The two women's co-believers think the arrests and detentions may be reprisals by the authorities for registration applications Jehovah's Witness communities have made. *Forum 18 News Summary 13/11/2014*
- October 2014 - Officials in Kyrgyzstan appear to be unwilling to act on their domestic and international legal obligations. To a UN Human Rights Council recommendation to 'remove all restrictions incompatible with article 18 of the Covenant [of Civil and Political Rights]', State Commission for Religious Affairs (SCRA) lawyer Zhanibek Botoyev responded: "Go and bring some order to your own countries and Norway. We are a sovereign country here, and you cannot command us what to do or what not to do". *Forum 18 News Summary 30/10/2014*
- July 2014 – On 14th July the State Commission for Religious Affairs (SCRA) refused registration as missionary to Bishop Feodosy, the head of the Russian Orthodox Church in Kyrgyzstan. Under the Religion Law, this prevents him from working as a religious worker in Kyrgyzstan. The SCRA claimed that the Bishop was denied registration as he 'threatens the public security of Kyrgyzstan and sows religious discord among the population'. *Forum 18 News Summary 18/7/2014 & 24/10/2014*
- April 2014 – A court overturned the criminal convictions of 13 young conscientious objectors [JW] to military service. However, Deputy Defence Minister Zamir Suerkulov defended the proposed restriction of the right to apply to pay the 'alternative service' fee to avoid military service only to members of registered pacifist religious organisations. *Forum 18 News Summary 1/4/2014*
- April 2014 - More than 14 years after the Church of Jesus Christ in Bishkek bought a Culture House to use as its worship building, a court has annulled the sales contract. The Church's appeal is due on 18 April. "We are not against the Church or its activity but the contract was null and void from the beginning and must be annulled," claimed Aysulu Orozbekova, who represented the State Property Fund. It is suspected a construction company's interest in the property has been the catalyst for the state's court suit. The building, which was bought for US\$46,000, is now worth around US\$1 million. *Forum 18 News Summary 8/4/2014 & Barnabas Persecution Update 17/4/2014; Barnabas Prayer Focus Update May 2014; Barnabas Prayer Focus No: 211 May 2014 & Barnabas Aid Magazine Jul-Aug 2014*

Evidence (23)

- April 2014 - Bishkek's Hope Baptist Church is among other buildings under investigation by the authorities; the church has been visited several times and been ordered to vacate its rented land. *Barnabas Prayer Focus Update May 2014*
- April 2014 – The Russian Orthodox cathedral in Kyrgyzstan's capital Bishkek was raided by a range of state agencies during a service in early Lent. The raid appears to have been part of a series of raids and inspections on religious communities and resulted in warnings of 'illegal' religious activity to at least one individual, a Russian Orthodox catechist. *Forum 18 News Summary 17/4/2014*
- January 2014 - Christians from unregistered churches are not able to gather together. New regulations issued in September 2013 strictly forbid any kind of missionary work even from neighbouring countries. Conducting Christian education legally is nearly impossible. The situation is considered to be getting worse. *Release Magazine Issue 77 Jan-Feb 2014*
- May 2014 - In Savannakhet province, 11 Christians were arrested for meeting at an 'unauthorised' location and remain in custody. *Barnabas Persecution Update 30/5/2014 & Asia News [PIME] 22/5/2014*
- May 2014 - The Chief of Saisomboon village in Savannakhet province prohibited three female students from taking their final examinations at Liansai village school. The village chief cited that "due to their belief in the Christian faith, the three students have thus forfeited their right to education," according to a report from Human Rights Watch for Lao Religious Freedom (HRW/LRF). The report stated one student is 14 years old. The other two girls are aged 15. *Barnabas Persecution Update 6/6/2014 & Mission Network News 4/6/2014 & Barnabas Fund Jun 2014*
- March 2014 - More than two dozen Christian converts in Natahall village, in Savannakhet Province's Phin District, could be expelled for their faith if government officials fail to keep local authorities from violating their constitutional rights, according to Human Rights Watch for Lao Religious Freedom. The Christians, who come from eight families, were told to recant their faith in December. *Release Magazine Issue 79 May-Jun 2014 & International Christian Concern 14/3/2014*
- January 2014 - Three Christian families in a village in Laos are living in fear after officials gave locals permission to attack and rob them, to force them to leave. Partners with Release have been told that at a meeting the villagers

Laos

- September 2015 - Pastor Singkeaw Wongkongpheng was stabbed to death after five men broke into his home in Na-ang village, Luang Prabang province on 8 September. He asked the attackers if they were looking for money, but one of them responded saying he was a member of the secret police and that he had come to kill the pastor. He shouted for help, but they stabbed him three times in the back, then fled. *Barnabas Aid Magazine Jan-Feb 2016*
- September 2015 - Two Christians have been detained on charges of 'spreading the faith'. Bountheung Phetsomphone, 43, and Neuy, 40, who are both married with three children each, are being held in jail in Khounkham in Khammouane province. They were arrested in September during a visit to a family in Nong-hang village. Five police agents raided the home apparently after a tip-off from local officials. *Release Magazine Nov-Dec 2015*
- February 2015 - Five church leaders in Savannakhet province, were charged with medical malpractice after praying for a sick Christian woman, Mrs Chansee, who later died. The woman had been ill for two years with an unknown condition. Various local 'healers' and doctors in her village had tried to treat her without success. The Peoples Court of Savannakhet province in February sentenced the five Christians to nine months in prison and a fine of 500,000 kips (around £40) each. In addition, the five were told to pay jointly a much larger fine of 20 million kips (around £1,700) for emotional damages and funeral costs to the family of the deceased. "Without proving that the five Christians had malicious intent or that their prayer was the cause of death, the court has abused the law," said the representative of a local Christian agency. "The arrest and conviction was to stop the believers from spreading their faith." Mrs Kaithong and Messrs Puphet, Muk, Hasadee and Tiang have been in jail since the woman's death in June 2014 and were not allowed legal representation during the trial. The court found them guilty of 'treating a person without an official medical licence, causing her to die.' However the authorities never investigated the cause of death. *Release Magazine May-Jun 2015*
- September 2014 - Local authorities detained two Hmong men for a month after the families had decided to convert to Christianity in July 2014. Refusing to revert to traditional animist beliefs, six families, consisting of 25 people in all, were then evicted from their homes in Ko Hai village, Khamkeut district. Two of the families left on 27 August and the other four families were evicted on 18 September. *Barnabas Persecution Update 20/11/2014; Worthy News [WWW] 25/11/2014*
- September 2014 - Pastor Sompong Supatto of Boukham village, Atsaphathong district and six Christians from villages in Palansai district met for worship at Pastor Sompong's home on 29th September. Afterwards the village chief, village security officers and village police arrested the seven Christians. Six were released on 3rd October. Pastor Sompong Supatto continued being held at village government headquarters. *Christian Solidarity Worldwide 30/9/2014, 15 & 18 Oct 2014; International Christian Concern 29/9/2014; Human Rights Watcher for Lao Religious Freedom (HRW/LRF) 28/9/2014; Barnabas Persecution Update 9 & 24 Oct 2014; Barnabas Prayer Focus Update Nov 2014; Release Magazine Issue 82 Nov-Dec 2014*
- August/July 2014 - Five believers from Saisomboon in Savannakhet province, Laos, have been charged with murder after a sick woman died following her conversion to Christianity. Mrs Chan, who had been ill with an unknown condition for two years, sought prayer at her local church. Her condition improved and, along with her eight children, she came to faith in Christ. Mrs Chan passed away on 21 June. On 6 August the five were found not guilty. *Barnabas Prayer Focus Update Aug & Sep 2014 & Barnabas Aid Magazine Nov-Dec 2014*
- May 2014 – A Christian convert, Mr. Sort, has been imprisoned in the Nong district prison for refusing to give up his Christian faith. Mr. Sort had been threatened by police authorities and the village's chief to recant his Christian belief or all of his property and possessions would be confiscated. On May 29, Sort was tied to a post and detained by police officers and village security after his persistent refusal to give up his belief in the Christian faith. It is believed that Mr Sort, his wife and two children are the first Christians in the whole sub-district. *International Christian Concern & Human Rights Watch (HRW/LRF) [WWW] 3/5/2014 & Release Magazine Issue 80 Jul-Aug 2014*

were told they could persecute the villagers with impunity. Destroying their crops and livestock, stealing their land, preventing them from farming and raping the women were all permitted. *Release Magazine Issue 77 Jan-Feb 2014*

Latin America

- August 2014 - The European Union and Cuba human rights dialogue will take place soon. As religious freedom continues to deteriorate in Cuba, violations almost doubled in the first half of 2014 compared to the whole of 2013. *csw Aug 2014*
- July 2014 - A man who abused 11-year-old girl Feliza was recently arrested. IJM Guatemala has been working with police to ensure that this man is found and brought to trial. Feliza, is eight months pregnant as a result of the abuse by her father's friend. *International Justice Mission Jul 2014*

Libya

- August 2016 – Ama (21), an Eritrean Christian, was near Benghazi, Libya, when she and the 71 people she was travelling with were abducted by armed men. They separated the Christians from the Muslims and then the women from the men. Amal, along with the other women, was held underground as a sex slave for nine months and forced to convert to Islam. Even Christians in official immigration detention centres face ill-treatment, as Loweth, a Nigerian woman explains: "The guards, they are Muslim. We are Christian. Whenever we would start to pray they would come with hoses and would threaten us with beatings if we don't stop praying." *Barnabas Fund email 16/8/2016*
- May 2015 - In a report published on 11 May, Amnesty International highlighted the extreme dangers facing Christian migrants and refugees in Libya from the rising threat of violence from armed Islamist groups, in particular Islamic State (IS) militants. 'Abducted, tortured, unlawfully killed and harassed because of their religion,' they are surrounded by violence on every side with little hope of escape. The report, entitled 'Libya is Full of Cruelty', comes after numerous recent reports of migrant deaths on sea crossings departing from Libya and heading for European shores. The report documents the story of Charles, a Christian man from Nigeria who fled to Libya's coastal city of Zuwara to escape fighting in Tripoli. "They would come steal our money and flog us," he said. "I am a Christian and that's why the men would always come to our house and attack us." In October 2014, "four men kidnapped me... because they saw I was carrying a bible," he said. He was tortured for two days until he was able to escape through a window. Charles' story is only one of many persecuted Christians who struggle when fleeing oppression. Persecuted and discriminated against in their home countries, at serious threat of violence from Islamist groups across the Middle East, and then at the mercy of ruthless people smugglers, these Christian migrants and refugees are victims of a chain of violence and threat. *Barnabas Fund Prayer Focus Email 2.6.15*
- April 2015 - Pope Francis has condemned the 'continuing martyrdom' of Christians by ISIS militants after 30 Ethiopians were shown being shot and beheaded in Libya. The Pope said: "I reach out to you in heartfelt spiritual solidarity to assure you of my closeness in prayer at the continuing martyrdom being so cruelly inflicted on Christians in Africa, the Middle East and some parts of Asia. The blood of our Christian brothers and sisters is a testimony which cries out to be heard by everyone who can still distinguish between good and evil." *Bible Society email 24.4.15*
- April 2015 - Militant Islamic terror group ISIS released a new video Sunday, April 19, reportedly showing the gruesome murder of 30 Ethiopian Christian men in Libya.

Evidence (24)

The footage alternates between two scenes: one in northern Libya on a Mediterranean beach where 15 men were beheaded, and one in the desert in southern Libya where another 15 men were shot in the head, execution-style. The identities of the victims have yet to be confirmed. *International Christian Concern email 24.4.15*

- January 2015 - Masked gunmen in Libya kidnapped 13 Coptic Christian workers from Egypt in the latest incident of religiously motivated violence in Libya. The total number of Christians kidnapped in recent weeks has risen to at least 20, along with three others, who were killed as violence persists across the country. A Coptic couple were found dead in the same city on December 23rd. *Christian Solidarity Worldwide email Jan 2015 & Middle East Concern email 10/1/2015*
- March 2014 - Salama Fawzy Tobia, 23, an Egyptian Christian, was shot in the head by Islamist extremists in Benghazi, whilst loading fruit and vegetables onto his produce stand. Suffering extensive brain damage, Tobia remained in intensive care in El Raey El Saleh Hospital in Samalut, Minya Province, Egypt, where he died later in the month. Suspected Islamic extremists had previously killed seven other Egyptian Christians in the Libyan capital. *International Christian Concern & Morning Star News [WWW] 10/3/2014; Barnabas Fund Australia [http://89.206.188.153/AU/News/Archives/Egyptian-Christians-leave-Libya-as-another-is-killed-genocide-warning.htm March 2014] 25/3/2014 & Barnabas Prayer Focus No: 210 Apr 2014*
- March 2014 - Egyptian Christian, Jad Abdulmasahi Abdulmalik, was found shot dead in the Gwarsha district of Benghazi. Jad, who was in his late 30s, was targeted by an armed group while unloading vegetables at a shop. The following day, another Egyptian Christian was found shot dead in Jarutha on the outskirts of Benghazi. *Barnabas Persecution Update & Utd. Copts of Great Britain [WWW] 4/4/2014; Barnabas Prayer Focus Update May 2014*
- March 2014 - An Egyptian church in Tripoli has shut after the minister and his family were threatened with death if they did not immediately leave the country. *Barnabas Persecution Update & Utd. Copts of Great Britain [WWW] 4/4/2014*
- February 2014 - In two separate incidents, eight believers have been shot dead by suspected Islamist militants in Benghazi. On 23 February 2014, seven Egyptian Christian migrant workers were rounded up at their apartment block by masked men, who went door to door asking if the residents were Christian or Muslim before abducting the believers at gunpoint. The bodies of the Christians were found the next day on a beach on the outskirts of Benghazi. The killers of the seven Christians had spray-painted a message on the walls of their apartment building and on other local buildings offering a reward of 10,000 Libyan Dinars (£5,000) to anyone who hands a Christian over to them. Many Egyptian Christians are now fleeing Libya in fear of their lives. *Barnabas Aid magazine Mar-Apr 2014; Middle East Concern 25/2/2014 & Barnabas Persecution Update 6/3/2014*

Malaysia

- December 2016 - Since 1963 Malaysia has granted religious freedom to its people; but because Islamic law is so prevalent with Malaysian policies, this supposed religious freedom has often had no realistic results. Conversions from Islam to Christianity were still only possible if granted through the Sharia court. Recently the courts have enacted a new ruling that says when a parent chooses their child will be Christian, it is not considered a permanent decision. *International Christian Concern email 30/12/2016*
- January 2016 - A mother of three in Malaysia has been divorced by her Muslim husband for reasons unknown. During the process the father had forcefully converted their three children to Islam in an effort to gain full custody. The mother M. Indira Gandhi, a Muslim, wished to convert to Christianity to marry her new boyfriend but has not been able to because she does not possess the required religious documentation ordered by the Malaysian government. The court system has skirted the issue and will likely pass the case over to a Sharia court as they consider the matter of conversion to be a religious issue rather than a civil case. Since it will likely be referred to a Muslim court of law, the possibility of her receiving the proper conversion papers are slim. She currently has custody of only one of her three children as the courts again have intervened stating they are Muslim which gives the Muslim father custody. *International Christian Concern Email 8/1/2016*
- March 2015 - An Islamic *hudud* bill was unanimously passed by Malaysia's Kelantan state Assembly on 19 March. Next a private bill will be presented to the Malaysian Federal Parliament aiming to remove the restrictions to the enforcement of *hudud* which are currently in place. Originally a *hudud* law was passed in Kelantan state in 1993, but has not been enforced because it was deemed unconstitutional by the Federal Parliament. The Kelantan ruling party, The Islamic Parti Islam Se-Malaysia (PAS), which has continually pressed for the implementation, passed amendments to the state's Islamic criminal punishment code and now is taking a bill to the national parliament so that the obstacles to *hudud* will be removed and it will be fully implemented. Whether or not *hudud* is implemented will now depend on how Malaysia's members of Parliament vote when the bill is put before them.

Hudud (plural of *hadd*) refers to severe punishments specified in the Quran for certain offences that are considered to be against Allah. They would be administered by the sharia courts. Currently, sharia court punishments are capped at a fine of 3,000 Malaysian ringgit (£550; US\$800), five years in prison and six strokes of a cane. This bill would remove the current caps and would permit the Quranic punishments of amputation, stoning, lashing and execution. Although theoretically inapplicable for non-Muslims, it effectively prevents conversion from Islam as, according to some Islamic scholars, apostasy is also a *hudud* crime for which the punishment is death. *Barnabas Aid Magazine Jul-Aug 2015*

- January 2014 - Islamic authorities in the state of Selangor seized 321 Bibles which use the word Allah to describe God from the Malaysian Bible Society. "We were told that we were under investigation for breaking a Selangor state law banning non-Muslims from using the word Allah," said Bible Society of Malaysia Chairman Lee Min Choon. *Bible Society Newswatch 10/1/2014 & Reuters (web) 2/1/2014*

Mali

- January 2015 - Believers continue to return to their communities in Northern Mali after they were driven from their homes in 2012 when Islamists took over their region. Many churches were looted and desecrated and the cities of Timbuktu and Gao were left with no churches intact. Properties and vehicles belonging to Christians were also damaged. *Barnabas Aid Jan-Feb 2015*
- September 2014 - Christians who were driven from northern Mali by Islamist rebels have begun to return to their homes in the region, which was liberated by French troops in early 2013. Christians have found that their churches were looted and desecrated by the al-Qaeda-linked Islamists. The cities of Timbuktu and Gao were left with no intact churches. According to Dr Mohamed Ibrahim Yattara, president of the Baptist Church in Mali, an important community water project set up by a church in Timbuktu was all but destroyed by the Islamists. *Barnabas Persecution Update 26 Sept 2014*

Mexico

- December 2016 - Seven families - a total of thirty people - from the Tuxpan de Bolaños community in western Mexico are still living in just two rooms a year after being forced out of their homes in January 2016 because they were attracting other villagers to evangelical Christianity, posing a threat to ancestral traditions. *Open Doors 07/12/2016*
- June 2016 - Lauro Pérez Núñez (36) a Christian was ordered to leave the village of La Chachalaca, in the district of Santiago Camotlán, Oaxaca, because local authorities claimed he was violating their custom of belonging to the 'traditionalist' church. Núñez has been arrested and imprisoned at least 5 times and his children have been refused schooling. Forced to flee his village, he filed an appeal and, after three months, the district judge issued an official order that he could return home. But when he did he was given 15 minutes to leave and threats that, "if I did not drop the appeal to the district judge, they would take my mother's house away". *Open Doors 16 & 17/06/2016*
- January 2016 - 30 Evangelical Protestants in Chiapas, were expelled by local community leaders and saw their homes and property destroyed on January 4. This incident continues a trend of hostilities against Protestants in rural Mexico and this village specifically. Despite state and federal officials being notified of these illegal acts, the Mexican government continues to ignore pleas from Protestant villagers to enforce laws protecting their freedom of worship. *International Christian Concern email 8/1/2016*
- September 2015 - After intervention by state authorities, two evangelical Christians were released from prison in Chiapas state while local authorities promised to respect religious freedom. Andres Lopez and Virginia Lopez were imprisoned in July after their conversion. *Release Magazine Sept/Oct 2015*
- July 2015 - ICC's president, Jeff King, recently returned from a joint investigation into persecution in Mexico with CSW (Christian Solidarity Worldwide) after discovering at least 70 open cases of religious persecution against Christians in five states: Chiapas, Hidalgo, Oaxaca, Puebla and Guerrero. Each of these cases involves communities of 20 to 100 individuals, meaning there are thousands of victims. The Christians are expelled from their villages and permanently lose their homes and land. Their children often remain uneducated as they are forced into unfamiliar towns and the new schools won't accept the kids. Sometimes, they are even raped or murdered. The most shocking thing is that the local and state governments either ignore these cases or actually collude with the village politicians doing the persecuting. *International Christian Concern email 6.7.2015*
- March 2015 - Two men from Hidalgo State were imprisoned and later expelled from their community, along with their families, after refusing to renounce their Christian beliefs.

Evidence (25)

Casto Hernandez and his cousin Juan Placido Hernandez, both evangelical Christians were imprisoned for about 30 hours by officials in Chichitepec village, Tlanchinol Municipality in March. *Release Magazine May-June 2015*

- December 2014 - The body of a priest was found in Mexico City on Christmas Day. He was the third priest to have disappeared or been killed in Guerrero State alone last year. *International Christian Concern Email 9/1/2015*
- September 2014 - At least one Protestant child has been barred from attending primary school because of his refusal to convert to Catholicism, and 17 families are at risk of being expelled from their village, located in the municipality of Huejutla los Reyes. The group of Pentecostals from the Huastec indigenous group have been threatened by village officials in the village of Tepeolel because of their refusal to participate in, or contribute to Roman Catholic religious festivals. *Christian Solidarity Worldwide [WWW] 8/9/2014*
- January 2014 - A mob abducted, beat and jailed a group of evangelical Christians in southern Mexico, allegedly on the orders of a district official. Beating the Christians with rods and stones, the mob also attacked their unfinished church building in Oaxaca with sledge hammers and pick axes. The attack was apparently in retaliation for the Christians declining to take part in any religious festivities (which they say are linked to idol worship) and for protesting about previous ill-treatment. *Release Magazine Issue 77 Jan-Feb 2014*

Morocco

April 2018 – Security police in Morocco detained a 35 year old Moroccan Christian man for 24 hours after finding Christian literature in his backpack, according to published reports. He was arrested as he came out of his home in Rabat on 18th April. His lawyer, Ahmed Arhamoush, reported the arrest on Thursday evening to digital news outlet Voices of Magharebia, a subsidiary of the U.S. government-backed Middle East Broadcasting Network. After spending 24 hours in custody, the Christian was released without charges. His attorney reportedly said Moroccan law does not outlaw Christianity or conversion to Christianity, only activities that “shake the faith” of a Muslim. *Morning Star News 23/4/2018 on www.persecution.org*

- January 2015 - A Christian man was arrested on January 18th in the city of Fez for converting from Islam to Christianity. The Telquel magazine report, quoting sources from the Moroccan Association for Human Rights (AMDH), alleges that the Christian convert was approached by two police officers while in the city's train station. The police questioned him while searching his bag, in which they found a Bible and other Christian books, the source said. The man was then taken to the police station for interrogation on suspicion of proselytizing. The man was released after being questioned for eleven hours, mainly about his beliefs, his movements and the organization funding his travels. The Moroccan constitution guarantees religious freedom, but any attempt to shake the faith of Muslims is punished according to the Moroccan Penal Code – ‘the proselytizer may face six months to three years prison, and a fine of 100 to 500 Dirhams for using the means of seduction in order to convert a Muslim “to another religion, either by exploiting his/her weakness or his/her needs, or using for these purposes education, health, asylums and orphanage institutions.” *Open Doors www.opendoorsusa.org 31/01/2015*
- August 2014 - Jihadist recruiting is growing in Morocco; even women are being radicalised and setting off for jihad to join their husbands. *International Christian Concern Aug 2014*

Myanmar (formerly Burma)

- December 2017 – Local residents and internally displaced people in Tanai town of Myanmar's northern Kachin State are suffering amid a military blockade which is restricting the delivery of rice and fuel. Kachin State is 90% Christian and has been beset by sporadic fighting for several decades, with more than 100,000 being displaced since fighting restarted in June 2011. *International Christian Concern email 15/12/2017*
- March 2017 – More than 100,000 Christians are now living as refugees in Malaysia after fleeing from their homes in Myanmar because of rising religious persecution. The civil government, under the leadership of Nobel Peace Laureate, Aung San Suu Kyi, has been accused of covering up abuses against Christian minorities. Buddhist nationalists, the military and police have all been accused of committing acts of violence and genocide against the minorities. One Christian refugee said “Myanmar isn't safe for us. They killed people, sent people to jail because of religion”. *International Christian Concern email 31/3/2017*
- January 2015 - A proposed new law in Burma would mean that anyone who wants to change their religion would have to apply to an official committee for permission. The law is unconstitutional – since Burma's constitution stipulates that every citizen is entitled to freely practise religion – and would create huge difficulties. The UN has said it would legalise discrimination against religious and ethnic minorities.

The US Commission on International Religious Freedom said it will “further restrict religious freedom and discriminate against all non-Buddhists, particularly male Muslims, in religious conversions and marriages.” *Christian Solidarity Worldwide email 31/1/2015*

- December 2014 - Burmese President, Thein Sein, has been criticised by human rights associations for approving a draft bill that curbs conversion to other religions and marriages between Buddhist women and men of other religions. Initially proposed by nationalist Buddhist monks who form the Committee for the Protection of Nationality and Religion, a group also known as Ma Ba Tha, the bill was signed on 3 December and submitted to Parliament for final approval. *Barnabas Fund [WWW] 11/12/2014*
- June 2014 – 80 human rights organisations including UN experts have called on the Myanmar Government to scrap a draft ‘Religious Conversion Law’ which sets out a process for applying for official permission to convert from one religion to another. UN experts warned that the laws were “vague and subject to interpretation that may lead to discrimination against religious and ethnic minorities or the poor,” adding, “This process appears partial to the interest of one particular group and simply propagates the spread of incitement of racial and religious hatred” *International State Crime Initiative [WWW] Queen Mary University of London 20/6/2014; Karen News [WWW] 22/6/2014; Barnabas Persecution Update 26/6/2014; Barnabas Prayer Focus Update 1/7/2014*
- May 2014 - 97 civil society groups are rejecting current political initiatives ‘based on religion’, including the proposal for the amendment of the law on mixed marriages, since they ‘are not in agreement with the goals of peaceful coexistence between all faiths’. *International Christian Concern & Asia News [PIME] 7/5/2014*
- March 2014 – In the predominantly Christian Kachin state, the Burmese Army opened fire on villagers and the body of a deaf mute man was found with deep knife and axe cuts in his back. Also a mentally disabled man was found with rope burns and his head had been scalded with boiling water before being shot to death. *Christian Solidarity Worldwide 3/3/2014*
- Spring 2014 - The persecution of Ethnic nationals continues. In Kachin and Northern Shan states, increasingly military offensives are accompanied by a litany of human rights abuses. Extra-judicial killings and rape are used in the predominantly Christian Kachin state. “When the Burmese Army go into a village they rape the women, have forced labour, take food from the villagers. They live in fear”, a Shan woman said. Cases of sexual violence in Burma stated that ‘sexual violence is used as a tool by the Burmese military to demoralize and destroy ethnic communities’. Many ethnic nationals, including Karen and Karenni peoples, are being forced from their land for large scale investment programmes. These abuses are causing on-going displacement into Thailand and China, where many refugees are unrecognised and highly vulnerable to exploitation. *Hart Spring 2014 newsletter*

Nagorno-Karabakh Republic

- November 2014 - A court sentenced 19-year-old Jehovah's Witness conscientious objector, Artur Avanesyan, to 30 months' imprisonment for refusing compulsory military service. He awaits his 18 November appeal court hearing in prison in Shusha. Karabakh's Human Rights Ombudsperson, Yuri Hairapetyan, insisted, “He's a criminal who must pay the price for his crime.” Jehovah's Witnesses insist his 14 July arrest in Armenia, where he had applied for alternative civilian service, and transfer back to Karabakh was illegal. Armenian police spokesperson Haykuhi Babajanyan said if an individual is wanted by police in Karabakh, Armenia would hand them over. “If what was done to Avanesyan was illegal, an investigation would prove that”. *Forum 18 News Summary 10/11/2014*

Nepal

- August 2016 – Nepal's parliament has passed a bill restricting religious conversion and criminalising ‘hurting religious sentiment’. The new legislation will mean anyone convicted of encouraging someone to convert could be sentenced to up to five years imprisonment. *Barnabas Aid Magazine Nov/Dec 2017*
- September 2015 - Members of the Hindu nationalist group Hindu Morcha Nepal are suspected to have been behind attacks against churches in Nepal's easternmost Jhapa district on 14 September. Bombs exploded in two church buildings just hours after the country's constituent assembly overwhelmingly rejected proposals to declare Nepal as a Hindu state in the new constitution. More bombs were planted in two other churches; one failed to explode and the other exploded at a police station to which it had been removed, seriously injuring three people. *Barnabas Aid Magazine Jan-Feb 2016*
- August 2015 - Nepalese Christian leaders have found their names published on a list of those falsely accused of corruption in the country's sensationalist press, as Hindu fundamentalist groups and political parties seek to use the proposed constitution to repress religious freedoms for Christians. Some pastors have even had to send their children abroad for safety because of kidnapping threats. *Barnabas persecution Update email 2/9/2015 & Barnabas Fund Persecution update email 13/8/15*

Evidence (26)

- February 2015 - Commissioned by the RPP, a Nepalese nationalist party, a Buddhist monk was sent to convert the Christian community in Borang village in Nepal's Dhading district. The Christian villagers were detained and forced to accept Buddhist teachings. Church leaders who did not comply were attacked. A pastor was captured and beaten for three days and forced to sign a document agreeing not to report the incident, not to leave the village and to close the church. On February 1st a group of assailants attempted to set the church ablaze. They also attacked the pastor's home, cutting off the electricity supply and phone lines. Unable to leave or contact authorities the pastor is still in Borang and local Christians are concerned about his health. *Barnabas Aid Magazine May-June 2015*
- July 2014 - On 17 July, the Nepali authorities released a Christian pastor who had been incarcerated for almost two years after being arrested for eating beef. *Barnabas Fund Sep 2014*
- July 2014 - A controversial religious conversion bill in Burma (Myanmar) that would require people to seek official permission before changing religion has been criticised by Christians and human rights groups. The draft text requires people wishing to convert to register with the local authorities, who would question them about their reasons for changing faiths and process the request within 90 days. It is part of a package of four bills designed to protect 'race and religion' in the Buddhist-majority country. The government states that the bill is intended to prevent forced conversions. The draft states that forcing someone to convert would be punishable by a year's imprisonment, and those found guilty of insulting another religion would be sentenced to one to two years in jail. Similar laws in several Indian states, which prevent conversion by 'force', 'fraud' or 'allurement' are used to restrict legitimate Christian evangelism. In India it is Hindu nationalists who push for such laws; their desire to make their country religiously 'pure' is shared by Buddhist nationalists in Burma. *Barnabas Prayer Focus Number 213 Jul 2014* June 2014 - Around 40 church leaders and members were arrested in Nepal, accused of forcibly converting Hindus, after police were pressured into taking action. A Hindu crowd gathered outside the jail and threatened a riot if the believers, who were detained on 13 June in Boudha Kathmandu, were released. Although most were nevertheless released, eight leaders were held in custody for two days. On June 14, a pastor in nearby Mulpani was threatened. These incidents came after the vice president of India's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, which won the country's general election in May, urged senior Nepali leaders to outlaw religious conversion immediately. *Barnabas Prayer Focus Number 213 Jul 2014*
- April 2014 - The Nepali government announced an ID Card plan which calls for Christians, Christian converts and Muslims to 'reconsider their faith' before applying. All religious minorities are joining in solidarity to fight against all forms of government discrimination. *International Christian Concern & Asia News [PIME] 30/4/2014*
- January 2017 - Authorities demolished two churches in Jagawa State, in Muslim-majority northern Nigeria, on 11 January, claiming that they were illegally built in residential areas. However, the church buildings had stood for over 17 years and mosques built in the same locality were not demolished. No formal notification was given ahead of the demolitions. The authorities said the churches had "failed to obtain permit from the relevant agency of government". However, the churches had applied for permits but were refused them. Church leaders have raised concerns that the demolitions are part of efforts to remove the Christian community from the region. *Barnabas Aid Magazine May/June 2017*
- December 2016 - On 9th December two schoolgirls entered the Madagali market and detonated their bombs, killing 56 people. It is assumed that Boko Haram was behind these attacks as they have been the source of many abductions of girls who they then use to kill others in suicide bombings. It is not known which school these girls attended before they were forced into terrorist activity. *International Christian Concern email dated 23/12/2016*
- November 2016 - on 25th November, 70 Christian homes in Thlulaimakalama, Borno State, were looted and set ablaze by Boko Haram. *Barnabas Aid Magazine Mar/Apr 2017*
- October 2016 - Pastor Akut and his community are in mourning after Fulani herdsmen raided their town in northern Nigeria and killed more than 40 people. Nearly all the homes in Godogodo have been burned down and crops destroyed. Thousands have fled the area. Pastor Akut and his family were among many people who fled into the bush, sleeping rough until they felt safe enough to seek refuge in a nearby town the next day. 'The attackers were in their hundreds and were well armed,' said Pastor Akut. Many wore police and army uniform, he added. The attack follows an assault on the town in late-September in which eight people died. A total of 16 church buildings and worship centres were damaged in both attacks. Pastor Akut sees this as part of a concerted campaign to rid the area of Christianity. 'It is an Islamic holy war against Christians in the southern part of Kaduna state,' he said. *Release International email 21/10/16*
- September 2016 - Boko Haram terrorists took over three villages near Chibok town in Borno state, leaving at least eight people dead. During the attack, the militants are reported to have hoisted their flag over the villages. Many families in the area are still waiting in agony for news of more than 200 girls who were snatched from a Christian school in Chibok town in April 2014. Though one girl was rescued in May, almost all of those seized by Boko Haram remain missing. Nigeria's President, Muhammadu Buhari, has called on the UN to mediate with the militants. Buhari has said he is prepared to arrange a swap, freeing extremists in jail in return for the girls' release. *Release Magazine Nov/Dec 2016*
- July 2016 - Legislation proposed by the Muslim governor of Kaduna state could see street evangelists fined and pastors sent to jail for up to two years for so-called 'offensive' preaching. Christian leaders in Nigeria have voiced their concerns over the Religious Regulation Bill, proposed by Governor Nasir El-Rufai, which was sent to the state assembly last October. The Bill would also require clergy to obtain an annual preaching permit. Church leaders fear that the proposed legislation, which would apply to all religions including Islam, is a ploy to stifle and persecute Christians under the guise of quelling extremists. 'The proposed law is in contravention of the Nigerian Constitution and will inhibit the preaching of the gospel when it becomes operational,' said Rev George Dodo, Chairman of the Kaduna State Chapter of the Christian Association of Nigeria. 'We have reservations over the Bill and believe that it will curtail religious freedom of the people, particularly Christians in Kaduna state,' said another senior church leader. Release's partner Stefanos Foundation believes that the legislation would set a dangerous precedent. 'Such a law is against the spirit of the Constitution of Nigeria which guarantees freedom of thought, conscience and religion,' said Director Mark Lipdo. 'That includes the right to manifest and propagate one's religion or belief in worship, teaching, practice and observance. Furthermore, a state cannot justify breaching the Constitution by enacting a law under the pretence of combating extremism. There are laws already which can be enforced to combat hate sermons.' *Release Magazine Jul/Aug 2016*

Nigeria

- November 2017 - Fulani herdsmen in Plateau State massacred 20 Christians, including children, in an apparent reprisal attack. Police reportedly said the attack was an act of vengeance after the discovery of a slain and beheaded Fulani boy who was a resident of Ancha village, Miango District in the Bassa Local Government Area. A local Christian claimed the terrified residents were at a loss as to why they had been targeted, as the murder of the boy took place in another village. *International Christian Concern email 24/11/2017*
- October 2017 - Bulus (*name changed*) a Fulani, aged 32, is in prison because his family had him arrested when they found out he was a Christian pastor. He's waiting to have his case heard but it could be up to ten years before there is any significant progress. As an ex-Muslim there is pressure to have him tried in Sharia court. *Open Doors 10/10/2017*
- March 2017 - on 7th March suspected Boko Haram Islamist militants killed nine people and abducted dozens more in southern Niger. Maman Nour, the Director of a community radio station in the nearby town of Kabelawa who had spoken to fleeing villagers, said "The attackers rode camels into the village of Ngalewa (30 miles north of the border with Nigeria), killed nine people and kidnapped around 30". *Newsbite from International Christian Concern email 07/07/2017*
- March 2017 - Having urged journalists and Christian leaders to stop speaking about anti-Christian violence in Nigeria, the Government ordered the cancellation of a planned day of prayer and national mourning for slain Christians, due to be held on 19 March. Christian leaders report that they had been under pressure by government and security officials to cancel the day because, it was claimed, it would breach national security. The event was intended to mark the growing number of deaths of Christians caused by Muslim Fulani herdsmen and others. *Release Magazine May/June 2017*
- February 2017 - The U.S. House of Representatives has labelled Nigeria as the world's most dangerous places for Christians after former Nigerian leader, President Goodluck Jonathan, presented the plight of Christians in his country to the sub-committee on Africa, Global Health, Human Rights and International Organisation. *International Christian Concern email dated 24/2/2017*
- July 2016 - Eunice Elisha, a pastor's wife, was murdered on 10 July as she shared the Gospel in her local neighbourhood in Abuja. Eunice's Bible was placed prominently by her body, which was discovered near a mosque close to the family's home. Her husband, Olawale, reports that Eunice - who regularly witnessed in the community - had been denounced by the leader of the local mosque. *Release International Magazine Sep/Oct 2016*
- June 2016 - Bridget Agbahime (74), a market trader and wife of Pastor Mike Agbahime was murdered in her shop on 2 June by an angry mob in Kano state, north west Nigeria, after being accused of blaspheming Muhammad. The attack began with one man and after he shouted "Allahu akbar (God is Great)" other people joined in. *Release International Magazine Sep/Oct 2016*
- March/February 2016 - Some 300 Christian farmers were killed at the end of February and 8 in March in the Benue state by Fulani herdsmen. Five villages were destroyed and homes looted.

Evidence (27)

An estimated 7,000 people were displaced, with many taking refuge in camps. A human rights lawyer said it is suspected that the violence was religiously motivated as churches and Christian homes had been targeted, while mosques had been left untouched. *Release magazine May/June 2016*

- January 2016 - Around 60 people have been killed and homes have been destroyed in Noime following a suspected attack by Boko Haram militants. Many are missing. Noime was home to thousands of refugees from Boko Haram's violence in the region. *Open Doors 27/01/2016*
- January 2016 - Terrorists from the Islamist group Boko Haram, who were dressed in soldiers' uniforms, attacked the village of Dalori, near Maiduguri. The militants arrived on motorcycles and in trucks and killed between 50 and 65 villagers. They burned some to death in their homes – including children. A further 70 were injured. *Release Magazine Mar/Apr 2016*
- January 2016 - suicide bombers have attacked Chibok, killing at least 13 people and injuring over 30. One attack took place in a busy market, and another close to the market. A third attack struck a security checkpoint. *Open Doors & BBC News [WWW] 27/01/2016*
- December 2015 - At least 14 people were killed and several others injured in an attack on Kimba village in Borno State by Boko Haram gunmen on Christmas Day. They opened fire on villagers and torched their homes. In the days that followed the violence continued to escalate. On 27 and 28 December more than 90 people were killed and 80 injured in multiple Boko Haram attacks around the Borno State capital Maiduguri and in Madagali in Adamawa State, and a suicide and gun attack on a Borno village on 6 January claimed 14 lives. *Christian Solidarity Worldwide Email 9/1/2016*
- November 2015 - The Ekkliziyar Yan'uwa, a Nigerian church (EYN) has over one million members but has lost over 8,000 to the violence, meted out by the Islamic terror group, Boko Haram, and over 700,000 have been displaced. *International Christian Concern email 13/11/15*
- November 2015 - Those seeking refuge from the Syrian civil war in Europe have been consistently welcomed by large swaths of humanitarian aid and support. For those in West Africa fleeing persecution and death at the hands of the Islamic terror group Boko Haram, they are faced with only further despair and minimal aid. Once they enter the countless displacement camps in the Lake Chad region, they do not fully escape the threat of death at the hands of Jihadists. Suicide attacks have increased along the border and Christian refugees in the camps are also targeted. *International Christian Concern email 13/11/15*
- October 2015 - One Christian Chibok girl escaped from Boko Haram about two weeks ago, eventually finding herself in the hands of the joint task force assigned to defeat the terrorist group. While in military custody, she explained to them that most of the girls were forced into marriage and conversion to Islam, while others were either shot or beheaded. According to her, there are about 59 girls left in the main camp. While imprisoned by Boko Haram, she was raped repeatedly, impregnated, and contracted venereal diseases. According to her, Boko Haram is in disarray, aimlessly moving around the region, leaving IEDs and other explosives behind in order to slow down the military's efforts. The Chibok girls have been missing since their abduction in April of 2014. *International Christian Concern Email 16/10/15*
- July 2015 - Five Christians were killed by a suicide bomber at a church in Yobe state. Mosques have also been targeted and many Muslims killed. A mosque in the city of Jos was also attacked while a Muslim cleric known for his preaching on the peaceful coexistence of all faiths was speaking. *Barnabas Aid Magazine Sept/Oct 2015*
- July 2015 - A young mother with a baby strapped to her back was one of five people killed in a suicide bomb attack on a church in north east Nigeria in July. The bomber attacked worshippers at the redeemed Church of God in Potiskum, Yobe state. Sources say the bomber was disguised as a worshipper. *Release Magazine Sept/Oct 2015*
- July 2015 – On 27th July Boko Haram fighters raided two Christian villages in Nigeria's north-eastern Borno state, killing at least 29 people. On the same day, 16 Christian Chadian fishermen were slaughtered in merciless Boko Haram attacks, whilst fishing Lake Chad. Boko Haram attacked three villages on the Nigerian coast of the lake at 4.00 p.m. and slit the throats of the 16 Christians. "Boko Haram decided not to use guns so as not to attract the attention of soldiers from Baga," said Abubakar Gamandi, head of the Fishermen's Union in Borno state. *Barnabas Persecution Update email 6/8/15 & Barnabas Aid Magazine Nov-Dec 2015*
- July 2015 – On 27th July Islamist militants stormed the village of Dille at around 1 pm. Armed with AK-47 rifles and petrol bombs, they fired indiscriminately at villagers, torched homes and stole around 200 cattle. Initial reports said that 29 people were killed and many others were injured. Local residents later said that the death toll would have been much higher but for the fact that many villagers fled into the bushes for safety. *Barnabas Persecution Update email 6.8.15 & Barnabas Aid Magazine Nov-Dec 2015*
- July 2015 – on 27th July, militants attacked the Christian village of Mwuthamam, in Borno state.

It is not yet known how many people were killed in that attack. "It was a really sad day for me to learn that there were renewed attacks in my constituency," said Hon. Jubrin Satumari, the area's Member of the House of Representatives. "People are being killed in cold blood; churches, mosques, shops and residential houses are being destroyed." *Barnabas Persecution Update email 6/8/15 & Barnabas Aid Magazine Nov-Dec 2015*

- July 2015 - On 14 July, Boko Haram fighters killed 14 villagers and burned down three churches in Dille. According to Amnesty International, at least 17,000 people have been killed in Boko Haram attacks since the group initiated its violent campaign in north-eastern Nigeria in 2009. The group targets Christians, Western-style educational and political institutions, and Muslims who do not follow its severe interpretation of Islamic law. In March, Boko Haram's leader, Abubakar Shekau, pledged the group's allegiance to the caliph of the Islamic State, popularly known as Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. *Barnabas Persecution Update email 6/8/15 & Barnabas Aid Magazine Nov-Dec 2015*
- July 2015 - On 5 July 32 churches and around 300 houses were torched in north-eastern Nigeria, killing nine people. *Barnabas Aid Magazine Sept/Oct 2015*
- June 2015 - Boko Haram has been attacking the major city of Maiduguri to not only re-establish their original base of operations, but also for its strategic importance. The city's location provides an advantage which would allow the group to more easily spread throughout Nigeria, as well as infiltrate neighbouring countries. Nigeria, Niger, Chad, and Cameroon are aware of this and have combined military forces to stop the group. Recently 46 civilians have been killed by the group's three failed attempts to infiltrate the city limits. President Muhammadu Buhari said in his inauguration speech that the military headquarters was moving from the capital of Abuja to Maiduguri due to its strategic location in the fight against Boko Haram. *International Christian Concern Email 5/6/2015*
- June 2015 - On 16 June, Fulani Muslim herdsmen, killed nine Christians in the village of Katsak in Kaduna state. *Barnabas Aid magazine Sept-Oct 2015*
- May 2015 - More than 100 people were reportedly killed when Fulani militants attacked villages and displacement camps in Benue state in May. Those killed in Ukura, Gafa, Per and Tse-Gusa in the Logo local government area were mostly women, children and elderly people. Many had moved to the area from nearby villages to escape earlier violence. *Release Magazine Jul-Aug 2015*
- May 2015 - As Christians displaced by Boko Haram return to their homes in places such as Yola, Nigeria, their trials are only beginning. Where they once faced threat to life and limb, they are now looking down the barrel of starvation. There is no food growing on farms, since fields were left unattended, farming equipment has been burned and vandalised, bridges connecting important routes have been blown up, and mines litter the landscape. *Cited from 'The Christian Today' in International Christian Concern email 11/5/15*
- May 2015 - Boko Haram killed dozens of Christians during ten violent days in May in Adamawa state. There was a suicide bombing in Garkida on 19 May, an attack with machetes on a church in Madagali on 22 May, and an attack on Wagga village killing ten church members as they slept. And a new wave of violence accompanied the new President's inauguration on Friday 29. In the city of Maiduguri, Borno state, more than 50 rockets were fired into the town and three bombs were detonated killing scores of people. *Barnabas Aid magazine Sept-Oct 2015*
- May/April 2015 - In other attacks from 25 April to 11 May Fulani Muslim herdsmen killed at least 70 Christians in attacks on Christian villages in Plateau state, in the Middle Belt. *Barnabas Aid magazine Sept-Oct 2015*
- April 2015 - Boko Haram and other Islamist militant groups are notorious for perpetrating sexual violence against victims that they kidnap, including many young Christian girls and boys in northern Nigeria. The United Nations reports that captives are being forced into marriages with fighters while facing death threats if they do not comply. The report focuses on 19 countries engulfed in conflict or trying to recover from fighting where sexual violence including rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution and forced pregnancy occurs, mainly against women and girls but also against boys and men. *International Christian Concern email 24/4/15*
- April 2015 - According to UNICEF's recent "Missing Childhoods" report, approximately 800,000 minors have been forced to leave their homes due to violence from Boko Haram in Nigeria. The report highlighted the capture of the 276 Chibok schoolgirls who are primarily Christian, most of whom are still missing. In addition to the 800,000 children, it is reported that over 1.5 million people have been forced to flee their homes due to Boko Haram since 2009. *International Christian Concern email 17/4/15*
- April 2015 - On April 14, Amnesty International released a report detailing the brutality of the Nigeria-based, radical Islamist group Boko Haram. The report estimated that more than 2,000 women and girls have been captured by the group since the beginning of 2014. Witnesses have reported that while some women are married off and forced into sexual servitude after they are abducted, others are trained as militants to carry out attacks on villages. *International Christian Concern email 17/4/15*

Evidence (28)

- January 2015 - About the same time as the Hebro attacks in Paris, there were very bad attacks by militants in Northern Nigeria in Baga town which left many people dead including Christians and Muslims. Civilians were gunned down or burned in their homes. Initial reports said the death toll was up to 2,000. The massacre was covered by some media but the story was largely lost due to the news from Paris. *Release International Issue 84 Mar-Apr 2015*
- January 2015/December 2014 - Fulani militants killed 15 Christians in Ambe-Madaki village, Kaduna state in January. Ten others were killed in Tattaura in the same area on December 27. In Plateau State, Fulani gunmen killed three Christians in Kantoma village on New Year's Eve. *Release International Issue 84 March-April 2015*
- December 2014 - Boko Haram stormed Gumsuri, killing 33 and kidnapping 100. "They gathered the people, shot dead over 30 people and took away more than 100 women and children in two open-top trucks," said Maina Chibok, who did not witness the attack, but is from Gumsuri and visited family there shortly after 14th December raid. *International Christian Concern 18/12/2014; The Telegraph [WWW] 18/12/2014*
- December 2014 - Thousands of Christians in north-eastern Nigeria have been fleeing increasing attacks from Boko Haram, as they continue to expand their caliphate. A video released by the militants on 20th December shows gunmen shooting civilians in what they claimed to be a school in Bama, Borno State. 'Infidels', non-believers, mainly Christians, were targeted. Boko Haram, whose name means 'Western education is forbidden', frequently target schools as well as Christians and security forces. *Barnabas Aid magazine March-April 2015; Barnabas Persecution Update 5/12/2014; Morning Star News [WWW] 7/12/2014; Release International Issue 83 Jan-Feb 2015*
- December/November 2014 - On 18th December two schools in Gwoza were the scenes of killings against elderly people. State capital cities in Yobe and Borno were also attacked on 1st December, and on 29th November the Christian-majority town of Shani was raided by Islamists. Four days earlier Damassaktown, Borno state had been captured. Around 700,000 people have been internally displaced in northern Nigeria and at least 141,800 are refugees in neighbouring countries. *Barnabas Aid magazine March-April 2015; Barnabas Persecution Update 5/12/2014; Morning Star News [WWW] 7/12/2014; Release International Issue 83 Jan-Feb 2015*
- December 2014 - On 3rd December, Boko Haram killed 11 people and kidnapped 20 women as they attacked predominantly Christian Lassa in southern Borno state. Church buildings destroyed include that of the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria (EYN). *International Christian Concern 8/12/2014; Morning Star News [WWW] 7/12/2014*
- November 2014 - On 10th November there was a suicide bomb attack on a Christian school in Mubi which left 47 people dead. *Barnabas Aid magazine March-April 2015; Barnabas Persecution Update 5/12/2014; Morning Star News [WWW] 7/12/2014; Release International Issue 83 Jan-Feb 2015*
- November 2014 - On 10th November, a suicide bomb attack in a Christian secondary school in the town of Potiskum in Yobe state, killed at least 47 people as students gathered for morning assembly. *CrossMap [WWW] & Barnabas Fund Nov 2014; Last Days News 4Christians [WWW] 14/11/2014; Christian Solidarity Worldwide 15/11/2014*
- October 2014 - In a video released on Friday, 31 October, Abubakar Shekau, leader of Boko Haram, announced that more than 200 kidnapped schoolgirls from Chibok had been married off and converted to Islam, dismissing claims by the Nigerian government that it had agreed to a truce. Shekau addressed their parents, "If you knew the state your daughters are in today, it might lead some of you ... to die from grief." *International Christian Concern & Fox News [WWW] 2/11/2014; Jubilee Campaign 8/11/2014*
- October 2014 - Fulani militants attacked Christian villages in the Riyom local government area of Plateau state in October. A week earlier, Islamic terrorist group, Boko Haram, which was engaged in skirmishes with government forces, abducted over 40 people, a number of them Christians, including a mother with her newborn twins. *Release Magazine Issue 82 Nov-Dec 2014*
- October 2014 - Trapped residents from the predominantly Christian city of Mubi in Adamawa state report that Christians have been tortured and killed after Boko Haram took control of the town on 29th October. Churches have been burned down across the city, and the homes of many believers have also been torched. The group has renamed the city Madinatul Islam, meaning "City of Islam". *CrossMap [WWW] & Barnabas Fund Nov 2014; Last Days News 4Christians [WWW] 14/11/2014*
- September 2014 - On 24th September, Boko Haram attacked the Christian-majority communities of Shaffa and Shindiffu in Borno state, killing at least 20 people, including a pastor. Ten churches were burned, leaving no churches intact in Shaffa. Properties belonging to family members of prominent Christians were also targeted and burned. Christians fled to nearby mountains and villages for refuge. The attack took place only 48 hours after Nigerian security raided Shaffa and arrested seven suspected Boko Haram members. *Barnabas Persecution Update 26/9/2014; Barnabas Prayer Focus Update 1/10/2014; Christian Solidarity Worldwide Prayer Alert 5/10/2014*
- September 2014 - On 13th September, over 50 women, including married ones, were abducted from Gulak Town. Sect members also conducted indoctrination sessions, forcibly conscripting every able bodied youth when their audiences failed to volunteer to join them. *Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) [WWW] 19/9/2014*
- September 2014 - Many people were killed when Boko Haram raided Michika a predominantly Christian town in Adamawa state, and nearby Bazza, on 8th September. A Christian source wrote: "They came and devastated Michika town today, burning and shooting". A second source on the ground said that many people were killed and that others were carried away alive. It is also reported that at least one church building and a Bible school were destroyed, and that a member of Nigeria's House of Representatives was abducted. *Barnabas Persecution Update 19/9/2014; Reformed Global Prayer Site [WWW] 18/9/2014; Barnabas Prayer Focus Update 1/10/2014*
- September 2014 - Gwoza, a predominantly Christian town, was invaded and seized by the Islamist terrorist group Boko Haram. They raided houses, separated families, shot and slaughtered the men and declared a new Emirate. Some of those who managed to escape sought refuge in the nearby Gwoza hills, where they were surviving on wild fruits and at risk of starvation. *Barnabas Fund Sept 2014 & CSW Aug 2014 & Barnabas Prayer Focus Jul 2014*
- Summer 2014 - Boko Haram are continuing to attack towns and villages in Nigeria almost every day; 300 villages have been burned in Taraba State alone. In summer 2014 terrorists declared a caliphate (Islamic state under sharia law) covering 25 towns in north-east Nigeria, resulting in the severe persecution of believers. It is estimated that the group has abducted over 2,000 people, including boys and girls, and since January 2014 have killed more than 5,100 people by bombing, murder, rape, kidnapping in widespread or systematic attacks. *International Christian Concern Jul 2014; Barnabas Aid Jan- Feb 2015*
- August 2014 - Boko Haram leader, Abubakar Shekau, declared that a section of northern Nigeria is now part of his Islamic caliphate. According to an English translation: "Thanks be to Allah who has given us victory in Gwoza and made us part of the Islamic caliphate. Thanks be to Allah. We are in an Islamic caliphate and we have nothing to do with Nigeria." *International Christian Concern 27/8/2014; World Net Daily (WND) [WWW] 26/8/2014*
- August 2014 - Islamist terrorist group Boko Haram reportedly overran the headquarters of Gujba Local Government Area (LGA) in Yobe State, north-east Nigeria, on 21 August, and is imposing its religious strictures on the local population. *Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) [WWW] 22/8/2014*
- August 2014 - On 6th August, Boko Haram killed an estimated 100 people in the predominantly Christian town of Gwoza. John Gula, a leader in the Christian community, reported also that 42 Christians were killed at Attagara village; 24 in Agajara; four in Angurva; 20 in Agapalwa; one in Amuda; three in Alawawa; 13 in Chinene; three in Arboko; one in Ashigashiya; and one in Ngoshe. *Barnabas Persecution Update 15/8/2014; Morning Star News [WWW] 8/8/2014; Barnabas Prayer Focus Update Sep 2014 & Barnabas Aid magazine Nov-Dec 2014*
- August 2014 - Christians in Nigeria are being systematically massacred. Boko Haram went to seize Gamboru Ngala, a key township on the border between Nigeria and Cameroon. *CSW Aug 2014*
- August 2014 - In Yelwa, radical Muslim Fulani herdsmen attacked the remnant of a Christian community by burning homes and killing 14 Christians for their faith. *International Christian Concern 20/8/2014 & Morning Star News [www] 19/8/2014*
- July 2014 - A bomb attack in the northern city of Kano on July 27 killed four Christians and a soldier. The bomb was hurled over a fence at St Charles Church as believers were leaving a worship service. Islamic extremists from the Boko Haram terrorist group were suspected. *Release magazine issue 81 Sep-Oct 2014; Yahoo News/AFP [WWW] 27/7/2014; Barnabas Persecution Update 1/8/2014*
- June 2014 - On 1 June, nine believers were killed when a church in Attagara village was attacked during a service. The murdered Christians were volunteering as a security team for the church. Two days later, the assailants returned to the village disguised as soldiers. Pretending they were there to protect the residents, they herded villagers into the church, surrounded them, then opened fire. They went on to target other villages; it is thought that more than 300 people were killed. *Barnabas Prayer Focus Number 213 Jul 2014 & Barnabas Aid magazine Sep-Oct 2014*
- June 2014 - Nearly 20 suspected Boko Haram gunmen opened fire on market vendors in Nigeria, killing 15 people in Borno state. They also burned a local traders market, several homes and a church, said residents who survived the attack on the remote Christian village of Daku in the district of Askira Uba. *CNN.com [WWW] 17/6/2014; Barnabas Persecution Update 26/6/2014*
- June 2014 - The town of Gwoza came under siege when Boko Haram killed 300 people. A state lawmaker, Peter Biye, told the Hausa Service of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) that "they (Boko Haram) opened fire on villagers and burned houses and churches to the ground". *Barnabas Persecution Update 06/06/2014 & AllAfrica.com [WWW] 5/6/2014*

Evidence (29)

- June 2014 – on 1st June, Sawaltha Wandala, a resident of a mostly Christian community in Attagara in Borno State, witnessed several children being killed by Boko Haram militants. After seeing a six-year-old boy being brutally hacked and thrown into a ditch, Wandala tried to take him to a hospital, but the militants took the young boy out of his hands and decapitated the child in front of him. *International Christian Concern 3/9/2014; Broadcast [WWW] 29/8/2014; Catholic Online [WWW] 3/9/2014; Voice of the Martyrs (VOM)*
- May 2014 - On 25 May, 21 Christians were massacred during a worship service at Gwoza town. The following day, militants armed with AK47 rifles and petrol bombs attacked Chinene and surrounding villages, killing eight believers. Gwoza has been repeatedly targeted by Boko Haram, which aims to establish an Islamic state in Northern Nigeria. *Barnabas Prayer Focus Number 213 Jul 2014 & Barnabas Aid magazine Sep/Oct 2014*
- May 2014 - In the video, released on 12th May, Boko Haram leader, Abubakar Sheku says the teenage girls who were kidnapped from their boarding school in April, will not be released until all Boko Haram militants have been released. The Nigerian government has ruled out a prisoner exchange. The video also shows around 130 of the girls dressed in Islamic dress and reciting the first chapter of the Quran. *Barnabas Prayer Focus No 212 Jun 2014*
- May 2014 - Eight girls, aged between 12 and 15, were kidnapped from Warabe in Gwoza, a Christian-majority area that has frequently been targeted by Boko Haram militants. *Barnabas Call to Prayer 7/5/2014*
- May 2014 - Boko Haram Islamic extremists set off two bombs in the city of Jos where the majority of shops are Christian owned. The National Emergency Management Agency said at least 45 people were wounded and 118 bodies had been recovered. *International Christian Concern 21/5/2014 & Morning Star News [WWW] 20/5/2014*
- April 2014 – on 14th April, at least 230 girls were kidnapped from their boarding school in a predominantly Christian town of Chibok, Northern Nigeria by Islamist group Boko Haram. The girls 14-16, were herded onto trucks and taken away during the night-time raid. The militants then set the school on fire and looted and torched local houses and shops. Around 40 of the girls have managed to escape. The Nigerian military, parents of the girls and other local people have been searching for the missing students in the forest. Boko Haram has issued threats to Christian women in general and more recently to schoolgirls in particular. The group has been abducting Christian women and girls for some time as part of its campaign to create an Islamic state in Northern Nigeria; the school from which the girls were kidnapped is in one of the few Christian local government areas in the North. Female victims of kidnapping are often forced to marry militants and are subjected to physical and sexual violence. *Barnabas Aid magazine Sep-Oct 2014; Barnabas Aid Magazine Jul-Aug 2014; Barnabas Prayer Focus Number 211 May 2014; Barnabas Persecution Update 24/4/2014 & BBC World News [WWW] 12/5/2014*
- March 2014 – A least 121 Christians were killed by Fulani Muslims in a single incident on 14 March 2014. *Barnabas Prayer Focus Update May 2014*
- March 2014 – On 14th March more than 150 people were massacred by Fulani herdsmen, armed with guns and machetes, as they set fire to homes, burning people alive in the Christian villages of Ugwar Sankwai, Ungwan Gata and Chenshyi (known also as Tekun) in Kaduna state, central Nigeria. More than 200 houses were set ablaze, alongside three churches. The wife and three children of the Pastor of the ECWA Church, Rev Likita Riku, were killed and burnt beyond recognition. The secretary of the Kaduna State Chapter of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) Rev Sunday Ibrahim, condemned the massacre, “The killing is barbaric and unjustifiable. We condemn in strong terms these serial killings. As Christians we are not preaching violence, but urging the Government and security agencies to rise up and face the reality of things.” *Release Magazine Issue 79 May-Jun 2014; International Christian Concern 26/9/2014 & Christian Post [WWW] 25/9/2014*
- March 2014 - In a separate attack in the northern state of Borno, suspected Boko Haram extremists killed two people when they raided the mainly Christian Pela Birni village on March 18. Several homes and two churches were burned down, and hundreds of people fled the area. *Release Magazine Issue 79 May-Jun 2014*
- March 2014 – “If you stayed inside you were burnt. If you ran out, they shoot at you”. These words were spoken by the survivor of an attack by ethnic Fulani Muslim herdsmen on three Christian villages in Kaduna State. The official death toll was 119, but local sources suggested it could actually be as high as 200. The scores of assailants were armed with guns and machetes, and residents said they suspected that chemical substances were also used in the attacks. Only a handful of properties were left standing following the violence, which began on the evening of 14 March and continued into the early hours of the next day. Hundreds of people were displaced, and food supplies were looted. Christians in Kaduna state have come under repeated attack in recent months, and Fulani Muslim herdsmen are also attacking Christians in other areas. Hundreds of people have been killed in Northern Nigeria already in 2014, including 163 in Plateau State alone. *Barnabas Prayer Focus No: 210 Apr 2014*
- March 2014 - Armed Muslim extremist Fulani herdsmen, attacked Torok, Gwon, Gwarim, Gwareng and Rim villages. Nearly 200 homes burned and 16 Christians were killed. “They shot sporadically and set my house ablaze, killing all members of my family, and the entire village has been destroyed,” Musa Gunduma Dang of Gwon village said. *International Christian Concern & Morning Star News [WWW] 5/3/2014*
- February 2014 - On 15 February, 106 people were killed when Boko Haram militants attacked a predominantly Christian village in Borno State in the North. Shouting ‘Allahu Akbar (Allah is great)’ the attackers gunned down and slaughtered residents, deliberately targeting men. Countless people were injured, and homes and businesses were looted and set on fire. Hundreds fled the area. *Barnabas Prayer Focus Number 209 Mar 2014 & Barnabas Aid magazine May-Jun 2014*
- February 2014 - Christians are abandoning towns in Northern Nigeria as the violence by Boko Haram continues. “So far, no fewer than 3,000 people ... have been confirmed to have fled to Adamawa due to the fear of terrorists’ attacks,” State Commissioner for Border Integration, Hamza Bello, said. *International Christian Concern 4/2/2014 & CBN News [WWW] 7/2/2014*
- February 2014 - Eleven worshippers and a family of seven have been killed in separate acts of anti-Christian violence in Northern Nigeria. *Barnabas Persecution Update 13/2/2014*
- February 2014 - Over 100 people were killed in two separate attacks by Boko Haram in Borno state, Northern Nigeria; most of the victims were from a predominantly Christian village. *Barnabas Persecution Update 20/2/2014*
- January 2014 - Boko Haram have been blamed for a bomb attack on a church in Adamawa state in January in which at least 22 Christians died. Sources said that 22 bodies were recovered from the church in Waga Chakawa village - but that others were killed as they tried to escape. Yet more were murdered later in nearby bushes after being taken hostage in the four hour siege - mostly women, children and the elderly. *Release Magazine Issue 78 Mar-Apr 2014*
- January 2014 - On 30 January, a Christian family of seven in Kaduna state were murdered by Fulani herdsmen. The next day, eleven worshippers were killed by Boko Haram gunmen who stormed into a church and fired on a congregation. This attack took place in the same area of Adamawa state that had been targeted days earlier. *Barnabas Prayer Focus No: 209 Mar 2014 & Barnabas Aid Magazine May-Jun 2014*
- January 2014 - On 26th January, Boko Haram fighters targeted a church in Adamawa state, killing police officers who were guarding the building. Once inside, the attackers detonated bombs, shot and cut the throats of those who tried to escape. They proceeded to rampage through the village; a total of 53 people were killed in the carnage. *Barnabas Prayer Focus No: 209 Mar 2014*
- January 2014 - In Borno State, the authorities have announced a plan to demolish 25 churches and Christian schools, ostensibly to make room for new housing. No development plans have been produced, and Christian leaders believe that this is another attempt to persecute the Christian minority in the state. *Barnabas Aid magazine Jan-Feb 2014*
- January 2014 – Muslim gunmen killed at least 30 people in the Christian village of Shonong in Riyom area of Plateau State. This is possibly linked to land disputes between semi-nomadic Muslim Fulani and Christian Berom communities. *BosNewsLife [WWW] 7/1/2014 & International Christian Concern. 10/1/2014*
- January 2014 - Christians at a church service in Wada Chakawa village in Adamawa state, Northern Nigeria were targeted in a day of horrendous violence by suspected Boko Haram militants that left at least 138 people dead. *Barnabas Persecution Update. 6/9/2014 & Israel, Islam and End Times 10/2/2014*

Northern Ireland

- July 2014 – A Christian bakery may face legal action for refusing to bake ‘Gay Bert and Ernie Cake’. *International Christian Concern Jul 2014.*

North Korea

- December 2016 – the current leader, Kim-un Jong, is attempting to dismantle all notions and symbols of Christmas and turn December 25th into a celebration to recognise his deceased grandmother who was a communist activist. Christmas trees have been banned and war was threatened in 2014 when South Korea suggested putting up a Christmas tree on the border. *International Christian Concern email dated 30/12/2016*
- December 2016 – Pastor Lim Hyeon-soo, from Canada, was sentenced last year to hard labour for life in a North Korean labour camp. He was sentenced for ‘subversion of the state’ and whilst imprisoned he has spent his days digging holes in the camp, where his health is continually diminishing. *International Christian Concern email 23/12/2016*
- September 2016 - Inside North Korea Christians are extremely careful about who they talk to about their faith. Most will not even talk with close family members because doing so can easily result in being reported to government officials, being sent to concentration camps or even execution.

Evidence (30)

And because owning a Bible is highly illegal, North Koreans who come to faith in Christ often don't know a lot about the Scriptures. Hana (not her real name) fled from North Korea to China when she was 27 years old. 'On my journey I was sent back to North Korea several times and I was also beaten harshly in jail inside China', she said. 'My two sisters, older brother and father were captured and sent back to North Korea. I have no news of them, and really miss them. This breaks my heart'. Yet despite her sorrow, Hana is also determined to reach out to the people of North Korea with the love of Jesus. Some believers even choose to risk their lives by returning to North Korea as secret missionaries, but if discovered by the authorities, will most certainly be imprisoned, tortured or even executed. *Release Magazine Sep/Oct 2016*

- December 2015 - Pastor Lim Hyeon-soo, a Korean-Canadian pastor, was sentenced to a life of hard labour on 16 December for charges including attempt to overthrow the government and establish a religious state. Pastor Lim belongs to the Light Presbyterian Church in Toronto having visited North Korea over 100 times to distribute humanitarian aid. His church lost contact with him in January 2015. *Open Doors 16 Dec 2015 & International Christian Concern email 18/12/15*
- August 2015 - North Korea recently released video footage of Canadian pastor, Lim Hyeon-soo, confessing before a Pyongyang church congregation that he had committed crimes against the state. North Korea is following the old socialist tradition of show trials in which an alleged perpetrator of a trumped-up charge is made to 'confess' his guilt of the crime in order to escape an otherwise horrendous outcome. *International Christian Concern email 20.8.15*
- September 2014 - Matthew Miller was sentenced to 6 years hard labour for 'hostile acts' at the Pyongyang airport in April. During the trial, Miller said he tore up his tourist visa because he had a 'wild ambition' to write about human rights in North Korea. *International Christian Concern & Washington Post [WWW] 14/9/2014*
- July 2014 - American officials have confirmed that Kenneth Bae was sent back to a labour camp in late July to continue serving his 15-year sentence. "We remain concerned about Bae's health, and continue to urge [North Korean] authorities to grant Bae amnesty and immediate release on humanitarian grounds," read an email by State Department officials. *International Christian Concern Aug 2014 & Time [WWW] 14/8/2014*
- June 2014 - Media inside the country have reported that the South Korean Baptist missionary, Kim Jung Wook, has been sentenced to hard labour for life on charges of spying and trying to set up underground churches. During the trial in May the missionary 'admitted' to committing anti-religious acts and 'malignantly hurting the dignity' of the country's supreme leaders. *Release Magazine Issue 80 Jul-Aug 2014; International Christian Concern & Christian Post 2/6/2014*
- June 2014 - Two American citizens, Matthew Todd Miller and Jeffrey Edward Fowle, who are facing trial in North Korea called for help from the US government to secure their release. They are charged after leaving a Bible in a hotel room - 'perpetrating hostiles acts' against the state. *International Christian Concern Aug & Jun 2014 & Christian Today 30/6/2014*
- April/March 2014 - 33 North Koreans face execution for allegedly helping a detained South Korean missionary to set up 500 house churches in the repressive country. The evangelist Kim Jung-Wook 'confessed' at a press conference to attempting to establish a series of house churches to spread Christianity in the country. He was also said to have distributed Bibles and other materials. Others facing punishment include guards who allegedly allowed the missionary to pass through security check points on his way to Pyongyang, North Korea's capital, from China. Missionary Kim Jung-Wook was arrested in October 2013 after entering the North from China and trying to make his way to Pyongyang with Bibles, Christian instructional materials and movies. *Barnabas Prayer Focus No: 210 Apr 2014; Barnabas Persecution Update 13/3/2014 & Daily Mail [WWW] 5/3/2014*
- February 2014 - John Short, a 75-year-old Australian Christian who was visiting North Korea as a tourist, was questioned and detained for having in his possession Christian materials printed in Korean. He was released in March 2014. *Voice of the Martyrs 25/2/2014 & Barnabas Persecution Update 6/3/2014*
- February 2014 - The UN Commission on Inquiry (COI) released its report based on 372 pages of testimony which found that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has committed 'unspeakable atrocities'. The report describes how "The State considers the spread of Christianity a particularly serious threat...People caught practicing Christianity are subject to severe punishments in violation of the right to freedom of religion..." *Jubilee Campaign 6/3/2014*
- January 2014 - There is total intolerance to any form of Christianity in North Korea. Any activity relating to Christianity, whether bowing one's head to pray, possessing a Bible or making contact with a missionary while visiting another country is punished harshly. Sentences to concentration camps without trial are not unusual for these offences, which are never recorded as religious violations, but rather described as sedition, contact with foreign spies or conduct detrimental to the North Korean state. Under Kim Jong Un, North Korea has cracked down on illegal cross border traffic.

This makes it more difficult for North Korean Christians and defectors to cross into China and connect with Christian workers. *Release Magazine Issue 77 Jan-Feb 2014*

Norway

- November 2015 - A Pentecostal couple, Marius and Ruth Bodnariu, have had their five children removed by Child Welfare Services (Barnevernet) and been charged with 'Christian radicalism and indoctrination'. They live in Naustdal on the west coast, north of Bergen. On 18 November, Barnevernet notified Ruth that her children were separated into two families and that the children had already begun to integrate into their new lifestyle. *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians 4/12/2015*

Pakistan

- December 2017 - A bomb attack on a Methodist church in Quetta, which killed at least nine Christians and left dozens injured out of a congregation of 400. Two suicide bombers were stopped by security personnel before they could enter the church. One of the men detonated their device, the other was killed. Two more attackers fled the scene. The self-proclaimed Islamic State group has said it carried out the attack. *Open Doors 18/12/2017*
- November 2017 - 18 year old 'Alian' (not his real name) suffered a brutal sexual assault being beaten, stripped, gang raped and forcibly converted to Islam and left unconscious. According to his family it was a Muslim friend who lured him to an isolated place on false pretences and after the attack he was taken to hospital, where he was threatened and told to remain silent. Police initially dismissed his rape allegations, but have since arrested several suspects but are pressuring the family to drop the case. *Release Aid Magazine Nov/Dec 2017*
- November 2017 - on 3rd November, Sonu Arshad (18), who lives in the remote village of Sukheki, 200km north of Lahore, went into hiding with five Christian families after death threats were made against him because of his alleged blasphemy against Islam. A Facebook page purporting to be that of a local TV channel posted a photograph of the teenager and asked locals to 'burn his Church and give him the death penalty'. *International Christian Concern 'newsbite' email daed 13/11/2017*
- September 2017 - On 14th September, more than a year after being arrested, Nadeem James, has been sentenced to death for 'blasphemy' after a Muslim friend accused him of ridiculing Muhammad via WhatsApp in July 2016. Police registered the case against Nadeem, a tailor by profession, after a Muslim mob gathered outside his house and threatened to attack his family. His trial was held inside the prison because of death threats and he was found guilty under Section 295-C and 298-A of the Pakistani Penal Code. His lawyer intends to appeal the sentence in the High Court. *Barnabas Fund email 21/09/2017 & Barnabas Aid Magazine Nov/Dec 2017*
- August 2017 - on 30th August, Sharoon Masih (17), the only Christian in his year group at a government high school in Punjab, was beaten to death by Muslim classmates while teachers allegedly looked on. *Barnabas Aid Magazine Nov/Dec 2017*
- August 2017 - on 22nd August, police found Sameera, a 16 year old Christian girl who had been kidnapped a month previously. She had been raped, forcibly married to her captor and forced to convert to Islam. She is one of an estimated 700 Christian and Hindu females who are thought to suffer similar abuse every year in Pakistan. *Barnabas Aid Magazine Nov/Dec 2017*
- August 2017 - 36 year old Christian, Indrayas Ghulam, has died in prison while awaiting trial. He was arrested in March 2015 following a suicide bomb attack on a church in Youhanabad but denied being involved in the incident. For the last four months he suffered so badly from tuberculosis that he could not walk to the bathroom. He leaves a widow and three children all under the age of 13. *Barnabas Fund email 24/08/2017*
- August 2017 - Asif Masih, 16, was dragged from a police van as it stopped at a checkpoint last week. An angry mob surrounded and beat him, accusing him of burning pages of the Quran. Terrified, he 'confessed'. A sub-inspector in charge of the checkpoint, Parvaiz Gujara, said there was evidence he had 'insulted the Quran', despite the fact that Asif is completely illiterate, has learning difficulties and the accounts against him are conflicting. *Open Doors 24/08/2017*
- June 2017 - Ashfaq Masih, a Christian bicycle mechanic from Lahore, has been arrested by police after being accused of 'blasphemy'. After Ashfaq had repaired a local Muslim man's bicycle, the man demanded a discount, claiming that he was a Sadhu - a term for a "holy man", usually associated with Hinduism. Ashfaq refused and said that he did not follow anyone other than Jesus. A crowd gathered and one of them accused Ashfaq of 'blasphemy' and called police, who arrested Ashfaq and officially registered a case against him on 15 June. *Barnabas Fund email dated 06/07/2017*

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- April 2017 – Asia Bibi, the Christian mother condemned to death by hanging, for allegedly committing blasphemy, may be in the Supreme Court again in June for a final hearing. Her lawyer, Saiful Malook has petitioned the court for a new date. *International Christian Concern email 20/04/2017*
 - March 2017 – Pakistani Christian leader, Aslam Pervaiz Sahotra, has been detained in jail awaiting bail since March 2015 when Taliban suicide bombers attacked two churches in Youhanabad, Lahore, leaving 16 dead and over 100 injured. In retaliation, two Muslims were killed by a mob leading to the arrest of hundreds of Christians in the area, most of whom have now been released. Mr Sahotra remains in prison as a suspect. He has suffered ill health during his detention. *Release magazine Mar/Apr 2017*
 - December 2016 – 41 year old Babu Shahbaz Masih, an illiterate evangelist from Lahore, is being accused under Pakistan's 'blasphemy laws', after torn pages of the Quran were found strewn on a street with his name written on them. Under Pakistani law, there is a mandatory life sentence for desecrating the Quran. A Muslim shopkeeper and politician registered a complaint against him and he is reported resentful of Christians for not supporting him in recent elections. For their own safety Babu, his wife & child have been detained by the police. *Barnabas Fund Prayer Focus update email 07/02/2017 & Barnabas Aid Magazine Mar/Apr 2017 & Open Doors 19/01/2017*
 - October 2016 – On 13th October Asia Bibi's appeal in Pakistan's Supreme Court against her death penalty for 'blasphemy' was adjourned moments after it had started, when one of the three judges excused himself. A date has yet to be re-set for the appeal. *Barnabas Aid Magazine Jan/Feb 2017*
 - October 2016 – The bail hearing for Nabeel Masih (16) a Christian from Chak 66, accused under Pakistan's 'blasphemy law' for posting a picture on Facebook which has been deemed offensive to Islam, was marred by a series of verbal threats to the defendant, his family and defence team. The hearing, which took place on 8 October, drew an 80-strong crowd who called for Nabeel to be hanged. Death threats were also made to his family. The prosecution team even warned the teenager's lawyers that there would be repercussions if they continued to defend him. During the bail hearing, the prosecution lawyer told Nabeel's defence team, "Do you have any idea in what cases are you appearing as a counsel ... it's a blasphemy case and this man has blasphemed against Islam and you should know that Pakistan is an Islamic state, we are all Muslims, and these are Muslim courts so you should not defend such a criminal. You people come from Lahore to pursue this case here we have unlimited people whom you cannot face, so you better watch yourself and stay away." Nabeel Masih's family have been forced into hiding and had to be safely escorted away from court to avoid being attacked. Such threats to the accused and all connected with them are frequent in 'blasphemy' cases in Pakistan, especially when the accused is a Christian. *Barnabas Fund email dated 6/10/2016*
 - September 2016 - A Christian teenager in Pakistan has been arrested for 'liking' a photograph on a Facebook page deemed inappropriate. Nabil Masih aged 16 is accused of blasphemy charges for clicking the like button under a picture of Kaaba in Mecca one of the holiest sites in Islam. *Premier Christian Media Email 23/9/2016*
 - June 2016 - On 19 June, a Christian brick kiln worker in the Kasur district of Pakistan's Punjab province, was appallingly victimised after confronting the brick kiln's Muslim owner after being underpaid. Nadeem Masih was beaten, shaved and made to stand on one leg under the scorching sun for five hours by Haji Musa and two other men. Before beginning work at the brick kiln, Nadeem Masih agreed with the owner a payment of 962 rupees (£6.82) for every 1,000 bricks prepared but instead only 800 rupees (£5.66) was being paid for every 1,000 bricks. Nadeem Masih asked to be paid what he had earned but instead encountered the owner's wrath. *Barnabas Aid Magazine Sep/Oct 2016*
 - May 2016 – Christians in Chak village are living in fear after local Muslims claimed that a local illiterate man, Imran Masih, who worked as a clearer, had been watching a controversial Christian preacher on YouTube on his mobile. His friends say he could not have mastered the browser on his phone. A fatwa was issued and a bounty put on his head, so Imran fled from Chak. Muslims have boycotted 45 local Christian families, refusing to buy from or sell to them, threatening to attack their homes and churches. Many have fled and those left behind have no food. *Release International email dated 12/05/2016 & Release Magazine Jul/Aug 2016*
 - March 2016 - 72 people - 29 of them children - were killed and more than 340 were injured when an Islamist suicide bomber struck at Gulshan-i-Iqbal Park in Lahore on Easter Sunday (27th March) with the apparent aim of targeting Christians enjoying Easter celebrations. *Release magazine May/June 2016, Aid to the Church in Need 01/04/2016; OpenDoors 31/03/2016 & Barnabas Fund Persecution Update email dated 1/4/2016*
 - February 2016 - Christian leaders in Pakistan welcome the suggested review of the country's notorious blasphemy laws by the Islamic Ideology Council. Recently, the president of the Islamic Ideology Council suggested that the government should recommend the laws to his council for review to see if the current implementation is consistent with Islam.
- This is one of the first times Islamic leaders in Pakistan have suggested reviewing the country's blasphemy laws and comes as a ray of hope for many of Pakistan's persecuted religious minorities. *International Christian Concern email 15/2/2016 & Irish Catholic paper 10/2/2016*
- February 2016 - A Christian man and his wife in Pakistan claim that their confessions to committing blasphemy are not valid because they were tortured by police into making them. In 2013, Shafiq Emmanuel and his wife, Shagufta, were accused of texting blasphemous messages to an imam. After their arrest, Emmanuel claims the police tortured his wife in front of him which forced him into making a false confession. Now, the couple has been sentenced to death under Pakistan's notorious blasphemy laws thanks, in most part, to the confession the police forced out of the couple. False accusations of blasphemy are common in Pakistan and many observers state that the laws are often abused for personal gain, to settle scores, or to incite religious hatred against minority communities. Recently, Emmanuel has filed to appeal his blasphemy conviction in the Lahore High Court. *International Christian Concern email 19/2/2016 as reported in the Pakistan Daily Mail 8/2/16*
 - January 2016 - Police in Pakistan tortured a devout Christian to death in Punjab after the victim's employer singled him out for a theft charge because of his faith, family members said. Riasat Masih of Kalaskey village, Purana Kot in Gujranwala District, said that police killed his brother, Liaqat Masih (47), in January when he was hung upside down and beaten during interrogation. Apparently cash and gold jewellery worth thousands of pounds had been stolen last year from Liaqat's employer, Raza Hameed. "Why was only my brother named and handed over to police custody, while the Muslim employees were not interrogated?" said Riasat. "My brother had honestly served his employers for 15 years, but they did not even consider this fact before turning him in to police custody and asking them to torture him until he 'confessed' to the theft." The family claims that the police failed to produce any evidence against Liaqat or extract a confession – despite torturing him. *Release Magazine Mar/Apr 2016 & Barnabas Aid magazine May/June 2016*
 - January 2016 - On 13th January a Christian girl was killed after she and two Christian friends shrugged off the advances of some young drunken Muslim men from one of the elite areas of Lahore, Defence Colony. Kiran (17), Shamroza (18) and Sumble (20) were simply walking home through Defence Colony after a hard day's work as beauticians, on their way to their deprived Christian community in Baowala. However, they were accosted by four allegedly drunk Muslims in a maroon car, who started to misbehave, shouting suggestive and lewd comments and harassing them to get into the car for 'a ride and some fun'. The three girls explained that they were devout Christians and did not practice sex outside of marriage and bravely scolded the young men for their untoward advances. Immediately there was a change in the demeanour of the boys who became more aggressive and started to threaten the girls to enter the car or to be physically forced in. Terrified of the dangerous situation they were in, the girls panicked and started to run, which enraged the young Muslim men further. One of them shouted out "How dare you run away from us, Christian girls are only meant for one thing - the pleasure of Muslim men." The inebriated men drove aggressively after the girls and crashed their car into them causing Shamroza to break several ribs and Sumble to break her hip. Kiran was even more unfortunate - the impact of the car lifted her off the ground and on to the bonnet of the car, where she thumped the windscreen. Performing an emergency stop Kiran was thrown into the air landing on the floor, cracking her head open and smashing numerous bones, and the resulting internal bleeding killed her within minutes. *British Pakistani's Christian Association email 1/2/2016*
 - January 2016 – Christian, Saddique Azam, a head teacher in Punjab, was badly injured during an assault by work colleagues. Teachers at Pernawa Government High School in Kasur district allegedly resented Saddique's promotion over them. They tried to force him to resign, but Saddique refused to be intimidated. *Release Magazine Jan-Feb 2016*
 - December 2015 - Thousands of Christian slum-dwellers in Pakistan's capital, Islamabad, face potential eviction and homelessness to protect the 'Muslim majority character' of the city. That was the rationale that the Capital Development Authority (CDA) gave when it proposed the demolition of the Christian slums. This statement has led to demonstrations, calling the statement bigoted and hateful. If demolished, these Christian families would be left homeless and without assistance or compensation from the government. *International Christian Concern Email 18/12/15*
 - November 2015 - Police have downplayed several signs allegedly pointing to an arson attack on the office of a Christian cable TV station in Karachi in November. Sarfraz William, the Director of Gawahi Television, said the fire at the popular Christian channel's office in Akhtar Colony was an act of sabotage. He said he suspected arson because computers and other instruments were damaged, perhaps as a result of some chemical being thrown on them, while wooden materials in the office remained unscathed. Computer hard disks were also stolen, and the locks had been damaged. Station personnel had received threats from suspected Islamic militants who warned the station to stop preaching Christianity, William said.

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Residents of the building complex saw masked men fleeing the site at the time of the fire. Gawahi TV was established in 2013 as a joint venture of different churches to 'spread the gospel of Jesus Christ to people of all religions who live in Pakistan'. *Release Magazine Jan-Feb 2016 & Barnabas Aid Magazine Mar/Apr 2016*

- November 2015 - Christians in Pakistan have petitioned the Supreme Court to end discrimination against religious minorities in Pakistan's educational system. Specifically, the petition calls on the Court to remove hate speech riddled through textbooks against Pakistan's religious minorities. So far, provincial governments have failed to remove the hate speech which has taught almost a generation of Pakistanis to distrust and hate religious minorities. If the hate speech is removed and religious minorities are shown to be equal citizens in Pakistan's educational system, it will be another step towards religious tolerance the country desperately needs. *International Christian Concern Email 13/11/2015*
- October 2015 - A Christian family in Pakistan was nearly lynched by local Muslims after the father was confronted for collecting water from a mosque's tap. According to local sources, the mosque's tap is the village's only source of clean water. When local Muslims discovered that 40-year-old Aftab Gill, who cares for his five children, was collecting water from the tap, they told him that he would only be allowed to collect water from the mosque if he converted to Islam. When the Christian and his sons refused, a mob gathered and beat the Christian family. *International Christian Concern email 16/10/2015*
- September 2015 - Pakistani Christian, Pervaiz Masih, was accused of committing blasphemy by a Muslim co-worker in Kasur District. In a rare move, the lower court has granted Masih bail and he has now been released from police custody. *Reported in Pakistan UCA news 12/10/2015 & quoted in International Christian Concern email 16/10/2015*
- September 2015 - Pakistan's supreme court has agreed to hear Asia Bibi's appeal against her death sentence for blasphemy. The three judges on the bench at the Supreme Court in Lahore ruled in July that her appeal would be 'considered in detail' at an unspecified future date, rejecting the option to dismiss it. The Lahore High Court heard her appeal last year and upheld her conviction in October. Asia, a Punjab farm labourer, was sentenced to death in 2010 after she was accused of blasphemy by a local Muslim prayer leader, following a dispute with her work colleagues. Asia's husband has reportedly written to Pakistan's President, Mamnoon Hussain, to ask her to be pardoned and allowed to seek refuge abroad. *Release Magazine Sept-Oct 2015*
- July 2015 - Pakistan's Supreme Court ruled to suspend Asia Bibi's execution as they review her blasphemy conviction that has had Bibi incarcerated for nearly five years. A hearing date has yet to be set for the mother of five, who is the first woman to receive the death penalty for blasphemy in Pakistan. *International Christian Concern email 24/7/2015 & Aid to the Church in Need 31/7/2015*
- July 2015 - A young, married, Christian mother of three, was kidnapped, forcibly converted to Islam and married to her kidnapper on 23 July in Pattoki, in Pakistan's Punjab province. Fouzia Sadiq, aged 26, was abducted by her Muslim employer, Muhammad Nazir Ahmad, aged 56, while she was working in a field. When the family went to his house to find out what happened, Nazir's brother promised the family that Fouzia would be returned soon. But when the family requested her return the next day, Nazir told the family that Fouzia had converted to Islam, had entered into an Islamic marriage with him and was now his property. He warned them not to report this to anyone or make it a legal issue. *Barnabas Persecution Update email 6/8/2015, Barnabas fund Persecution Update email 2/9/2015 & Barnabas Aid Magazine Nov-Dec 2015*
- July 2015 - Nadia Din, 23, married a Christian, Aleem Masih, 28, in April 2014 after she became a Christian; they fled from Lahore to Narang Mandi, around 50 kilometres away, fearing attacks from her family, who were incensed at her conversion. They returned to visit Lahore in late July 2015 and whilst waiting in a rickshaw, Nadia's father & brother and one other person entered the rickshaw forcing the driver to take them to a farm. "Our rickshaw driver had a gun pointed to his face and was instructed to ride to the place they gave directions to," said Nadia. "They took us to a big field in Khaliq Nagar where they beat us and then fired the gun at Aleem, killing him... they fired at me too." "I have lost my beautiful brother," mourned Aleem's brother, Naeem Masih. "He was so young and all because a Muslim family felt it an insult that a Christian married a Muslim. Now the same family threatens us all daily but we will not give up and will seek justice." Christians in Pakistan frequently face discrimination and violence. Parvez Henry Gill, a Christian businessman in Karachi, southern Pakistan, has funded the construction of a giant concrete cross as 'a symbol of peace and hope' in the face of perpetual threat and hopelessness. The cross, built inside one of the oldest graveyards in the city, Gora Qabaristan, reaches 43m (140ft) in height. *Barnabas Persecution Update email dated 4/9/2015 & Barnabas Aid Magazine Nov-Dec 2015*
- June 2015 - An 'innocent' man has been hanged in Pakistan after spending 23 years on death row – despite his lawyers battling to introduce new evidence which could have saved him. Aftab Bahadur Masih, 38, was just 15-years-old when he was 'forced into confessing to a murder he did not commit' more than two decades ago, according to human right groups.

Mr Masih's execution comes days after another man, Shafiq Hussain, was due to be executed for the kidnapping and involuntary murder of a seven-year-old boy – only Mr Hussain's hanging was reprieved for a fourth time. Mr Masih wrote an essay, a day before, which was published in the Guardian newspaper. In it, he said: "I have not given up hope, though the night is very dark. It would perhaps have been better not to have to think of what the police did to try to get me to confess falsely to this crime." Since December of last year, Pakistan has executed over 150 people after lifting a six-year ban on the death penalty. *The Independent Newspaper 10/6/2015 highlighted in Bible Society Email dated 12/6/2015*

- June 2015 – On 30th June, a Christian family in Maki Chak 460, a village in Pakistan's Punjab province, was paraded through the village by a Muslim mob in an act of utter humiliation. Awais Qamar and his wife, Rukhsana, were accused of 'blasphemy' because they unknowingly used a banner with a verse from the Quran as a sleeping mat. Threatening that they would burn them alive, the mob blackened the faces of Rukhsana and her sister, Rehana Qamar, with soot and pulled their hair. Awais also had his face blackened, head shaved and was paraded through the village with shoes slung around his neck. *Barnabas Aid Magazine Sept-Oct 2015 & Barnabas Persecution Update email 10/7/2015*
- May 2015 - Christian homes and a church have been attacked by an angry Muslim mob after blasphemy allegations were made against a Christian man. According to reports, on May 24 the gang opened fire, threw missiles and threatened to kill Christians in Sandha, Lahore, after Humayun Masih, 27, was accused of burning pages of the Holy Quran. Humayun is married with two daughters, but his wife left him because of his mental condition. He has been arrested and is in police custody, and it is believed that he has been declared mentally unstable by the hospital. Witnesses claim the local cleric provoked the people in Gulshan Ravi, Sandha and consequently local Muslims gathered around and started throwing stones at the Christian's houses and local church. They also threatened to burn homes in the area, not unlike the March 2013 incident in Joseph Colony, where over 100 houses were ransacked and torched. Despite video evidence nobody has been convicted. To control the situation the DIG (District Inspector General) called in the elite forces who had to use tear gas to disperse the mob. A large police force has sealed the area but the situation is still tense. The incident comes around two month after a suicide attack on two churches in the most heavily populated Christian colony, Youhanabad, where 17 people were killed and 70 were injured. Residents of Youhanabad are still living under fear; the police are still arresting people, and now Christian men and women keep watch throughout the night to prevent the police illegally entering their homes and arresting them. *Email from Nasir Saeed at Claas 25/5/2015 & Nasir Saeed, CLAAS Class press release email 7/6/2015*
- May 2015 - Police in Karachi have said that gunmen on motorbikes opened fire on a bus, killing at least 43 people. A splinter group of the Pakistani Taliban, called Jundullah, claimed responsibility. A spokesman for the group said: "These killed people were Ismaili and we consider them kafir (non-Muslim). In the coming days we will attack Ismailis, Shi'ites and Christians". *Bible Society Email 18/5/2015*
- May 2015 - After evangelizing Muslims and baptizing a former Islamic religious leader, a Pakistani pastor is receiving death threats from radical Islamists – even through his cell phone. "Azhar", who became a pastor at a village church more than 20 years ago in Pakistan, regularly shares the gospel with his Muslim neighbours and has baptized a number of Muslim background believers, including a former imam known as "Rashid." Trouble started after Rashid stopped attending the local mosque. Members tried to convince him to return to Islam, but he wouldn't. His Muslim relatives labelled him as an apostate, a traitor to the faith. They issued death threats against Rashid, along with his wife and children who also became believers. After Rashid and his family fled the area, his relatives turned against Pastor Azhar. *From Persecution.com Email 6/5/2015*
- April 2015 - A Christian boy in Pakistan, age 14, died after being set on fire by unidentified Muslims. According to the boy's testimony, the Muslim men asked him about his religious identity before the attack. When the boy told them he was a Christian, the men started beating him severely, and then poured kerosene on him before setting him on fire. The boy survived the initial attack, but later died of his wounds. *Email International Christian Concern 1/5/2015*
- March 2015 - At least 19 people were killed and over 100 injured when suicide bombers belonging to Jamaatul Ahrar, a splinter group from the Pakistan Taliban, attacked two Lahore churches in one of the largest Christian communities in Pakistan on Sunday 15 March, when around 2,000 Christians were meeting for worship. The attacks occurred during morning services in the predominantly Christian neighbourhood of Youhanabad in Lahore, capital of the Punjab province. One of the assailants was a young boy carrying a machine gun. Stopped at the church gates by church members acting as security guards, both bombers were unable to enter and blew themselves up at the entrances. Two of the guards died in the explosions and their brave actions prevented many more deaths. *Barnabas Aid Magazine Jul-Aug 2015 & May-June 2015; Asia News 24/3/2015 & Emails from International Christian Concern 27/3/2015 & 20/3/2015*

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- February 2015 - ICC has learned that two churches in Lahore, Pakistan, were raided by police during their Sunday services. According to local Christians, the police desecrated the churches, harassed the Christians worshipping there, arrested both churches' pastors, and damaged both churches' sound systems. *International Christian Concern email 16/2/2015*
- December 2014 - Taliban militants stormed the Army Public School and Degree College in the city of Peshawar, provincial capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, killing an estimated 126 students and teachers and wounding another 120. Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif, denounced the assault on the school and vowed to continue military operations against the Taliban. *International Christian Concern 16/12/2014*
- November 2014 – After being held as hostages for three days, Shahzad Masih and his wife Shama, a young couple in their twenties, with four children and expecting their fifth, were stripped and beaten for one and a half hours by a fanatical mob of 600 Muslims. They were then burnt alive in a brick kiln in the place where they worked in Kasur, Punjab. They were enslaved and indebted to a brick kiln owner who falsely accused them of desecrating the Koran. *Release International Issue 83 Jan-Feb 2015 & Barnabas Aid Jan-Feb 2015, International Christian Concern & Catholic News Agency [www] 5/11/2014, CSW 12/11/2014*
- November 2014 – On 16th November, Pakistani Christian, Elishba Bibi, was stripped, beaten and left unconscious in the street by two Muslim brothers whose family employed her as a maid, in Rana Town located in the Sheikhpura district of Punjab province, after Elishba allegedly had an argument with the mother and sister of the assailants. The 28-year-old mother of four was pregnant at the time and suffered a miscarriage following the incident. *Barnabas Aid magazine Mar-Apr 2015* November 2014 - Christian mother, Asia Bibi, undertook her last recourse in the Pakistani judicial system by filing an appeal to the country's top court on 24 November concerning her death sentence after the High court in Lahore upheld the conviction on 16 October. Accused by her co-workers of insulting Muhammad, Asia Bibi has been on death row since 2010. *Barnabas Persecution Update 17 & 24 Oct 2014; Barnabas News in Brief 17/10/2014; Barnabas Prayer Focus Update Nov 2014; BBC News [WWW] 16/10/2014; International Christian Concern 10/12/2014; Christians in Pakistan [WWW] 9/12/2014 & Barnabas Aid Magazine Mar-Apr 2015*
- October 2014 - CLAAS, a Christian legal organisation, discovered on 5th October that a number of pairs of shoes were being sold with crosses imprinted on the sole, as well as others bearing the British flag. In Pakistani culture placing anything on the ground is considered to be an insult to the object. Therefore, the cross or British flag on the sole of a shoe is going to be constantly insulted as the person walks. Local Christians feel that these shoes are intended to insult believers, to express hatred towards them, and to try to stir up tensions between Christians and Muslims. *Barnabas Persecution Update & Barnabas Fund [WWW] 17/10/2014*
- October 2014 - 19-year-old Maria Bibi, is in court with her parents after an Islamic classmate, Mohammad Zohaib, persuaded her to go and study with him, but instead took her to his mosque and forcefully married and converted her. "I am not married with Mohammad Zohaib, he is telling a lie in court, he tried to convert me forcefully to Islam and got married with me in the mosque against my will, and this marriage I do not accept.", states Maria Bibi. *International Christian Concern 22/10/2014; Asia News [WWW] 21/10/2014*
- October 2014 - According to Christian communities living outside of Islamabad, Christian graveyards are discriminated against by authorities who are responsible for their upkeep. In these areas, Christian graveyards are allowed to fall into disrepair and be vandalised. Muslim graveyards in the same area, kept up by the same government authority, are in excellent condition. *International Christian Concern 7/10/2014; Express Tribune [WWW] 6/10/2014*
- September 2014 - Sharon Colony, on the banks of the Soan River, received damage to 400 of the 700 houses, mostly inhabited by Christians. Provincial Minister for Labour and Human Resource, Raja Ashfaq Sarwar, visited the colony on Saturday and promised to fulfil all the needs of the affected residents. Residents say the civil defence department brought some tents on Saturday, took pictures and then took the tents back. Flood victims feel abandoned by the government. *International Christian Concern 9/9/2014; Express Tribune [WWW] 8/9/2014*
- September 2014 – On 3rd September, an accusation of blasphemy was made against a group of Christians in a village in Tehsil Samandri district, Faisalabad, following a dispute with Muslims over the use of land for a graveyard. Thirteen Christians were arrested and later released. The Christians were originally charged under section 295-C of the Pakistan Penal Code, which refers to defiling the name of Muhammad and carries the death penalty. This was later replaced with charges of violating a place of worship or cemetery (section 297 of the Pakistan Penal Code), which does not carry the death penalty. On 30th September confirmation was received that this charge has now also been dropped after a written compromise was reached between Muhammad Iqbal, who made the accusation, and the Christians. *Barnabas Persecution Update 17/10/2014; CrossMap [WWW] 13/10/2014 & Release Magazine 82 Nov-Dec 2014*
- August 2014 - 12-year-old Muqada and her sister Asma were returning home from their work in Lahore, when Muqada was kidnapped and raped by two Muslim Men and three women. Rape is very common among young Christian girls in Pakistan, and is rarely punished. *International Christian Concern 22/8/2014, Agenzia Fides [www] 21/8/2014*
- August 2014 - The home of a Pakistani Christian solicitor who recently pledged to help Asia Bibi, a Christian mother on death row for blasphemy, was shot at by suspected Islamic militants on 9 August. *Barnabas Fund Aug 2014, Barnabas Persecution Update & Barnabas News in Brief 15/8/2014*
- July 2014 - Continually Christian women are forcibly abducted from their families, converted to Islam, married to a Muslim man, and raped. They fear these attacks are because of their gender and their religious identity. *International Christian Concern Jul 2014*
- July 2014 - With prosecution witnesses unwilling to record their statements in court due to Islamic extremist death threats, there has been no progress in the murder trial of former Minister for Minority Affairs, Shahbaz Bhatti, who was gunned down on March 2, 2011. Islamabad Anti-Terrorism Judge Atiqur Rehman on 11th July granted bail to the suspect, Omar Abdullah, on 'medical grounds.' *Morning Star News 18/7/2014 & Barnabas Persecution Update 23/7/2014*
- May 2014 - Maria Sarfraz, was abducted from the town of Distt, Sheikhpura and raped multiple times during a three day ordeal. Like previous cases, the perpetrators of this crime are threatening violence against the Christian family in an attempt to keep them from getting justice. The rapists have demanded that the Christian family settle the matter out of court or else they will start a riot in town and burn down all the Christian homes. *International Christian Concern & Pakistan Christian Post 12/5/2014*
- May 2014 - Asia Bibi's appeal hearing against her death sentence for insulting the Muslim prophet has been postponed for the fifth time. *Barnabas Persecution Update 30/5/2014 & Christian Today [WWW] 27/5/2014*
- May 2014 - A teenage Christian boy in Pakistan has been raped and killed in the latest horrifying use of sexual violence against the country's vulnerable Christian minority. Sanwal Masih (17) died on 29 May after he was violated and poisoned by a young Muslim man at the estate where he worked in Dhalia Chatta Tehsil, Wazirabad. He collapsed and was found by some children, who immediately informed his family. He was rushed to hospital but was able to tell his uncle what had happened to him. Following Sanwal's death, his family were threatened by the owner of the estate, who came to their home in an attempt to force them to bury the body immediately. But Sanwal's family did not give in to the pressure. They reported his death to the police, who arrested the Muslim man. *Barnabas Prayer Focus Number 213 Jul 2014, Barnabas Prayer Focus Update 1/7/2014 & Barnabas Aid magazine Sep/Oct 2014*
- April 2014 - Saira Iqbal, a seven-year-old Christian girl, was brutally gang-raped by four Muslim men. She was hospitalised and treated in intensive care but later was said to be in a stable condition. After the attack, in Mally ki in Sialkot district, Punjab, Siara's father was kidnapped by the gang of Muslims, who tried to force him to agree not to press charges against his daughter's rapists. He was freed by the police after two days in captivity. After repeated appeals and pressure from the Christian community and human rights organisations, an investigation was launched by the police and at least one suspect has been arrested. *Barnabas Prayer Focus, No 212 Jun.2014; Barnabas Persecution Update 2/5/2014; Asia News [PIME] & jihadwatch.org [WWW] 24/4/2014*
- April 2014 - Pakistani Christian, Sunny Hyder, was shot and killed by a Muslim co-worker after discussing Christian traditions practised during the Easter holiday. According to Hyder Masih, father of the executed victim, there was a dispute between his son and security guard prior to the shooting. Sunny's refusal to convert to Islam and his openness in discussing religious topics likely led to his death. *International Christian Concern 18/4/2014*
- April 2014 - Three Christians in Pakistan have been sentenced to death for blasphemy in the course of eight days, bringing the number of believers on death row for blasphemy to four. Shafqat Emmanuel and Shagufta Kausar, Christian parents of four from Gojra, were sentenced on April 4 by a court in Toba Tek Singh, Punjab, after being convicted of sending text messages insulting Muhammad. The messages were sent to two local Muslims from a mobile phone registered in Shagufta's name, which she had lost. The couple deny the allegation. Their lawyer has said there is no concrete evidence against them and that they could not have written the messages as neither of them can read or write Urdu properly. He said that police had tortured Shafqat, who is confined to a wheelchair owing to a spinal injury, to try and force a confession. This ruling came after Sawan Masih (26), a Christian father of three, was sentenced to death on 27 March for defiling the name of Muhammad. After Sawan was accused of blasphemy last March, a 3,000 strong mob attacked Joseph Colony, Sawan's Christian neighbourhood, destroying 178 homes. Sawan denies committing blasphemy and has argued that the allegation was motivated by a property dispute between him and his friend. Pakistan's 'blasphemy laws' are often misused to settle personal disputes, and Christians are particularly vulnerable to false accusations. *Barnabas Prayer Focus Number 211 May 2014; & Barnabas Persecution Update 10/4/2014.*

Evidence (34)

- April 2014 - Authorities in Islamabad have demolished a slum situated on the edge of the city, declaring war on the slums, largely populated by Christians and Afghan refugees, saying they are illegal and havens for militants. The discrimination and poverty has left many Pakistani Christians seeking to exit Pakistan altogether. *International Christian Concern & Newsweek Pakistan [WWW] 22/4/2014*
- March 2014 - Asia Bibi's appeal hearing has been postponed 'to a later date' due to the absence of one of the two presiding judges. Bibi, mother of 5, was sentenced to death in 2010 for insulting the Muslim prophet and has been waiting in isolation in the Punjab prison for her appeal to be heard. *International Christian Concern. 17/3/2014*
- March 2014 - Sawan Masih was sentenced to death for blasphemy for insulting the Prophet Mohammed during a conversation with a Muslim friend in the Joseph Colony neighbourhood of Lahore in March 2013. He is appealing his conviction, saying the charges were trumped up to speed the eviction of minority Christians from their land. *International Christian Concern 2/4/2014; Global Post 1/4/2014; Bamabas Persecution Update 4/4/2014; Church in Chains[WWW] 7/4/2014 & Bamabas Prayer Focus Update May 2014*
- February 2014 - A court date scheduled for the appeal of Christian mother Asia Bibi has been cancelled. Asia who has spent more than three years on death row, was set to appear in court on February 14. The hearing was adjourned and a new date not set. *Bamabas Prayer Focus Number 209 Mar 2014*
- February 2014 - Two men who spoke out for Asia in Pakistan were murdered in 2011. The trial for the murder of one of these men, Shahbaz Bhatti is in jeopardy. Islamist terrorists have sent threatening letters to Dr. Paul Bhatti, (former Pakistani Minister of National Harmony and Minority Affairs), brother of the murdered politician and also to a lawyer and two eye-witnesses. After receiving the letters, the eye-witnesses failed to appear in court & Paul Bhatti has fled Pakistan. The suspects, members of the terrorist organisations Fidayaan-e-Mohammed, Tehrik-e-Taliban Punjab and Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, have confessed, but it is feared they will walk free as part of a deal between the terrorist group and the government. *Bamabas Prayer Focus Number 209 Mar 2014; BosNewsLife [WWW] & International Christian Concern. 9/2/2014*
- January 2014 - Christians remain homeless after fleeing due to the case of Rimsha Masih. 800-1000 from Mehrabad still living in tents or makeshift shelters. *Release international Issue 77 Jan/Feb 2014*
- January 2014 - Federal Shari'a Court has ordered the Pakistani government to remove life imprisonment from punishments for blasphemy, leaving death as the only consequence. Most fear that Muslims will abuse this new law to persecute religious minorities. *International Christian Concern 10/1/2014*
- January 2014 - A 14 year-old Christian girl (name withheld) was forced to marry and convert to Islam after being abducted by a fellow student, Abdullah Shafi. The girl and her mother were threatened separately with dire consequences if they were to speak against him and his family. Both did not remain silent resulting in the arrest and imprisonment of Shafi for abduction under section 365-B of Pakistan's Penal Code. *International Christian Concern & Pakistan Gender News 14/1/2014*

Philippines

- May 2017 - Thousands of people fled the city of Marawi, Mindanao, in the south of the Philippines, after militants kidnapped 14 Christians and burnt down St Mary's Cathedral. The Filipino army attacked some of the terrorists whom the Government has since identified as belonging to the Abu Sayyaf and Maute Islamist terrorist groups. Two soldiers and a police chief were killed in the firefight. *Release Magazine Jul/Aug 2017 & Bamabas Aid magazine Sept/Oct 2017*
- September 2016 - 52-year-old Perfecto Padilla, a church elder from Sultan Kudarat Mindanao, was gunned down by two assailants, while he was resting outside his house in September. He died on his way to hospital. His two children Naomi, 12, and Joseph, 10 are left without parents. Their mother went to work overseas many years ago and has lost contact with the family. 'This district was once a peaceful village,' said Release's partner. 'But now Muslims have built a mosque very close to the church. They have been trying to force the Christians to sell the church property. 'This constant pressure appears to be part of a plan to try to claim more land' he said. *Release Magazine Nov/Dec 2016*
- March 2016 - Christians on the Philippine island of Mindanao have been shocked by the murder of a Baptist pastor and his adult son. It is believed that insurgents from the New People's Army (NPA), the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, are responsible for shooting Pastor Feliciano 'Cris' Lasawang (50) and his son Darwin (24) as they bathed in the Culaman River north of Jose Abad Santos, Davao del Sur Province. According to relatives, Pastor Lasawang was shot three times in the body, and his son once in the face. Apparently the two men had conducted baptisms in the river where they died. *Release Magazine Mar/Apr 2016*
- January 2016 - Hannah, a Sama Muslim-background Christian convert, lost her son due to lung disease.

Hannah was forced to leave her home in Cagayan de Tawi-Tawi and move to Palawan because of the pressure put on her by her Muslim family who blamed her son's death on her Christian faith. Three days after arriving, tragically her 13-year-old daughter was hit and killed by a speeding van. *Open Doors 27/01/2016*

- December 2015 - Nine Christians were killed on 24 December when around 200 militants apparently from the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) Islamist group raided at least eight Christian villages in the Muslim-dominated southern island of Mindanao. "They abducted farmers and then killed them," said Colonel Ricky Bunayog of the local Philippines army unit. "When we attempted to recover their bodies, they fired on us." *Bamabas Aid Magazine Mar/Apr 2016*
- October 2014 - A grenade attack on the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, Pikit, North Cotabato province on the island of Mindanao on 8th October has left two Christians dead and three injured. Felomina Ferolin, a 54-year-old nurse, and teacher Gina Cabilona, 39, were killed in the attack, which targeted a mid-week worship service. *Bamabas Persecution Update 17/10/2014; Bamabas Fund [WWW] 15/10/2014*
- October 2014 - An attempted bomb attack took place on 11 October in the largely Christian Zamboanga City, Mindanao. The improvised explosive device was defused at the scene by security forces with no reports of injuries. Mindanao has been shaken for decades by Islamist militants seeking greater autonomy. *Bamabas Fund [WWW] 15/10/2014*

Poland

- March 2017 - a legal advocacy group, Ordo Iuris, and several student organizations invited Rebecca Kiessling, an American pro-life speaker, to give speeches at several universities in Poland. All of the universities had initially agreed to hold the events, but they abruptly cancelled the events or modified the format, after leftist groups protested. *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians 14/03/2017*

Qatar

- November 2014 - Matt and Grace Huang, a US couple from Los Angeles, moved to Qatar with their three young adopted children in 2012. Their daughter Gloria suddenly died in 2013, local police prejudicially suspected foul play due to the Huangs being a multi-racial Christian family. Because their children were adopted they were also accused of obtaining them by 'human-trafficking'. In March 2014, an Islamic trial court sentenced them to three years in prison, which they appealed. The Huangs were released from prison, but a travel ban was put in place. The Qatari Court of Appeals on 30 Nov 2014 overturned their conviction and eventually the Qatari government did permit the Huangs to leave the country and return to their home in the United States. *Jubilee Campaign 22 Nov & 6 Dec 2014*

Russia

- February 2017 - A protestant pastor became the first person to be deported under Russia's amended anti-terror laws which came into effect in July 2016. Amongst many new restrictions, they introduced sanctions against 'foreigners conducting missionary activity'. Pastor Victor Immanuel Mani, an Indian, was deported in February, separating him from his Russian wife and young child. He is appealing. At the time of writing, of the 53 prosecutions brought by authorities under the revised laws, 29 have been against Christians. *Bamabas Aid Magazine May/June 2017*
- August 2016 - Donald Ossewaarde was arrested on 14 August as he conducted a bible study group in his home. He is to be charged with violating Russia's law banning missionary activity outside officially registered church buildings. He was brought to a court and was summarily convicted and fined 40,000 roubles (about 550 euros). *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians 14/08/2016; EWTN GB 27/08/2016 on [WWW] <https://www.ewtn.co.uk/news/world/putin-s-religious-police-raid-bible-group-pastor-arrested-for-missionary-work>*
- July 2016 - On 3rd July, President Vladimir Putin, signed into law new anti-terror legislation which, while primarily aimed at anti-terrorist activities, includes many clauses that are strongly anti-Christian. It came into effect on 20 July. The new law requires any sharing of the Christian faith, even a casual conversation, to have prior authorisation from the state. Churches are also held accountable for the activities of their members. If a church member mentions their faith in conversation with a work colleague, both member and church could be punished, with individuals facing fines of up to 50,000 roubles (£580). There are also restrictions on the extent to which churches can have contact with foreigners. This means that any non-Russian citizen attending a church service is required to have a work visa or otherwise they could face a fine and expulsion from the country. *Bamabas Aid Magazine Sep/Oct 2016*

Evidence (35)

- June 2016 – A new bill passed by the Council of the Russian Federation is now awaiting the approval of President Vladimir Putin for it to become law. If agreed on, any sharing of the Christian faith – even in a casual conversation – will require prior authorisation from the State. This includes something as basic as an emailed invitation for a friend to attend church and there will be restrictions on churches' contact with foreigners. *Barnabas Fund email 28/06/2016*
- May 2015 - Seven of nine Baptists who conducted an outdoor religious meeting in a village in central Crimea were fined in May. An eighth is due in court on 15 June. All rejected police and court insistence that their event required prior notification under Russia's Demonstrations Law. "This event did not disturb public order and did not threaten the safety of the participants themselves or of other citizens," church members insisted. The chair of the village council who halted the event, Aleksei Rusanov, and the head of the District Police, Colonel Aleksandr Venikov, both refused to discuss their actions with Forum 18. Since Russia's annexation of Crimea in March 2014, some religious communities have complained of state restrictions on public activities they had previously conducted when the peninsula was under Ukrainian rule. The fines came as proposed new punishments for 'religious agitation in public places' are in Crimea's State Council (parliament). *Forum 18 Email 2/6/2015*
- April 2015 - Baptist pastor, Pavel Pilipchuk, was imprisoned for five days in Orel in mid-April for refusing to pay a fine for allegedly organising an open-air meeting for worship without informing the city administration beforehand, church members told Forum 18 News Service. "Christian songs and conversations with people cannot be classified as rallies, pickets, marches and demonstrations", they insist. Religious communities whose beliefs require them to share their beliefs in public, beyond the confines of a place of worship, are particularly vulnerable to prosecution in Russia. *Forum 18 Email 1/5/2015 & Barnabas Persecution Update email 11/5/2015*
- November 2014 - On 21st November, Judge Maksim Ignatovich of October District Court in Vladimir, granted the City Prosecutor's request to declare 'extremist' a video showing an attempted October 2012 seizure by bailiffs of saints' relics from a parish of the Russian Orthodox Autonomous Church (ROAC), which is independent of the Moscow Patriarchate. *Forum 18 News Summary 3/12/2014*
- August 2014 - Jehovah's Witness, Aleksandr Yevdoshenko, was fined in Krasnoyarsk after a man claimed to have been given an 'extremist' booklet at a religious meeting. The man claimed on his party website he "simply went to the police station and wrote a statement", which the police received "with enthusiasm". *Forum 18 News Summary 8/9/2014*
- August 2014 – Taganrog City Court found seven Jehovah's Witnesses guilty of extremism offences. Four of the seven were given suspended prison terms of at least five years. All seven were fined, but these fines were later waived. Despite the suspension or waiving of the punishments, all seven convicted Jehovah's Witnesses still have criminal records and may not change their places of work, study or residence without notifying the authorities. They must also show that they have 'corrected' their behaviour. *Forum 18 News Summary 20/11/2014*
- May 2014 - Lutherans in Vyborg have been refused the restitution of their former parish house, which they hope to use as the pastor's accommodation and a Sunday school. A 21 May 2014 court decision claims this is not a 'religious purpose' as required under the 2010 restitution law. Another church owned by Old Believers in Yekaterinburg in the Urals are experiencing delays in restitution of their property previously confiscated by the Soviets. *Forum 18 News Summary 23/5/2014*
- March 2014 - Churches and Christians are facing harassment by the authorities. Those engaged in social and charitable work are facing pressure and one church has been liquidated for allegedly running an illegal programme of general – non-religious education. Although the church has now lost the right to own or rent property, it continues to meet for worship and intends to appeal to the European Court of Human Rights. Harvest Pentecostal Church in St Petersburg appealed against its closure. Church-run drug and alcohol rehabilitation centres have also been subject to state interference. Four such centres have recently been investigated, with the latest raid taking place on March 22. *Release Magazine Issue 79 May-Jun 2014; Barnabas Prayer Focus Number 211 May 2014 & Forum 18 News Summary 26/3/2014*
- March 2014 - House of the Gospel Church in Sochi is struggling to retain its Church building against city attempts to sell it off. In 2011 the Church asked for full ownership of the building it has used since 1993 (having had lesser ownership since 2007), as Russian law allows, but Sochi administration repeatedly failed to respond or give reasons for its lack of response. Two court hearings have failed to secure the Church's rights to the property, and it is now preparing a third appeal. *Forum 18 News Summary 4/3/2014*
- March 2014 - Crimean Catholics are in fear for their lives and churches as Russia takes over Crimea.

"Our Church has no legal status in the Russian Federation, so it's uncertain which laws will be applied if Crimea is annexed," said Priest Mykhailo Milchakovskiy. *International Christian Concern & World News Group[WWW] 24/3/2014*

Russia - Crimea (annexed by Russia from Ukraine on 18 March 2014)

- November 2014 - Russia's Federal Migration Service is not extending residence permits for foreign citizens who have been working for Crimean religious communities. All foreign Roman Catholic priests and nuns will have to leave by the end of 2014. The FMS states that only registered religious communities can invite foreign citizens. No Crimean religious communities have registration, and under a Russian law which entered into force on 1 July 2014 all religious communities must apply for re-registration by 1 January 2015. *Forum 18 News 3/11/2014*
- October 2014 - After widespread protests by human rights defenders Crimea's acting Prime Minister, Sergei Aksyonov, has ordered a moratorium on raids, searches and literature confiscations until 1 January 2015. *Forum 18 News 29/10/2014*
- September 2014 - The residence permit of Fr Piotr Rosochacki - who has served in Crimea for more than five years as a Catholic Priest in the Crimean capital Simferopol - expires on 25 October and Russia's Federal Migration Service has verbally refused to extend it and that of a Polish Catholic nun which expires in December. Asked why Fr Rosochacki's residence permit was not extended as it had been on previous occasions, Yana Smolova of Russia's Federal Migration Service in Crimea responded: "That was under Ukrainian law. Now we are a different country." *Forum 18 News 8/9/2014*
- September 2014 - All 1,546 religious communities in Crimea which had state registration with the Ukrainian authorities are being required to re-register under Russian law by 1 January 2015 if they wish to retain legal status. Communities that function throughout Crimea will have to register in Moscow. Many communities which wish to remain part of Ukrainian religious organisations - including the Moscow Patriarchate and Kiev Patriarchate dioceses, the Greek Catholic Exarchate and Roman Catholic, Lutheran and Armenian Apostolic parishes - remain uncertain as to whether this will be allowed. *Forum 18 News 10/9/2014*
- June 2014 – In Yalta, Crimea on 28 April 2014, Jehovah's Witness, Nikolai Martsenyuk (who was peacefully sharing his beliefs on the street) was kicked unconscious and needed hospital treatment. "Despite repeated calls on the emergency number, no police officer came to the scene of the offence." *Forum 18 News 26/6/2014*
- June 2014 – On 1 June a mob of about 50 prevented Fr Ivan Katkalo of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church Kiev Patriarchate, from entering his church in a military base in the village of Perevalnoe in Simferopol District. Demonstrators smashed the lock on the Church of the Protection of the Holy Mother of God and threw out items. The demonstrators then changed the lock to prevent the Kiev Patriarchate from gaining access to the building. Archbishop Kliment (Kushch), head of the Kiev Patriarchate's Simferopol and Crimea Diocese, says, "I've already lost that church." *Forum 18 News 26/6/2014*

Saudi Arabia

- May 2015 - A top Muslim cleric has called for the destruction of all churches in the Arabian Peninsula after legislators in Kuwait moved to pass laws banning the construction of religious sites associated with Christianity. Sheikh Abdul Aziz bin Abdullah, the grand mufti of Saudi Arabia, said the destruction of churches was required by Islamic law, the Arabic media reported. *Release Magazine May-Jun 2015*
- September 2014 – On 12th September, some 28 people were rounded up by the Commission for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice in the home of an Indian national in the city of Khafji. "Saudi Arabia is continuing the religious cleansing that has always been its official policy" Nina Shea, of the Hudson Institute's Center for Religious Freedom, commented, "It is the only nation state in the world with the official policy of banning all churches. This is enforced even though there are over 2 million Christian foreign workers in that country. Those victimized are typically poor, from Asian and African countries with weak governments." *Barnabas Persecution Update 26/9/2014; Fox News [WWW] 14/9/2014; Mail Online News [WWW] 15/9/2014; Barnabas Prayer Focus Update 1/10/2014*

Somalia

- December 2014 - al-Shabaab militants murdered 36 mostly Christian non-Muslims who were labourers at a construction site near Mandera. *International Christian Concern 3/12/2014; Barnabas Persecution Update 5/12/2014*
- November 2014 – On 22nd November al-Shabaab militants boarded a bus and divided the passengers. All those who were non-Muslim and could not recite from the Quran, were lined up and shot in the head.

Evidence (36)

A uniformed official reported that of the 28 killed, "most of them were Christians". *International Christian Concern & Washington Post [WWW] 22/11/2014; Barnabas Persecution Update 5/12/2014*

- August 2014 - A group of suspected al-Shabaab Islamist militants have beheaded a Christian Kenyan driver after kidnapping a group of traders near the resort Island of Lamu. *International Christian Concern & New Vision [www] 24/8/2014*
- June 2014 – A Church leader shot dead outside home, leaves three children. *Barnabas Fund Jun 2014*
- May 2014 - Sufia was dragged from her home by al-Shabaab fighters who publicly shot her, firing into the on-looking crowd as friends and neighbours tried to save her. The last name of Sufia was not released due to security concerns. Al-Shabaab says all Somalis are born Muslims, and those found practicing other faiths are considered guilty of 'apostasy', or leaving Islam, and should be put to death. *BosNewsLife [WWW] 19/5/2014*
- March 2014 - Two girls, aged 8 & 15, were forced to watch when their mother was beheaded in public, along with her cousin, by al-Shabaab militants. Sadia Ali Omar (41) and Osman Mohamad Moge (35) were beheaded in Barawa after members of the Islamist group found out they were Christians. Residents were also called to witness the gruesome executions. The girls have been left orphans as their father died after falling in 2011. *Barnabas Persecution Update 2/5/2014 & BosNewsLife [WWW] 19/5/2014; Barnabas Prayer Focus Number 209 Mar 2014 & Barnabas Aid Magazine Jul-Aug 2014*
- March 2014 - Christians are struggling to recover from the loss of a prominent church leader gunned down by Islamic extremists on the outskirts of the capital Mogadishu on 16th March. Abdishakur Yusuf, who led five underground churches, was killed by militants suspected of being members of the Islamist group Al Shabaab. Yusuf leaves a widow and three children, ages 11, 8 & 5; they have been relocated. *Release Magazine Issue 80 Jul-Aug 2014; Barnabas Persecution Update 6/6/2014 & Morning Star News [WWW] 23/5/2014*

South Asia

- August 2014 - Human Rights defenders across the region of South Asia can often be isolated. Many of them are the only, or one of the only, people working on human rights cases, as journalists face constant challenges and dangers too in the reporting of human rights cases. *CSW Aug 2014*

Spain

- May 2017 - Residents of Callosa de Segura opposed the City Council's decision to remove a cross next to the parish church and took turns guarding it to prevent its removal. In response, they became the targets of threatening graffiti. A high court dismissed an appeal to stop the removal of the cross but the case could still go to the supreme court. *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians 17/05/2017*
- May 2017 - A Facebook page celebrates and encourages church arson by using the anarchistic slogan "The only church that illuminates is the one that burns" ("La única iglesia que ilumina es la que arde"). The Facebook page's profile picture is a burning church. Other photos posted on the page include cartoons mocking Christianity and the Catholic Church. *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians 01/05/2017*
- April 2017: The façade of the church of Santa Magdalena at the convent was vandalised with graffiti of an inverted and burning cross. Palma Police's Hate Crimes Unit said the purpose of the graffiti was to try to intimidate the Christian community. Indications are that the graffiti was the work an extreme Leftist group. *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians 30/04/2017*
- November 2015 – Islamic vandals broke into the Church of our Lady of Carmen on 2nd November in Rincon de la Victoria, Andalusia, smashed wooden statues of the Virgin Mary and Jesus on the cross, and spray painted "Allah" on the wall. A spokesman for the Diocese of Malaga said the attack – first discovered by priest Agustin Carrasco – was not representative of all Muslims. *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians & Sunday Express [WWW] 4/12/2015*
- November 2015 - Department of Culture in Palma de Mallorca has reduced and cut municipal funding for religious events during the week leading up to Easter. The city department requires the Bishopric of Mallorca and Christian organisations to pay 60,000 euros for costs associated with cleaning and the use of municipal police officers during these events. The decision to charge for expenses appears to only apply to religious celebrations, since the city does not do the same for sports or cultural events. *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians 4/12/2015*

Sri Lanka

- March 2017 – During a Sunday morning service, a group of Buddhist monks, including local people, broke in to Pastor Priyantha's church and started destroying Bibles and throwing chairs around. They threatened his wife and children and he was hit on the head and fell to the floor. His church was later burnt to the ground.

After all this he has chosen to forgive them and pray for them and remains in the village to continue preaching the Gospel. *Release Magazine Mar/Apr 2017*

- January 2017 – On 5th January a church in Karuwalagaswewa was attacked and burned by a 200-strong Buddhist mob. Previous threats had been made to the church's pastor, so the local police inspector met with the Pastor and Buddhist monk, promising to maintain law and order. That very night the church was destroyed; the congregation now meets in the open air. *Barnabas Fund Prayer Focus update email 07/02/2017*
- November 2016 - Pastor 'Roshan' (not his real name) from a Buddhist family encountered Jesus at a young age when his family was going through difficulties. At that time a local church pastor prayed for the family and encouraged them to look up to Jesus as the source of their hope. Roshan went to Bible college, starting the church he currently serves, five years ago. Two years ago a group of Buddhist monks and local villagers turned up at a Sunday service asking him to stop his activities and shut down the church. He lodged a complaint against the radical monks and was told to come back two days later for an inquiry. The police told Roshan to stop all activities in his church and that his life and the lives of his family were under serious threat. 'We got our church together and prayed through the night' he said and obtained some good advice and a lot of support from the NCEASL (National Christian Evangelical Alliance of Sri Lanka) lawyer. We decided not to stop but to continue our activities.' Roshan and his family are still in the village ministering the gospel, despite the risks. 'As a Christian family and community we know that persecution is part of our lives. But, I also know that God has called me to serve here, that He has great plans for me and my church. So, even though we are having a hard time I believe God will bring us through because He is faithful.' *Release Magazine Nov/Dec 2016*
- September 2016 - Christians are suffering discrimination because a non-legislative directive known as Circular 2008 is being used against them to close church buildings and restrict religious freedom. This year a number of pastors in Sri Lanka have received written ultimatums from local authorities stating that their Christian meetings are illegal and must be immediately registered. If not, the letter warns, their church will be closed. While the authorities cite a government circular as the basis of their action a Release partner says that this has no legal validity. 'The circular was issued by the Ministry of Buddha, Sasana and Religious Affairs in 2008' said a Release partner. It says that any new construction of a place of worship must obtain approval from them. Usually circulars need to be based on parliamentary legislation but this circular is not. However, even though the directive specifically says new construction, it is routinely used against Christian prayer meetings and services, and against churches which have been in existence for a long time even prior to 2008. 'Local government officials are discriminating against Christians. There is no law in place for registration of church buildings in Sri Lanka. However, the circular is very much a threat and it could lead to law, but we don't know about that as yet' said Release partner. 'The problem though is that local authorities are acting as if it was a law already.' In response, Release partner has supported pastors facing similar threats, with some success. 'We sent legal letters questioning the authority of the circular which eventually stopped the harassment. The authorities were unable to give a legal response.' *Release Magazine Sep/Oct 2016*
- May 2016 - On Tuesday 31 May, in the Ampara district of Sri Lanka, a Hindu mother murdered her 21 year old daughter Janani for converting from Hinduism to Christianity. Following an argument between the two the mother took a wooden plank from the bed and attacked Janani, killing her instantly. She buried Janani's body behind her house and reported her as missing, but later confessed to police what she had done. *Barnabas Aid magazine Sep/Oct 2016*
- August 2015 - A church pastor in Beliatta, in Sri Lanka's Hambantota District, told police that he and his family were woken by a loud noise shortly after midnight on 1 August and discovered that part of the house and his three-wheeler rickshaw had been set ablaze. *Barnabas Fund Persecution Update email 15/10/2015*
- July 2015 - A mob of around 50 villagers surrounded a church building in Padukka, in Sri Lanka's Colombo district, while the Sunday worship was in progress on 5 July. At a police inquiry into the incident the next day, a senior Buddhist monk, the police officer in charge, and the Grama Sevaka (area village officer), told the pastor to stop all Christian worship activities. "This is a Buddhist village," they told him. *Barnabas Aid Magazine Nov-Dec 2015*
- March 2015 - State officials have demanded that the pastor of a National Gospel Church in Nivithigala, Ratnapura district, register his church even though this is not a legal requirement. *Release International Issue 84 Mar-Apr 2015*
- September 2014 – On 7th September a church service in Batticaloa District was disrupted by a mob led by Buddhist monks. The assailants threatened the pastor with violence if the church did not cease its activities. This followed a brutal attack on 31 Aug on the church's pastor and his family which left several people injured. *Barnabas Persecution Update 9/10/2014*

Evidence (37)

- September 2014 - On 16th September, the Chairman of the Provincial Council In Matale District said that he would ensure that a temporary shelter being used by a church for worship services was demolished and that the church's plan for a permanent building would never be approved. Also, the pastor of a church in Jaffna district has been told that he must either gain official approval for the church or close it down. The church in question was established 17 years ago, and according to Sri Lankan law, there is no legal requirement for places of worship to obtain registration. *Barnabas Persecution Update 9/10/2014*
- September 2014 - A Sri Lankan court gave permission for the authorities to proceed with the deportation of Pakistani asylum seekers, including Christians, from Sri Lanka. *Barnabas Fund Sept 2014; Barnabas Persecution Update 5/9/2014; International Christian Concern 03 & 10 Sep 2014; BosNewsLife [WWW] 9/9/2014; Barnabas Persecution Update 3/10/2014; Barnabas Prayer Focus Update Nov 2014*
- August 2014 - At least 142 people have been detained in raids on Pakistani minority neighbourhoods in Negombo, Sri Lanka, since June. From 1 August about ten Christians have been deported each day. On 15 August, a Sri Lankan lawyer representing a Pakistani Christian woman secured a temporary suspension of deportations until 29 August. *Barnabas Prayer Focus Update Sep 2014 & Barnabas Aid Magazine Nov-Dec 2014*
- July 2014 - A mob of 30 people, led by Buddhist monks, stormed a prayer meeting at New Life Living Church in Bandaragama, Kalutara District, and demanded that all prayer meetings cease. Local police told church members that they needed approval from the Ministry of Religious Affairs to meet - although this is not required under the constitution. *Release Magazine Issue 80 July/Aug 2014*
- July 2014 - A hard-line Buddhist group in Sri Lanka launched a four-day campaign against 'Christian fundamentalism' in the country as Christians face vicious attacks in ongoing efforts to stop their activities. *Barnabas Fund Jul 2014 & Barnabas prayer Focus Updated Aug 2014*
- February 2014 - A mob of 250 villagers, led by 11 Buddhist monks, stormed a pastor's empty property in Asgiriya, Kandy district, and demanded that the worship services cease immediately. The monks belonged to the hard-line nationalist organisation Bodu Bala Sena (BBS), which means 'Buddhist Strength Force'. The pastor explained to the mob that he had the right to religious freedom. *Release Magazine Issue 79 May-Jun 2014; Barnabas Persecution Update 6/3/2014 & Release Intl [WWW] 25/2/2014*
- February 2014 - A 6-year-old Christian student was punished by the school principal because she refused to observe *sil* (Buddhist ritual) in school. The Education Ordinance 1939 and the Sri Lanka Constitution of 1978 both state that no child can be forced to observe any other religious activities which are not the child's belief. *Barnabas Persecution Update 27/2/2014 & Intl Institute for Religious Freedom (Colombo) [WWW] 22/2/2014*
- January 2014 - A violent mob led by Buddhist monks attacked the congregations of 2 churches - Assemblies of God Church and Calvary Free Church in Hikkaduwa on January 12th. They smashed doors and windows; they shouted insults, Bibles, Christian books and instruments were destroyed. Police failed to restrain the mob. No one was injured. *Barnabas Persecution update 16/1/2014; Release International Issue 77 Jan/Feb 2014; International Christian Concern & Business Standard [WWW] 27/1/2014 & 04/2/2014 & Barnabas Prayer Focus Number 208 Feb 2014*
- April 2017 – Younan Abdullah died on 5th April after being stabbed whilst trying to protect Christian women protestors from an armed group of 20 people. Younan and several men from the nearby Bahri Evangelical Church rushed to the defence of the women. He leaves a widow and two young children. Reportedly the police just stood by and watched. *Release International Prayer Alert email 7/4/2017 & www.morningstarnews.org 5/4/2017*
- March 2017 - Christians in the Nuba Mountains of South Kordofan face both poverty and armed conflict. The Sudanese military regularly bomb Christian communities there using Antonov bombers – part of their campaign to eliminate all Christian villages, churches, hospitals and schools in the region. Crude bomb shelters have been constructed outside schools to protect the children when the bombers approach. Sudan's President Omar Hassan al-Bashir – who came to power in a military coup in 1989 – has a reputation for ruthlessness. He made history in 2009 when he became the first sitting head of state to be indicted by the International Criminal Court for his personal involvement and approval of war crimes, including genocide, in Darfur. *Release Magazine Mar/Apr 2017*
- January 2017 – Czech aid-worker, Petr Jasek, aged 52, (arrested in December 2015) has been sentenced to life imprisonment for espionage, fined 100,000 Sudanese pounds for undertaking NGO work without a permit. Also and to one year in prison each (to be served consecutively) for inciting strife between communities, for entry in and photography of military areas and equipment and illegal entry into Sudan. His lawyer is to appeal. *Middle East Concern email 29/1/2017, Open Doors 02/02/17 & 11/05/2017*
- January 2017 – Rev. Hassan Abduraheem Kodi Taour and Mr Abdulmonem Abdumawala were each sentenced to 10 years for abetting Jasek in the crime of espionage and one year each for inciting strife between communities and spreading rumours undermining the authority of the state. The lawyers are to appeal the sentences within 15 days. *Middle East Concern email dated 29/1/2017*
- August 2016 - Three Sudanese pastors - Hassan Abduraheem Taour, Kuwa Shamal and Abdulmonem Abdumawla Issa Abdumawla were finally brought before the Sudanese court after being imprisoned. They will be prosecuted for 'crimes against the state' which can carry the death penalty. The defendants are accused of conducting intelligence activities and providing material support for the rebels in South Kordofan. Also fabricating videos of incidents of claimed genocide, killing of civilians and burning of villages besides claims of persecution of Christians in Sudan. Their trial continues from 05/12/2016. *Open Doors 11, 18 & 22/08/2016; 09/12/2016 & Release International email 23/8/2016*
- December 2015 - National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS) arrested Telahoon Nogosi Kassa Rata - the leader of the Khartoum North Evangelical Church on 13th December 2015. Five days later two pastors of the Sudan Church of Christ, Hassan Abduraheem Kodi Taour and Kuwa Shamal, were arrested. Although Kuwa Shamal was released after three days, Pastor Rata and Pastor Taour remain in prison without charges or access to their lawyers as at March 2016. *Open Doors 09/03/2016 & Christian Solidarity worldwide Email 9/1/2016*
- December 2015 – On December 18th, Sudanese security officials arrested Rev. Kowa Shamaal and Rev. Hassan Abdelrahim (who belong to the Sudan Church of Christ), in their homes in the Khartoum area. They had previously objected to the destruction of worship buildings belonging to the Church. However, the reason for their arrest is not officially known and the families of the two pastors have not received information on their whereabouts. *Jubilee Campaign Email dated 29/12/2015*
- December 2015 - Sudanese authorities continue to crack down on Christians and churches and this month the authorities have arrested multiple pastors and have held them without charge. President Omar al-Bashir's government maintains a deplorable history of persecuting Christians, especially since South Sudan seceded in 2011. *International Christian Concern Email 25/12/2015*
- December 2015 - Pastor Hafez of Bahri Evangelical Church and Mohaned Mustafa, the church's lawyer, have recently been in court for their trial, following their arrest and detention in July after they protested the government's unauthorized decision to destroy church property. They were charged with 'obstructing a public servant in the performance of his duties'. The trial began on December 14th and on December 22nd the court dismissed the case of Mohaned Mustafa. The court accepted the defense team's argument that 'prosecutors had failed to comply with the legal requirement to obtain Bar Association approval for the filing of a criminal case against a lawyer.' The trial will continue for Pastor Hafez. He last appeared before the court on December 23rd, however we are waiting for an update on the trial. *Jubilee Campaign Email dated 29/12/2015*
- November 2015 - A court case in Sudan has ruled that the Sudanese Government acted illegally in helping Muslim investors in their bid to take over a north Khartoum church. This is being hailed as a partial victory in Khartoum Bahri Evangelical Church's four-year battle to retain ownership of its property. *Release Magazine Nov-Dec 2015*
- October 2015 - Suspected Islamists set fire to the Lutheran Church of Sudan in the eastern city of Al Qadarif in October, apparently in response to outreach by local Christians.

South Sudan

- January 2014 – A barrage of 48 rockets hit a school near to the marketplace in the Nuban city of Kauda. Although no one was killed, the Nubans were alarmed by President Omar al Bashir's new, preferred method of attack: parachute bombs. Bashir has waged war against both Christian & Muslim people of the Nubas and South Kordofan state. *International Christian Concern & CBN News [WWW] 5/2/2014*
- February 2014 – The Church of Christ building in the Ombada area of Omdurman was bulldozed on 17th February without prior notice and its land confiscated by the Sudanese authorities as part of an ongoing campaign to rid the strict Islamic country of its Christian presence. Police and officials from the National Intelligence and Security Services, who oversaw the demolition work, said that the 300-member church was not wanted in a 'Muslim area'. *Barnabas Aid Magazine May-Jun 2014; Barnabas Persecution Update 27/02/2014 & Morning Star News [WWW] 20/02/2014*
- February 2014 - Rev. Yahya Abdelrahim Nalu was arrested during a service at Omdurman Evangelical Church. Authorities told him that if he did not relinquish his position to the government-appointed committee, he would 'face justice' in court; it was unclear if the threat of legal action to obtain church properties included concocting a criminal charge against the pastor. *Barnabas Persecution Update 06/03/2014 & Christian Post [WWW] 28/02/2014*

Sudan

- October 2017 – Five leading members of a Sudanese church in El Sawra, Omdurman, were detained by police on 22nd October, charged with disturbing the public order, after finding their church had been locked by the authorities. *Barnabas Fund email 30/10/2017*

Evidence (38)

The attack followed a prayer meeting which was part of a week-long evangelism campaign. The church and a guest house attached to it were gutted by the fire. *Release Magazine Jan-Feb 2016*

- October 2015 - Sudanese authorities bulldozed a church building in Omdurman, Sudan's largest city, on 21 October, claiming the land on which it was built had been allocated for development, despite the fact that the day before the church was demolished the State Governor had assured church leaders it would not be destroyed. Church leaders insist the authorities' claims about the redevelopment of the land cannot be true because a mosque that was beside the church was left standing. *Barnabas Aid Magazine Jan-Feb 2016*
- August 2015 - Pastor Michael Yat (49) & Pastor Peter Yen Reith (36), were prevented from returning home with their families when they were stopped at Khartoum International Airport in Sudan on 6 August, the day after they were released from prison, after serving nearly eight months in prison. Lawyers representing the pastors are now trying to appeal to have the ban lifted. Pastor Michael Yat was originally found guilty of breaching peace (Article 69) while Pastor Peter Yen Reith was found guilty of taking part in a 'criminal or terrorist organization' (Article 65). *Barnabas Fund Persecution Update email 13/8/2015, Middle East Concern email 20/8/2015 & Jubilee Fund email 6/8/2015*
- June 2015 - During the years following South Sudan's independence more than 200 expatriate Christians were deported from Sudan, most of them to South Sudan. In addition, the government of Sudan has stated that it will not allow new churches to be built nor will it offer new land for the churches that have been destroyed. The government has continued to confiscate the land of churches and arrest believers. In June, 12 Christian women were arrested in front of their church as they were exiting the worship service in Khartoum, the capital of Sudan, for wearing trousers and skirts in public. The women were aged between 17 and 23 and are from the Nuba mountains, an area that borders South Sudan. The group was charged under article 152 of the criminal code that prohibits 'indecent dress'. *Jubilee Fund email 6/8/2015*
- June 2015 - On June 15th, the trial continued for South Sudanese pastors Michael Yat and Peter Yen Reith, who were detained in Khartoum in December 2014 & January 2015 respectively. They have been charged with undermining the constitutional system, waging war against the State, and espionage which are all punishable by the death penalty. In addition, they have both been charged with blasphemy, which may be punishable by whipping. It has been reported that the pastors have been moved to Kober Prison, a high security prison. Neither the wives nor attorneys of the pastors have been allowed visitation. No reason has been given for the transfer. *Jubilee Campaign Email 8/6/2015 & Barnabas Persecution Update email 15/5/2015*
- May 2015 - Two pastors from South Sudan, Michael Yat and Peter Reith, have been arrested by members of Sudan's National Intelligence and Security (NISS). Pastor Yat was detained on Dec. 14, 2014, after preaching at Bahri Evangelic church in Khartoum; Pastor Reith was arrested on Jan. 11 while returning home from a prayer meeting in Khartoum. He had received a phone call earlier threatening to arrest his wife and son if he did not return to his home immediately. Although Rev. Reith is of South Sudanese descent, he lives in Khartoum, Sudan. On March 1, they were referred to the Prosecutor for State Security, and the pastors' families were allowed to visit them for the first time on March 2. At a May 4 procedural hearing, the pastors were accused on multiple charges, including espionage, blasphemy, disturbing the peace, inciting hatred, and undermining the constitution and national unity. The charges either require a life sentence, the death penalty, lesser detention, confiscation of all property, a fine, or whipping. The court hearing on May 14 was postponed by the judge, since the prosecutor could not produce his witness from Sudan's NISS. The judge ordered the prosecutor to produce his witnesses at a hearing on May 19, during which the prosecutor was not able to finish his case. The defence lawyer will present his case after the prosecutor finishes his session on May 31. *Jubilee Campaign Email 27/5/2015 & Release International Issue 84 Mar-Apr 2015*
- December 2014 - Lawyers representing the Anglican Church and 12 of its tenants in a property in Omdurman, Khartoum State, lodged an appeal on 8 December after The Ministry of Justice issued a one-week eviction notice. The eviction notice followed a dispute about ownership of the property. *Christian Solidarity Worldwide 10/12/2014*
- December 2014 - Since defending the case of Christian, Meriam Ibrahim, lawyer, Mohamed Mustafa, and his colleagues have been threatened by Muslim extremists and intimidated by Sudan's National Intelligence and Security Services. *Barnabas Aid Jan-Feb 2015 & Release Magazine issue 82 Nov-Dec 2014*
- November 2014 - Hundreds of Christians in North Khartoum, stopped the authorities from destroying their church building by forming a human barricade, although 37 were arrested. The believers took action when security personnel turned up with a bulldozer and knocked down part of the Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church's Khartoum Bahri Church in November. However, several buildings, including the home of a pastor, were destroyed. *Christian Solidarity Worldwide 8 & 10 Dec 2014, Barnabas Persecution Updated 12/12/2014 & Release International Issue 83 Jan-Feb 2015*

- August 2014 - Khartoum Church Centre Pentecostal Church was closed by members of Sudan's National Intelligence and Security Service on 24th August. The closure is thought to be temporary; the church must now receive permission from the government to gather for worship. *Barnabas Persecution Update 5/9/2014 & Barnabas News in Brief 3/9/2014*
- July 2014 - Meriam Ibrahim's ordeal continues as her Muslim family pursues legal action in an effort to stop her from leaving Sudan after she was cleared of apostasy and adultery. She is in hiding at the US Embassy in Khartoum. *Barnabas Fund Jul 2014, Yahoo News [WWW] 1/7/2014; BBC News [WWW] 24/7/2014; Jubilee Campaign 25/7/2014; Middle East Concern 24/7/2014; International Christian Concern 24/7/2014; Barnabas Prayer Focus Update Nov 2014*
- July 2014 - Sudanese authorities demolished the Church of Christ in Bahri (North Khartoum) in ignorance of an appeal by that church's pastor to delay the demolition until after the rainy season. Boasting 600 congregants, it was destroyed for its 'shanty' construction, although a similarly constructed mosque sharing the same land plot remains unharmed. *International Christian Concern Jul 2014 & CNN [www] 1/7/2014*
- July 2014 - At least ten Christians have been killed and three churches destroyed over the last two months as Sudanese government forces continue their relentless bombing of the Nuba Mountains. *Barnabas Fund Jul 2014*
- June 2014 - Sudan has retracted a claim made by a foreign ministry official that condemned Christian mother Meriam Ibrahim 'will be freed within days', saying she will be released only if the appeals court rules in her favour. *Barnabas Persecution Update. 6/6/2014; The Guardian [WWW] 2/6/2014*
- May 2014 - Meriam Yehya Ibrahim Ishag (27), a doctor and business woman (originally detained in February) was sentenced to hang for apostasy after she married a Christian man and because she was born to a Muslim father. Local media reported that the sentence on Meriam, who is pregnant, would not be carried out for two years after she had given birth. Also she was convicted of adultery because her marriage to a Christian man was not valid under Islamic law with a penalty of 100 lashes to be carried out when she has recovered from giving birth. *Barnabas Persecution Update 9/5/2014 & BBC World News [WWW] 15/5/2014; Middle East Concern 12&15/5/2014; The Guardian [WWW] 31/5/2014, Barnabas Aid magazine Sep/Oct 2014*
- May 2014 - Faiza Abdalla, 37, has been charged with adultery for marrying a South Sudanese Catholic and apostasy for allegedly leaving Islam. Though she was raised a Christian in the Nuba mountains, the officers arrested Abdallah. *International Christian Concern & Morning Star News [WWW] 28/5/2014*

Sweden

- July 2017 - Sweden has rejected the asylum claim of Iranian Christian actress, Aideen Strandsson, and will deport her back to Iran, where she likely faces time in an Iranian prison. The deportation is a violation of Article 33 of the Geneva Convention on Refugees, which prohibits nations from deporting asylum seekers back to nations where they could face danger. A Swedish migration official told her it wouldn't be as bad for her in Iran as she is expecting because it would only be six months in prison. *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians 26/07/2017*
- May 2017 - The Catholic church in Västerås was vandalised with graffiti with the Arabic letter "N," which stands for Nazarene or Nasrani, the Arabic word for "Christian". In ISIS-controlled areas, this tag has been used in combination with attacks on Christian's homes and properties. Its use has been used as a signal: convert, pay a tax or be killed. *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians 24/05/2017*
- May 2017 - Ellinor Grimmark and Linda Steen are two pro-life midwives who challenged their employment termination cases in court. They believed that they had reasonable grounds for bringing proceedings because they were not allowed to work as midwives in Sweden, despite an extreme shortage of midwives in maternity care. Both women's cases will proceed to the European Court of Human Rights. *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians 29/05/2017*
- December 2015 - The National Association of Assyrians in Sweden (Christian) HQ in the city of Södertälje was completely destroyed by fire during the night of the 16/17 December. According to the report, responsibility for the arson was claimed by Islamists calling themselves the Islamic State. *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians 16/12/2015*
- December 2015 - A 26-year-old Syrian, known as 'N.N.', was arrested on 3rd December on suspicion of beating and threatening a 16-year-old at an asylum house in Borgholm. In October, N.N. had been convicted of two counts of making unlawful death threats against a Christian asylum seeker. When arrested, he tried to hide a cell phone on which the police later found pictures from the war in Syria, showing N.N. posing with swords and firearms. *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians 03/12/2015; Gatestone Institute [WWW] 09/01/2016*
- November 2015 - Jönköping District Court ruled on 12 November against midwife Ellinor Grimmark who was denied employment by three different hospitals because of her conscientious objection to abortion.

Evidence (39)

The Court decided not to examine the right of freedom of conscience according to international law and the European Convention on human rights.

Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians 13/11/2015

- October 2015 - Newspaper 'Dagens Nyheter' reported on 13 October that Swedish Assyrian Christian, Markus Samuelsson, found the walls of his restaurant in Gothenburg covered in jihadist graffiti, including messages of 'Convert or Die' and 'The Caliphate is Here'. These same messages, along with the IS logo, were painted on the walls of the Christian-owned Le Pain Français bakery and the next-door pizzeria, but other, non-Assyrian owned restaurants were untouched. *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians 9/11/2015 & Barnabas Fund Persecution update email 15/10/2015*
- July 2014 - A Scandinavian Human Rights Lawyer has filed suit against the Swedish government for Christian midwife, Ellinor Grimmark, who was fired for refusing to perform abortions. *International Christian Concern Jul 2014, International Christian Concern & Morning Star News [www] 30/6/2014*

Switzerland

- October 2016 – A nursing home belonging to The Salvation Army has been ordered to allow assisted suicide on premises. The Salvation Army previously contested the law on the basis that it conflicted with their religious beliefs and violated their freedom of conscience. Last week, federal judges rejected their complaint and said the only way the care home could avoid complying with the law was by giving up its charitable status. *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians 07/10/2016; The Christian Institute 12/10/2016*
- January 2016 - FIFA censored a reference to Jesus at the Ballon d'Or ceremony on 11 January. Candidate Brazilian FC Barcelona player Neymar celebrated the trophy wearing a headband with an inscription reading '100% Jesus'. But in the FIFA video, the reference to Neymar's Christian beliefs had been digitally removed. According to FIFA, the decision to censor the video was to not offend sensibilities. *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians 11/01/2016*
- September 2015 - The offices of Swiss Evangelische Volkspartei (EVP), the Swiss Evangelical Alliance, Tearfund and Opportunity were attacked by vandals on 16 September, prior to members of the EVP taking part in the pro-life 'Marsch fürs Läbe' (March for Life). The attackers posted an anonymous text online defending their violent action, justifying their fight against 'homophobic, anti-feministic and patriarchal policies'. *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians 9/11/2015*

Syria

- August 2016 - Jesuit priest, Fr Ziad Hilal, estimated that between 27,000-30,000 Christians, around 60% of Aleppo's pre-war numbers, have left and those who remain are poor and desperate for work. *Aid to the Church in Need 12/08/2016*
- August 2016 - for Christians in Aleppo their faith is their only certainty. Isolated, under threat, destitute, without reliable supplies of food, medicines, water or electricity and in constant danger from the fighting, their situation was summed up by a relief worker: "The situation is getting very hard. No more food to come in and fuel as well. The difficult life is adding more burden to all families, especially those who have kids and very young infants." Food and fuel are increasingly scarce. Young children are suffering the most; the shops no longer stock milk and it now sells on the black market for up to eight times the usual price. An estimated 40,000 Christians are amongst the remaining residents. *Barnabas Fund Email dated 12/8/2016*
- May 2016 - The Maronite Bishop of Latakia said that there were five explosions on 23 May in Jableh killing 110 people and wounding 340 and on the same day around 9.30am in Tartous there were four blasts which left more than 100 dead and 300 injured. Daesh (ISIS) have claimed responsibility for the atrocity. *Aid to the Church in Need 27/05/2016*
- May 2016 – The population of Al Qaryatayn, in central Syria, are faced with devastation and ruins following the town's liberation from ISIS earlier this month. Patriarch Ignatius Aphrem II of the Syriac Orthodox Church, personally witnessed the damage caused by this group. He said "When I managed to visit the town with Catholic brothers, I was shocked by the extent of the devastation. Many houses have been completely or severely damaged during the fighting. It was especially painful to see how the churches had been wilfully defiled by Daesh...our church was more severely damaged than the monastery". Patriarch Ignatius estimates that about 40% of Syria's Christians have now left the country. "I have no illusions. Most of them will not return.....we Christians in Syria will disappear, just as we have almost disappeared in Iraq" he said. *Aid to the Church in Need email 3/5/2016*
- April/May 2016 - On the weekend of the 101st anniversary of the Armenian Genocide (22-24 April), an intense bombardment of mortars, gas cylinders and missiles began raining down on part of the Syrian city of Aleppo. By 3 May, 197 people in the government area of the city alone populated mostly by Christians, had been killed, with hundreds more injured.

Just before the bombardment, the rebel forces had issued a direct threat against Aleppo's large community of Armenian Christians, whose forebears had fled the Armenian Genocide and found safety in Aleppo; "We have been ordered not to leave any Armenians in the area." Fighting continued during a truce between the rebels and government forces, lasting from 5-11 May, resulting in yet more deaths and injuries. Also Christians and other religious minorities continue to be the target of brutal attacks by the Sunni Muslim fighters of Islamic State (IS). On 12-13 May a group from IS entered the town of Al-Zara, near Hama in Syria populated by Christians and Alawites (a minority Shia Muslim group). Approximately 120 men, women and children were killed. Some of the bodies were sawn in pieces. *Barnabas Aid Magazine July/Aug2016 & Barnabas Fund Persecution Update email 5/6/2016*

- February 2016 - Bishop Georges Abou Khazen of Aleppo, reports that, "For the last 20 days we have been under bombardment, almost daily bombing, which is destroying many houses, many apartments, and causing many, many deaths. Every day there are four or five deaths - some days as many as 10 are killed. All this is the work of jihadist groups." He added: "Nearly all our churches are damaged, and some of them are completely destroyed. A few days ago the Armenian Protestant church was badly damaged, and five days ago our Roman Catholic church was damaged, along with the pastoral centre.... We have daily emigration. People are leaving the city every day." The bishop said that, while there were no exact figures, at least 70% of Christians had left since the beginning of the Syrian civil war five years ago. *Aid to the Church in Need 04/03/2016*
- December 2015 - Suicide bombers exploded three devices in the city of Kamishli/Qamişlo on New Years' Eve, targeting restaurants in a mainly Assyrian Christian residential area. The casualties are reported to be 17 dead, 31 wounded. *Christian Solidarity Worldwide Email 9/1/2016 & Barnabas Aid Magazine Mar/Apr 2016*
- December 2015 - On 23rd December, Father Dhiya Aziz (an Iraqi), disappeared after setting out from Latakia to return to his parish in Yacoubieh, Idlib Governorate. The order to which Fr Dhiya is affiliated, The Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land, issued a communiqué on 28th December stating that contact with him had been lost, his whereabouts are unknown and they assume that he has been abducted. *Middle East concern email 29/12/2015*
- December 2015 - After more than eight months in captivity, 37 of more than 200 hostages were released after long-standing negotiations between church leaders and the radical Islamic group, ISIS. The hostages released were all elderly, most in their 60's and 70's. Negotiations are still on-going to attempt to free the remaining 100+ still held. *International Christian Concern Email 13/11/2015*
- October 2015 - Islamic State (IS) militants have released a video showing the executions of three Syrian Christians taken hostage in late February. Each of the men identify themselves to the camera and say "I am a Nazarene (a Christian)", before they are shot in the back of the head. The group has threatened to kill 180 more of the Christian hostages if the ransom demands are not met. *Barnabas Fund Persecution Update email 15/10/2015 & Barnabas Aid Magazine Jan-Feb 2016*
- September 2015 – On 3rd September Islamic State (IS) militants released a photograph showing kidnapped Christians in the seized Syrian town of Qaryatayn signing a *dhimma* contract. Classical Islam teaches that conquered non-Muslims must agree to a series of humiliating rules and pay a special poll tax called *jizya*, in return for protection by the Muslims i.e. for being permitted to follow their own faith without being killed. The next day, 15 Christians who had signed the contract and paid the mandatory *jizya* were released. *Barnabas Aid Magazine Nov-Dec 2015*
- August 2015 - Archbishop Samir Nassar, the Maronite Archbishop of Damascus, reports that on 23 August mortars fell on the neighbourhood including two shells on the roof of the church. Nine people were killed and 47 were wounded. The survivors bury the dead without having been able to treat the wounded since they lack means and competence. *Aid to the Church in Need 28/8/2015*
- August 2015 - An estimated 160 Christians were kidnapped on Thursday 6 August by Islamic State (IS) militants just hours after the jihadists seized the Syrian town of Qaryatayn, in Homs province, according to Father Jihad Youssef. *Barnabas Fund Persecution update email 14/8/2015, Barnabas Prayer Focus Update email 2/9/2015 & Aid to the Church in Need 14/8/2015*
- August 2015 – A father and his twelve-year-old son were among 12 Syrian converts from Islam to Christianity who were captured on 7 August, then publicly slaughtered by beheading or crucifixion three weeks later by IS fighters in a village outside Aleppo, Syria, after they refused to renounce their faith in Jesus. *Barnabas Fund Persecution Update email 15/10/2015*
- 2015 - Dozens of kidnapped Arab Christians have been ransomed, tortured, beheaded and killed over the past year, including a priest who was chopped into pieces, in attempts to raise funds for radical Islamic terror groups and to strike fear into the hearts of Christians across the Middle East and throughout the world.

Evidence (40)

The brutality that Christians have suffered at the hands of jihadist militants is staggering. They have carried out a religious cleansing, destroying all presence of any non-Islamic religion. *Christian Post Syria 12/8/2015 quoted in International Christian Concern email 14/8/2015*

- July 2015 - Father Antoine Boutros, parish priest of the Melkite Catholic Church in the city of Shahba, and his driver, Saud Alabdon, were kidnapped on their way to Sunday Mass. *Aid to the Church in Need 17/7/2015*
- July 2015 - Franciscan priest Father Dhiya Aziz of Yacoubieh, Idlib province, has been released after being held since 4 July. *Aid to the Church in Need 17/7/2015*
- July/June 2015 - Nearly 4,000 Christian families fled Hassake at the beginning of July. Attacks on the northern Syrian cities of Hassake and Kobane on 25 June, and increasing pressure on Damascus and Aleppo, left Christians wondering what they would do if Islamists come to power over larger swathes of the country. At least 146 were killed in Kobane. Local Christians said that 'the attackers went from house to house killing civilians, men, women and children.' Nineteen-year-old Shigo was executed for converting from Islam to Christianity, they said. Christians in hiding sent a message: *"Don't worry about us, even if they were to cut our heads off ten times we would still say that Jesus is Lord!"* *Barnabas Aid Magazine Sept-Oct 2015*
- June 2015 - Melkite Greek Catholic Archbishop Jean-Clement Jeanbart, has reported another attack on his church in Aleppo. His Diocese has already sustained enormous damage from previous attacks and has been shelled over 20 times. Vast numbers of people of all faiths are fleeing the region, with reports from Chaldean Bishop Audo last month that Aleppo's 250,000 Christians have dwindled to below 100,000. *Aid to the Church in Need 12/6/2015*
- June 2015 - 1,200 Christian families who fled to Hassake after IS stormed several Christian villages on the Khabur river are now facing the prospect of leaving because Hassake is under attack. *"We are going through a terrible time,"* says Archbishop Jacques Behnan Hindo, who is based in Syria's north-eastern city of Hassake. *"The jihadists of the Islamic State attacked Hassake for two days... We are cut off, like an island, surrounded by jihadists from all sides."* As IS has gained more control over the region, crosses have been taken down from churches and Christians forbidden from wearing crosses around their necks and from driving (or even riding in) cars, says Jack Zayya, a Christian from Hassake. *"Our children saw many beheadings,"* he said. *"We were obligated to watch public executions. What kind of world is that for kids to grow up in? They were always scared."* Now a refugee in Lebanon, *"we're not returning,"* he says. *Barnabas Fund Prayer Focus Email 5/6/2015*
- May 2015 - Father Jacques Mourad and his colleague from the monastery of Mar Elian in Qaryatayn, have been kidnapped. Fr Jacques's confrere, Fr Jihad Youssef, said: *"Armed masked men took both of them away"*. After 84 days in an ISIS prison with the help of a friend, Fr Mourad escaped the (IS) Daesh-held area in October on the back of a motorbike, disguised as an Islamist fighter. *Aid to the Church in Need 29/5/2014 & 23/10/2015*
- April 2015 - Armenian and other solidly Christian neighbourhoods of Aleppo suffered from a deadly rebel attack in the second week of April that peaked on April 10 - the day that many Armenians were celebrating Good Friday - with rockets killing some 29 people, many of them children. At least 56 Christians were injured and seven Christian homes totally collapsed. It was 'a hell' said one Christian leader in Aleppo. At least ten or eleven children were killed as they slept. In one home, a mother and her four children all died. Christians in Aleppo are in danger from attacks by forces within Syria, but they are also aware of a threat emanating from Turkey: *"We will show all Armenians how to celebrate the 100th anniversary on 24 April"*. This refers to the centenary of the worst year of the Armenian and Assyrian genocide, which peaked in 1915. In that year 800,000 Armenians were killed. *Barnabas Aid Magazine Jul-Aug 2015 & Barnabas Fund Persecution Update email dated 11/5/2015*
- April 2015 - In a recent interview, a 55-year-old refugee named, Abdel Fatah, described the horror of his time spent under the control of radical Islamist group ISIS. Fatah was one of approximately 2,500 who were forced to flee a Yarmouk refugee camp in Syria after it was seized by the terror group. Fatah's account reported the violence committed against refugees in the camp as well as the inhumane ways in which the militants treated the bodies of those that were killed. As ISIS militants descended on the Yarmouk refugee camp in the city of Damascus thousands of civilians were trapped between the brutal extremist group and the forces of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad with little provision. *Email from International Christian Concern 17/4/2015*
- March/February 2015 - On 23 February about 35 predominantly Christian villages which cluster the banks of the Khabur river in northern Syria, were attacked by Islamic State militants, who captured almost 300 Christians. Some 1,200 families fled and aid has been sent to them. Church buildings were destroyed in the attack including one in Tel Hurmoz, believed to be the oldest in the country. Another attack occurred on March 7. *Barnabas Prayer Diary May/Jun 2015*
- October 2014 - Church leader, Hanna Jallouf, and four Christian women were among around 21 believers kidnapped in Knayeh on the night 5th October. The four women were freed by Islamists from the al-Qaeda-linked group al-Nusra Front on 8th October after being held for three days; the captured church leader, was released on the following day. Since his release, Hanna Jallouf, has been placed under house arrest in the village of Knayeh. Local sources told reporters that the church leader's house arrest was ordered by an Islamic court. *Barnabas Persecution Update & CrossMap [WWW] 24/10/2014*
- September 2014 - ISIS destroyed the Armenian Genocide Memorial Church in Der Zor. Thousands of Armenians from Syria and neighbouring countries gathered at the memorial every year on April 24 to commemorate the genocide. *Asbarez [WWW] 22/9/2014; Barnabas Persecution Update 3/10/2014*
- September 2014 - After seizing the city of Deir al-Zour in mid-September, IS (Islamic State) militants laid mines around Holy Martyrs Church and blasted the important site. Opened in 1991, the church marks the trek made by hundreds of thousands of Armenians and Assyrians to the city after they were expelled from their homes under the Ottoman Empire a century ago. The remains of many victims of the genocide were buried in the church compound. *Barnabas Aid Jan-Feb 2015*
- August 2014 - American Journalist, James Foley, was murdered by the hands of IS. *International Christian Concern Aug 2014*
- July 2014 - Christians are facing more upheaval as ISIL expelled nearly 30,000 residents from their homes in the town of Shuheil, and crucified at least nine people. *International Christian Concern 8/7/2014 & BosNewsLife [www] 7/7/2014*
- July 2014 - More than 1,700 people died in Syria in a seven-day period in July. IS has continued advancing with increasing brutality, taking key towns and villages in Aleppo Province. *Christian Solidarity Worldwide Aug 2014*
- April 2014 - Father Frans van der Lugt, a 72 year-old Dutch priest, who has been resident in Syria for more than 40 years, was murdered in the Bustan ad-Diwan neighbourhood of Homs. Talal al-Barazi, governor of Homs province, has reportedly claimed that the perpetrator is associated with Jabhat an-Nusra, an al-Qaeda affiliate group in control of that area. *Middle East Concern 7/4/2014; International Christian Concern; Morning Star News [WWW] 8/4/2014 & Barnabas Persecution Update 10/4/2014*
- April 2014 - On 23 April, Kharaba in Sweida province became the latest Christian village to be attacked by opposition militants. Up to 350 families were driven from their homes in the shock attack, which followed the disappearance of a young Christian man. The armed militants torched eight houses, including the home of the missing man's father, looted other properties and kidnapped 49 Christian men. The local bishop helped negotiate the release of all but around half a dozen of those abducted, but it is not yet known what happened to the others. *Barnabas Prayer Focus Number 212 Jun 2014 & Barnabas Prayer Focus updated 29/5/2014*
- April 2014 - Christians are suffering greatly in the city of Aleppo, which is under siege for the second time. The main route in and out of the city has been partially blocked off, restricting the flow of essential supplies - no electricity for 7 days, very little water and no fuel. When parts of Aleppo that are home to 400,000 Christians were besieged for months last year, supplies ran so short that children became malnourished. Christians have been hit by mortar and rocket fire, and snipers are active there. On 13 April (Palm Sunday), two Armenian Christians were killed and four injured by mortars. On 17 April (Maundy Thursday) church services were cancelled and roads lay empty as the siege intensified. It was reported that 48 civilians had been killed and 245 injured. *Barnabas Prayer Focus Number 211 May 2014*
- March 2014 - Islamic militants linked to al-Nusra Front and groups Sham al-Islam and Ansar al-Sham overran the Christian town of Kessab, killing some 80 people, including beheading at least 13 Christians, churches were desecrated and homes looted. Around 3,000 Armenian Christian residents fled, taking refuge in neighbouring Latakia and Bassit. *BosNewsLife 5/4/2014 & Barnabas Persecution Update 2/3/2014*
- March 2014 - Marcell Shehwaro, a Christian and civil activist in Aleppo, was arrested by armed men and taken to a rebel Sharia court. She was freed only after signing an agreement to wear a hijab from then on. *"It is impossible for Christians to live with this armed opposition...leave this country, it's not ours anymore,"* she told Christians on Facebook. *International Christian Concern & AI-Monitor [WWW] 25/3/2014*
- February 2014 - There are just 28 Christians left in the Old City of Homs. The city used to have 600,000 inhabitants, of which around 60,000 were Christians. *Open Doors UK 14/2/2014*
- February 2014 - Christians in Raqqa must pay a special tax, must conduct their religious rites behind closed doors in places of worship and in ways that are not visible or audible to Muslims. No Christian symbols can be visible. In public, Christians have to abide by Islamic commercial, dress code and dietary regulations. Christians are not allowed to restore or repair any church buildings that have been damaged - either by collateral damage in the overall fighting or by deliberate acts of desecration. Christians have the option to convert to Islam, abide by the stipulations of the contract or be considered enemies of Islam. *Middle East Concern 28/2/2014 & Barnabas Persecution Update 6/3/2014*

Evidence (41)

- January 2014 – In late January, Christians began to be evacuated from the old city area of Homs which had been cut off for two years, having been home to 60,000 Christians. Rebel troops had prevented them from leaving, using them as a human shield. As shortages of food and medicines took their toll, they began to die and by the time of the evacuations only a few dozen Christians remained. In the weeks leading up to the evacuations, Christians were increasingly attacked by rebel fighters; on one occasion an 80-year-old woman was beaten in the street until she collapsed. Terrifying graffiti saying, 'We will kill you all, you people of the cross' was daubed on the walls. On January 12, a church leader who had been a source of great comfort to the Christian community was tied up and beaten with rifle butts. Less than a week later, he was kidnapped and held deliberately until he missed a Sunday service; his congregation were greatly distressed. Rebels stole food from the homes of Christians, cut power supplies and stole mobile phones. When evacuations began armed groups tried to prevent the Christians from leaving. The place chosen for the evacuations was accessible only by a long and arduous journey that many elderly believers could not attempt. Those who managed to escape had to walk for more than two hours and pass through four tunnels; at times having to crawl. *Barnabas Prayer Focus Number 209 Mar 2014*
- January 2014 - The Armenian Christian population of Kessab was forced to flee when the town was besieged by Islamist rebels; 80 people were killed, at least 13 of whom were beheaded. Homes were looted and churches desecrated. Those too elderly to flee were taken hostage. *Barnabas Prayer Focus Number 209 Mar 2014*
- January 2014 – There are worsening food shortages, no water, Internet or phone signals most of the time in this country. Kidnappings are common and there are many rebel mortar attacks and snipers. *Barnabas Aid Magazine Jan/Feb 2014*
- January 2014 - Two Christian young men, Firas Nader (29), and Fadi Mattah (34), driving from the city of Homs to a Christian village, were attacked by a group of jihadists. After seeing a cross worn by Fadi, they pulled him out of the car and beheaded him. Firas, was left for dead but survived to reach a nearby town and receive treatment. *International Christian Concern & Agenzia Fides 16/1/2014*

Tajikistan

- September 2017 - An appeal by Pastor Bahrom Holmatov against his three-year prison sentence has been turned down. The church leader and father of three was arrested in April and later sentenced for 'singing extremist songs in church and so inciting religious hatred'. He now faces the three-year prison term for nothing more than exercising his right to believe. *Open Doors 21/09/2017*
- January 2014 - New regulations adopted in September 2013 have forbidden Christian parents taking their children to church. It has not stopped them from doing so but it is considered illegal. *Release International Issue 77 Jan/Feb 2014*

Tanzania

- September 2016 - An attack on a Christian university in Lushoto (02/09/16) has left a security guard dead and two people seriously injured. The attackers, believed to be Islamic militants set fire to the hostels where the students were staying. Students were forced to escape the flames. No students were killed, but many suffered minor injuries and suffered from smoke inhalation. *Open Doors 06 & 08/09/2016*
- May 2016 - On 19th May a moderate mosque in the Mwanza region of North West Tanzania was attacked by a group of around 20 people armed with axes, swords and a gun and carrying a black flag similar to that used by Islamic State. They ordered all the people to lie on the ground and asked for the mosque leader, Imam Feruz, before killing him and two others. The attack appears to have happened because a few days earlier police had arrested a group of Islamists after Imam Feruz had reported that they were training to attack various targets. One eye witness reported that before killing him, the attackers asked the imam: "why are you here while other Muslims are in jail and others are fighting the jihad?" They then killed him in front of everyone else. *Barnabas Fund Persecution Update email 26/05/2016*
- May 2016 – On 2nd May another church was burnt down in north west Tanzania. No one has claimed responsibility for this third arson attack on a church in the Kagera region since January. Its minister, Fortunatus Bijura, said, "Those who think that destroying our church means we won't pray, they are wrong.... We have a big tree near the church and will continue meeting there for prayers." *Barnabas Aid Magazine Jul/Aug 2016*
- December 2015 - Numerous churches and Christian institutions, particularly those in Muslim-majority areas, are at risk of closure after the Tanzanian government announced on 11th December that 1,268 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) had been banned and a further 1,406 NGOs had been sent warnings. Last year, 37 Christian organisations were closed. "They pay

their fees, they report their work, but they were closed for breaking the prohibition of interfering with other faith affairs (converting a Muslim, preaching to a Muslim, or even allowing a convert from Islam to run and hide in their homes)," a Christian leader told Barnabas. *Barnabas Aid Magazine Mar/Apr 2016*

- December 2015 - Three church buildings in Kashfa village, Bukoba district, were set ablaze following threats by extremists. Pastor Vedasto Athanas of Living Water International Church said that the Christians are worried as such attacks have increased in recent years. Also burned were the buildings of the Pentecostal Assemblies of God and the Evangelical Assemblies of God *Release Magazine Nov/Dec 2015*
- September 2015 - Three churches were torched on 22nd September in the Kagera region, and four more were burned down in the following week. A Tanzanian Christian leader told Barnabas how the local Muslim community had ordered the congregation of one of the churches to evacuate the building because they were disturbed by their singing. It was the third time the church had been attacked in the past two years, but police were reluctant to bring charges. *Barnabas Aid Magazine Jan-Feb 2016*
- June 2015 – On 27th June in Morogoro, a city in the southern highlands of Tanzania, Cecian Peter was killed by a group of over 50 radical Muslims who saw him carrying a Bible. In Kigoma, western Tanzania, a Christian family was attacked while they prayed together at home on 15 June. Two people were seriously injured in the attack. Also in Kigoma, there were attacks at a Christian funeral, apparently because the Christians had slaughtered animals for the family gathering. Despite the fact that there is no law restricting people from keeping and butchering their own animals, Christians have nevertheless been arrested in various parts of the country on these grounds. In Kigoma, five Christians were arrested in June for owning, slaughtering and selling pork. And in Bukoba, a town in the north-west of the country, a local Christian was fined 150,000 Tanzanian Shillings (£45; €64; US\$71) for slaughtering his cow for use by his own family. *Barnabas Fund Persecution Update email 20/8/2015*
- June 2015 - The growing Islamisation across the country's mainland is also affecting authorisations for church buildings. Local authorities in Bukoba refused to allow a church to rebuild their premises on the basis that the area is solely for residential purposes, a Tanzanian Christian leader has said. However, there are three mosques in the same area. Despite the fact that an estimated 60% of Tanzanians are Christian, those who hold many of the senior political posts are Muslim. Although Christians were promised that the voting day for the country's upcoming elections would not be held on a Sunday, the government has reneged on this promise and announced that the general election will be held on Sunday 25 October this year. Tanzanian Christians are concerned about the proposed introduction of Khadi (Islamic) courts across mainland Tanzania. *Barnabas Fund Persecution Update email 20/8/2015*
- May 2015 - Breaking into his home during the night of 14-15 May, armed men attacked Pastor Samson Gwajima, slashing his head, leaving him unconscious with a wound two inches deep. Local police said the attack against Pastor Gwajima was an intended robbery, but the attackers took nothing from the house. The family have been receiving threats from a nearby mosque. His older brother, Bishop Gwajima, is facing eviction from his church premises as well as court charges against him for his opposition to the Kadhi (Islamic) courts bill. If implemented, these Kadhi courts would deal with family matters such as marriage, divorce, and inheritance for Tanzania's Muslim population. Tanzanian Christians argue that these courts would undermine existing secular practices. They are also particularly concerned about the fact that these rulings would not be able to be appealed or referred to the secular High Court. Already in place in the Muslim-majority Zanzibar archipelago, the bill proposes to introduce Kadhi courts across mainland Tanzania which is Christian-majority. *Barnabas Fund Prayer Focus Email 2/6/2015 & Barnabas Fund Persecution Update Email 21/5/2015*
- May 2015 – A pastor on Mafia Island, part of the Muslim majority Pwani (coast) Region, who had converted from Islam, was ordered by the local area leader to close the church. *Barnabas Aid Magazine May-Jun 2015*
- March 2015 - Three churches near Lake Victoria were set on fire in March. Although no one was killed substantial damage was caused. It is understood that a Christian man was recently killed in a Pentecostal church in Bukoba, leaving a widow and two children. *Release Magazine May-Jun 2015*
- January 2015 - On January 20th at around 2am, a church building in Mashewa, in the Muheza district of Tanga Region, was set on fire. The church's pastor had been threatened repeatedly by local Muslims. *Barnabas Aid Magazine May-June 2015*
- November 2014 - On November 2nd in Zirai, in Muheza district, a Christian woman who converted from Islam was beaten and burned by her parents after choosing to marry a Christian man. *Barnabas Aid Magazine May-Jun 2015*
- September 2014 - Since December 2012 there has been an increase in reported attacks against Christian leaders both on the country's mainland and in Zanzibar. *CSW Sept 2014*

Evidence (42)

- June 2014 - Christians in Tanzania are under pressure and concerns have been raised that the country's draft constitution would be underrepresented putting the Christian minority further at risk, if made law. *Barnabas Prayer Focus: No 212 Jun 2014*
- May 2014 – On 9th May, two churches were targeted in separate attacks in early May: one in an arson attack that left the building in ruins, and the other by a bomb blast that severely injured a church worker. Members of the Assemblies of God church on Mafia Island, in the Zanzibar Archipelago, were gathered for their weekly overnight prayer meeting, when the church came under attack. A mob of around 80 young Muslim men descended on the building armed with arrows and knives, shouting 'death to ritad'i' (those who leave Islam), before setting fire to the church. Muslim radicals had threatened the pastor, Ombeni Omari, and the church for the past two years. *Barnabas Prayer focus Number 212 Jun 2014; Voice of the Martyrs USA 28/5/2014 & Barnabas Prayer Focus Update 29/5/2014*
- May 2014 - On May 5th, a bomb blast targeted the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania in Mwanza. A homemade explosive device, wrapped in a plastic bag, was left in the church's rest house. When it was picked up by a church worker, it exploded, causing serious injuries to the woman's legs and face. It is not known who was behind the attack. *Barnabas Prayer focus Number 212 Jun 2014; Voice of the Martyrs USA 28/5/2014 & Barnabas Prayer Focus Update 29/5/2014*
- February 2014 - A bomb went off next to an Anglican cathedral near Zanzibar's capital Stone Town of the semi-autonomous and mainly Muslim Zanzibar islands, where sectarian religious tensions had been mounting. At least one person was wounded. *Reuters [WWW] 24/2/2014 & Barnabas Persecution Update 27/2/2014*
- January 2014 - More than 100 Muslim extremists stormed a church and beat a visiting preacher in January. It is believed that the mob meant to attack the congregation's senior pastor, Bishop Daniel Kwilemba. Instead they attacked a preacher visiting from the mainland - William Saidi of the free Pentecostal Church in Tanzania. *Release Magazine Issue 78 Mar-Apr 2014; Barnabas Persecution Update 27/1/2014 & Morning Star News 24/1/2014*

Thailand

- May 2017 – A day after being denied refugee status in Thailand by the UNHCR, 34-year-old Pakistani Christian Ijaz Tariq died in Bangkok's Immigration Detention Centre (IDC) from a heart attack. Ijaz had previously complained of chest pains and was hospitalised, but doctors could not diagnose his problem so sent him back to IDC. There he was put in a punishment room, because he could not pay his hospital bill. Eventually his local church in Bangkok paid the bill with funds from Barnabas Fund. Despite Ijaz's continued ill health, the IDC doctor refused to allow his pastor to bring him medicine. He died on 27 May. *Barnabas Fund Magazine Sept/Oct 2017*

Turkey

- March 2017 – Rev. Andrew Brunson is still imprisoned in Turkey and no evidence has been presented, except for an anonymous witness. It now seems that Turkish officials are using Rev. Brunson as a bargaining tool in order to bring a Turkish cleric back to the country to face trial for his alleged corruption of investigations some three years ago. *International Christian Concern email 31/3/2017*
- December 2016 – Rev. Andrew Brunson has been unjustly detained in Turkey and denied regular and appropriate access to legal counsel and US Consular services. Rev. Brunson, a US citizen and pastor of Resurrection Church in Izmir, was originally arrested with his wife, Norien on 7th October and informed that they were to be deported as 'a threat to national security'. Norien was released but Andrew remains in prison in Aliaga, Izmir. On 9th December he appeared before the court in Izmir who ordered that he be imprisoned on the grounds that he is linked to a terrorist organisation, based on the testimony of a 'secret informant'. *Middle East Concern email 17/2/2017*
- September 2016 - Fearing that five Muslim nationalists might flee Turkey, the Turkish authorities on 29th September re-arrested those convicted and sentenced to life in prison for the torture and murder of three Christians in Malatya, south-east Turkey, in 2007. The day before Salih Gurler, Cuma Ozdemir, Abuzer Yildirim, Hamit Ceker and Emire Gunaydin were each found guilty of the premeditated murder of Ugur Yuksel, Necati Aydin and Tilmann Geske. Each was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. Despite the conviction and sentencing, however, all five had walked out of court free men while their case awaited higher legal review, infuriating Turkish Christians. Gokhan Talas, a close friend of the three slain Christians and witness at the murder scene, said he was relieved at the decision to detain the five men. "I believe the families, my family, feel more secure now," he said. *Release Magazine Nov/Dec 2016 & Middle East Concern email 28/06/2016 reporting on earlier update on the case*
- July 2016 - During the attempted military coup in Turkey, on 15th July two church buildings were targeted in areas linked with previous murders of

Christians. In Malatya, unidentified people tried to break the windows of Malatya Protestant Church. Tim Stone, the pastor of Malatya Protestant Church, said he thought the attack on his church was just someone with a grudge against the church, taking advantage of the general unrest. Also in Trabzon, on the Black Sea coast, a group of about ten people attacked the Santa Maria Church, until they were driven away by local Muslims. *Open Doors 19 & 21/07/2016*

- May 2016 - European Court of Human Rights finds Turkey interfered with freedom of religion. The case concerned the inability of Mersin and Izmir Jehovah's Witnesses in Turkey to obtain an appropriate place to engage in worship due to restrictive laws. *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians 24/05/2016; ECHR: <http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng-press?i=003-5358689-6688703>*
- April 2016 - The Turkish government has seized control of six church buildings in the Diyarbakir area of south eastern Turkey. Amongst those taken include a 1,700-year-old church that predates Islam, another that was built as recently as 2003, and a 400-year-old Surp Giragos Church which is the largest Armenian church in the Middle East. Diyarbakir once had a large flourishing Christian community, but this was almost annihilated by the genocide of eastern Christians instigated by the Turkish government a century ago. The small Christian community that remains includes descendants of those who survived the genocide and later managed to return. The Diyarbakir Municipality has launched a legal appeal against the decision, claiming that it would result in 50,000 people being displaced and that it violates at least seven articles of the Turkish constitution. *Barnabas Fund Persecution Update email 14/4/2016, Conservatory on Intolerance Against Christians 06/04/2016 & Release Magazine May/June 2016*
- February 2016 - The Protestant, Orthodox and other congregations that share a historic church building in Bursa have received an official order to leave the premises by 26th March 2016. The pastor of Bursa Protestant Church said the Directorate-General of Foundations gave the congregations just eight days' notice to quit. Their building, known locally as 'the French church', is the only recognised place of Christian worship in Bursa, a city of nearly two million inhabitants and dates back to the 1880s. It is regularly used by 200 people from four different congregations – German Catholic, Latin Catholic, Orthodox and Turkish Protestant. When Bursa's Christian community put in a routine application last year to renew their permit to use the building for religious purposes, some members of the city council opposed it. *Release International Prayer Alert Email 23/2/2016 & Middle East Concern Email 25/2/2016*
- April 2015 - A European Parliament motion was passed in Brussels on 15 April calling Turkey to 'come to terms with its past, to recognise the Armenian genocide and thus pave the way for genuine reconciliation between the Turkish and Armenian peoples'. Adamant that 'everyone should know that Turkey can never accept such a sin, such guilt', Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan refuses to admit that the killings constitute genocide. President Erdogan is recorded as stating, 'A Muslim would never commit genocide.' *Barnabas Aid Magazine Jul-Aug 2015*
- January 2015 - A judge has filed a criminal complaint against a police chief and an army captain, implicating them in a plot in 2012 to kill church leader in Emre Karaali, Izmit, 60 miles east of Istanbul. The pastor and his lawyers believe that the 13 suspects who plotted to attack him and his church were guided by police and military forces. *Release International Issue 83 Jan-Feb 2015*
- December 2014 - An electrical fire that broke out in Kadikoy Istanbul's Bible Correspondence School on 7th December is thought to have been the result of an arson attack, after security camera evidence showed a man leaving the building just after the fire started. Almost half of the depot's 40,000 books have been destroyed. *Barnabas Persecution Update 12/12/2014; Middle East Concern 15/12/2014*
- December 2014 - Recent land grabs using false witnesses, confiscation and invading Kurdish tribes have been targeting thousands of Christians and Yazidis in SE Turkey. Serhat Karasin, a lawyer in Diyarbakir, has submitted a draft proposal to the government calling for a compensation scheme to be included into the scope of the settlement of the Kurdish conflict. "The individual legal process cannot redress this fundamental wrong that has been done, Christians cannot find a safe place to live in the lands that have long been their homelands." *International Christian Concern 5/12/2014; AI-Monitor [WWW] 5/12/2014*
- September 2014 - History books used in schools contain negatively biased remarks against Christians in relation to the Armenian genocide. One history book used in Grade Eight (13-14 year-olds) describes the actions taken by the Turkish authorities during the genocide as 'necessary deportations'. Christians are depicted as tools of foreign nations committed to seeing the downfall of the Ottoman Empire. *Barnabas Persecution Update & Crossmap [WWW] 26/9/2014*
- July 2014 – During a baptism service at St. Stephanos Church in Yeşilköy, Istanbul, eight Muslims entered the church grounds and screamed obscenities and anti-Christian epithets at those inside. The Muslims told those at the church to 'Go away' because 'Turkey is Muslim.' Police were slow to respond to the incident. *Barnabas Persecution Update 23/7/2014; Morning Star News [WWW] 15/7/2014 & Barnabas Fund Jul 2014*

Evidence (43)

- June 2014 - Christians have been shocked at the release on bail of the confessed killers of Necati Aydin, Ugur Yuksel and Tilmann Geske who were murdered in a Christian publishing house in Malatya in 2007. However, under public pressure, the authorities have required them to wear electronic monitoring devices. *Release Magazine Issue 79 May-Jun 2014*

Turkmenistan

- July 2016 - Pastor Mihail has a deep love for his nation of Turkmenistan. He became a Christian here after his mother brought a Bible from the Ukraine and the whole family came to the Lord. "Every year it is becoming more difficult to preach the Word of God and to serve the church," he says. "We have the right to assemble (but only in a rented building), but often Christians are persecuted and intimidated by threats from the law-enforcement agencies. These agencies want to have full control, to know every move, where we go and every person we meet. It is almost impossible to gather together, even in private houses. The secret police are very much against us Christians, trying to find the weakest ones and intimidate them so they leave the church." *Release Magazine July/August 2016*
- April 2016 - On 12 April, Turkmenistan's new Religion Law came into force. It retains the earlier ban on unregistered religious activity, while increasing the number of founders who can apply for legal status for a religious community from five to 50. The new government Commission that controls religion needs to approve all religious literature and any new places of worship. Two senior members of parliament refused to discuss the new Law with Forum 18. Members of several religious communities complained that "no religion" is allowed during military service. "You can't have a Koran, Bible or other religious literature and you can't conduct prayers visibly," one told Forum 18. *Forum 18 email 22/4/2016*
- October 2014 - On 22nd October, eight of Turkmenistan's nine known imprisoned prisoners of conscience jailed for exercising freedom of religion or belief, were released under presidential amnesty. Six were conscientious objectors to military service and two had been imprisoned on fabricated charges to punish them for exercising their freedom of religion or belief. One newly-sentenced conscientious objector, Ruslan Narkuliyev, was not released and nor was a Protestant, Umid Gojayev. Two Jehovah's Witnesses serving suspended sentences also appear not to have been amnestied. *Forum 18 News Summary 28/10/2014*
- September 2014 - Six of the current known religious prisoners of conscience held at a labour camp in the desert near Seydi, eastern Lebap Region are conscientious objectors, all of them Jehovah's Witnesses: Dovran Matyakubov (21), 2 years, Dashoguz Court, December 2012; Matkarim Aminov, (23), 2 years, Dashoguz Court, January 2013; Amirlan Tolkachev, (21), 18 months, Turkmenabad Court, July 2013; Suhrab Rahmanberdiyev, (18), 18 months, November 2013; Pavel Paymov, (23), 1 year, Ashgabad Court, February 2014; Merdan Amanov, (19), 1 year, Ashgabad Court, July 2014. Two other prisoners - both Jehovah's Witnesses - were imprisoned on [fabricated] charges of possessing pornography, Aibek Salayev, (35), 4 years, Dashoguz Court, April 2012; Bahram Shamuradov, (42), 4 years, Dashoguz Court, July 2014. A Protestant, Umid Gojayev (32), 4 years, Dashoguz Court, May 2012) has been imprisoned on charges of hooliganism. *Forum 18 News Summary 29/9/2014*
- August 2014 - Exercising the freedom of religion or belief are severely punished by the police. *F18 News Aug 2014*
- July 2014 - On 2nd July, Jehovah's Witness, Bahram Shamuradov was sentenced in Dashoguz City to a four-year jail term on fabricated criminal charges for exercising his freedom of religion or belief. Judge Gaigysyz Orazmuradov convicted him with an apparent absence of verifiable evidence, claiming "it was all done in accordance with the law". Charges of hooliganism have been lodged against Jehovah's Witnesses Vepa Tuvakov and Bibi Rahmanova (released on suspended sentence 2 Sept) who were beaten by police and detained along with their four-year old son on 5th July. Beaten in police custody at Dashoguz City Police Station on 3rd July another Jehovah's Witness Mansur Masharipov. He was injected against his will with an unknown substance which caused partial paralysis, vomiting, fever and headaches. An urgent appeal about all these cases has been made to the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention and the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief. *Forum 18 News Summary 1/8/2014 & 29/9/2014*
- February 2014 - Pavel Paymov [JW] became the seventh current known imprisoned conscientious objector when he was given a one-year prison term in Turkmenistan's capital Ashgabad. *Forum 18 News Summary 21/3/2014*
- January 2014 - Many Christians have been arrested and beaten, interrogated and threatened. It is difficult for Christians to communicate. Many New Testaments have been confiscated. *Release International Issue 77 Jan/Feb 2014*

Uganda

- December 2016 - On Christmas Eve, Peninah, a single mum of 3, had to watch with her children whilst extremists tore down their house in Pallisa because she had turned to Christ and rejected Islam. On Christmas morning, a church in Obokora village was raided by masked men. Pastor Erod and his congregation tried to escape through a back door, but were badly beaten, leaving five church members with serious injuries, including broken bones. *Release International Prayer Alert email Mar 2017*
- October 2015 - Mother-of-eight, Mamwikomba Mwanika, was killed after being dragged from her home in Kalampete, Kibuku district, in October. Her attackers had reportedly demanded to see her husband George who they said had ignored their warnings that he should return to Islam. Her husband's brother Samson was killed in October for the same reason. *Release Magazine Jan-Feb 2016*
- July 2015 - A Christian convert from Islam and mother of 11 children, has been murdered by her sister-in-law because of her faith in Christ. Reportedly, Jafaran Wowa poisoned Namumbeiza Swabura, who complained of severe stomach pain and bled profusely from her nose leading to her death after Wowa prepared a plantain dish for her to eat. Wowa is now in hiding, but locals in Nabuli village suspect Wowa may have been paid to kill Swabura. Swabura's husband, Mugoya Muhammad, who was formerly an Islamic teacher, says the family faces countless death threats because of their conversion to Christ. *Uganda Morning Star News quoted in International Christian Concern email 26/7/2015*
- June 2014 - 18-year-old Christian, Beatrice Mukashaka, was hacked to death and a one-year-old baby injured in a savage attack by Muslims during an overnight prayer meeting at a Chali Born Victory Church in Kyegegwa district on 27 June. The assailants escaped to a nearby mosque and police surrounded the building. A police officer was killed when one of the attackers opened fire. Two suspects were arrested. *Barnabas Persecution Update 23/7/2014; Barnabas Prayer Focus Update Sep 2014 & Barnabas Aid Magazine Nov-Dec 2014*
- April 2015 - A group of Muslims gang-raped the 17-year-old daughter of a church pastor after he refused to close his church. The girl said five men raped her in the bushes near her father's church in Budaka District in eastern Uganda. *Bible Society newsletter email 24/4/2015*
- July 2014 - An 18-year-old Christian woman was hacked to death and three others, including a one-year-old baby, were injured in a machete attack at a church in Uganda. *Barnabas Fund Sep 2014 & Jul 2014*
- May 2014 - The US Embassy in Kampala posted a security notice, 'The threat information indicates a group of attackers may be preparing to strike places of worship in Kampala, particularly churches, including some that may be frequented by expatriates, in May or June.' *Reuters USA [WWW] 7/5/2014 & Barnabas Persecution Update 15/5/2014*
- April 2014 - Abdul Hakim Ibanda of Kamuli town killed his 17-year-old daughter Nanvunani Shamimudid for leaving Islam after she and her sister attended a church service in Kawaga. The surviving daughter, Hasifa, fled to the home of a church elder who has since arranged safe housing for her in an undisclosed Christian community. *Barnabas Aid Magazine Jul-Aug 2014, International Christian Concern 21/4/2014; Morning Star News [WWW] 19/4/2014 & Barnabas Persecution Update 2/5/2014*
- March 2014 - Wenene Nuru, 23, of Iki-Iki township in Pallisa District, had been listening to a Christian-Muslim dialogue on the radio before she had a dream on 28th February. "When I woke up from the dream, I became unsettled and terrified and could not tell my father, who is a sheikh [Muslim teacher]." Her father, Nuru Rajabu was later informed by a neighbour that she had converted to Christianity. "My father began beating me with clubs and blows, and I started screaming in great pain," she said. "While I was down on the floor bleeding, my father went looking for a knife to kill me. A neighbour named Saleem arrived and helped me escape." Wenene was hospitalized for a week at Pallisa Hospital. *Barnabas Persecution Update 4/4/2014 & Morning Star News 27/3/2014. Barnabas Prayer Focus Update May 2014*
- March 2014 - Hassan Muwanguzi, a former sheikh and convert from Islam, was hospitalized in Mbale after being poisoned by his Muslim relatives. This is after his aunt, Maimuna Time, called a family gathering in Kadimukoli village, Budaka District, put insecticide in his tea. Muwanguzi after some treatment left the hospital due to lack of funds for treatment. Since Hassan became a Christian in 2003, he has lost his wife and job as a school teacher, been beaten by his family, falsely accused of a criminal offence, ordered to shut the Christian school he opened, had his home burned down and been threatened with death. *Barnabas Aid Magazine Jul-Aug 2014, International Christian Concern 9/4/2014; Morning Star News [WWW] 8/4/2014 & Barnabas Persecution Update 17/4/2014; Barnabas Prayer Focus Update May 2014*
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Evidence (44)

Ukraine

- September 2016 - The Constitutional Court of Ukraine has declared that a legal provision which requires the permission of local authorities to hold public religious gatherings is unconstitutional. The ruling – which was announced on 13 September but officially dated 8 September – comes into immediate effect and means religious groups now only 'need to notify the authorities not seek permission from them'. Meanwhile, another church in western Ukraine has been seized as Christians continue to be caught up in the country's political conflict. The Institute for Religious Freedom reports, "Up to now, political demonstrations, for example, required notification only, while religious gatherings needed a permit. The Court has now agreed that there must be only one legal mechanism for regulating peaceful assembly. There can also be no excuse for such effective religious discrimination...The legal requirements have now been declared unconstitutional and are null and void. The Court's judgment is final." *Barnabas Fund email dated 23/9/16*

September 2016 - Since the conflict began in 2014 many churches and church leaders have been attacked for politically motivated reasons. In the east Protestant churches have been targeted because they are considered to be pro-European, whilst in the western region the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (Moscow Patriarchate) has repeatedly had churches seized because of its political ties in an area where many lean towards greater European integration. The Ukrainian Orthodox Church (Moscow Patriarchate) this month criticised local authorities for not doing enough to address crimes against believers.

"Dozens of instances of hostile takeovers of the Church's facilities have not been averted and investigated," they said in a statement. These concerns were raised as news emerged of another church seizure, this time in Kutly, a village north-east of the city of Ternopil in western Ukraine. It was taken by the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (Kiev Patriarchate) and the Right Sector, a nationalist group. *Barnabas Fund email dated 23/9/16*

- September 2015 - The Church of Christians of Evangelical Faith reported that Pastor Taras Sen was taken hostage on 27 September in the city of Sverdlovsk in the Luhansk oblast by armed militants and released on 1 October. *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians 9/11/2015*
- January 2015 - Separatists have seized an evangelical church in eastern Ukraine amid reports of increasingly frequent attacks on Christians. The pro-Russian separatists broke into the newly constructed church in Donetsk, driving out the Christians inside and forbidding them from holding any further services. They threatened to kill anyone who disobeyed. *Release International Issue 83 Jan-Feb 2015*
- October/December 2014 – Due to political unrest in Eastern Ukraine, many people have been displaced and become refugees in their own country. Some faithful pastors have remained in the Eastern part of the country to try to reach out to and support their fellow countrymen, but are facing severe intimidation and pressure. *'Breakthrough' SFA newsletter Oct/Dec 2014*
- August/July 2014 - Four young FEBC (Far East Broadcasting Company) volunteers who were recently captured by pro-Russian separatists in Eastern Ukraine were brutally beaten to death for being Christians. *International Christian Concern Aug 2014*
- March 2014 - Priest Mykola Kvysh, a military chaplain, has been abducted. The kidnapping came shortly after priests of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (UGCC) received verbal and written threats ordering them to leave the Crimea or face consequences. *International Christian Concern & BosNewsLife [WWW] 15/3/2014*

United Kingdom

- October 2017 - A Balliol College Oxford student group banned the Christian Union from its freshers' fair on the grounds that it would be 'alienating' for students of other religions and constitute a 'micro-aggression'. They further claimed that Christianity was used as 'an excuse for homophobia and certain forms of neo-colonialism' and that students might feel 'unwelcome' if the Christian Union had a stall. After being reprimanded, organizers agreed that the Christian Union could participate in future fairs. *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians 08/10/2017*
- April 2017 - A Christian prison worker, Barry Trayhorn (HMP Littlehey), who had resigned after being disciplined for quoting from the Bible during a prison chapel service, will challenge an Employment Tribunal's ruling that the prison was right to discipline him. In March 2016, the Employment Tribunal ruled that Barry Trayhorn spoke of God's forgiveness in an 'insensitive' way which failed to have regard for the special nature of the congregation in the prison (sex offenders). *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians 27/04/2017*
- February 2017 – Street preachers, Michael Overd and Michael Stockwell were convicted on 28/02/2017 after a public prosecutor claimed that quoting parts of the King James Bible in the context of modern British society "must be considered to be abusive and is a criminal matter". The men were found

guilty under Section 31 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, for using "threatening or abusive words or behaviour or disorderly behaviour within the hearing or sight of a person likely to be caused harassment, alarm or distress, thereby, and the offence was religiously aggravated." *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians 28/02/2017*

- November 2016 - On 9th November the Hussain family were forced to flee their home under armed police guard amid fears for their safety after suffering eight years of persecution for converting from Islam to Christianity. Nissar Hussain, a father-of-six was previously beaten up in an attack outside his Bradford home which left him with two broken bones. This is the second time the Hussains have had to move to flee harassment and assaults. *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians 06/11/2016; ITV.com [WWW] 09/11/2016*
- November 2016 - Social services will not consider a Christian couple's offer to adopt their foster children, after they aired views about the possibility of a same-sex couple adopting the children. The Christian couple has now asked the local council to review the decision, which it says appears discriminatory. *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians 09/11/2016; The Telegraph [WWW] 06/11/2016; Christian Concern [WWW] 09/11/2016*
- October 2016 - The owners of Ashers Baking in Belfast lost their appeal of a 2015 discrimination conviction for refusing to bake a cake ordered by homosexual activist, Gareth Lee, showing two Sesame Street characters and the message: 'Support Gay Marriage'. Bakery owner, Daniel McArthur, said the ruling was a blow against "democratic freedom" and "religious freedom." *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians 24/10/2016; Life Site News 25/10/2016*
- July 2016 - British pro-life doctors and nurses face hostility, loss of advancement, and pressure to perform or refer for abortions despite legislation guaranteeing their right to conscientiously object, according to a UK Parliamentary Inquiry. *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians 21/07/2016; Fiona Bruce MP Press Release [WWW] http://www.conscienceinquiry.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/PRESS-RELEASE-Doctors-under-pressure-to-ignore-their-freedom-of-conscience.pdf*
- March 2016 - Richard Page, a 69-year-old Christian magistrate in Kent, has been removed from office by the Lord Chancellor after sharing his personal conviction in a media interview that there is not enough evidence to show that placing children in the care of same-sex couples is in their best interest. On 9th March a spokesman for the Judicial Conduct Investigations Office said Page was dismissed because the comments "would have caused a reasonable person to conclude he was biased and prejudiced against single sex adopters". Subsequently Richard was also suspended by an NHS Trust from his post as a non-executive director. *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians 11/03/2016; Christian Concern [WWW] 29/03/2016*
- February 2016 - Sheffield University social work postgraduate student, Felix Ngole, was expelled from his course for posting on his Facebook page that homosexual activity is against the teaching of the Bible. He was brought before a disciplinary board at the University after a fellow student reported the post. The 'Fitness to Practise Committee' ruled that he be "excluded from further study on a programme leading to a professional qualification" and was "no longer recognised as a University student." Ngole is appealing the decision. *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians 27/02/2016; Telegraph [WWW] 27/02/2016; Christian Concern [WWW] 02/2016*
- November 2015 – The Lord's Prayer Advertisement produced by 'JustPray.UK' has been banned in some cinemas. Digital Cinema Media (DCM), which handles advertising for Odeon, Cineworld and Vue cinemas has refused to run the advertisement claiming the minute-long video could offend some viewers. The Church of England has threatened legal action, believing that it has been the victim of religious discrimination. *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians 4/12/2015*
- November 2015 – 'The Gospel According to Jesus, Queen of Heaven' is part of the publicly-funded LGBT Outburst Queer Arts Festival in Belfast, and is advertised with the tagline: "Jesus is a transsexual woman. And it is now she walks the earth." Director of The Christian Institute, Colin Hart says, "It is totally unacceptable for a public body, bound by law to promote good relations between people, to channel money in a way which causes such obvious conflict." *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians 4/12/2015*
- November 2015 - Nissar Hussain, a convert to Christianity from Islam, who helped to promote Christian Concern's 'Safe Haven' initiative to help protect Christians who have converted from Islam, was beaten with a pickaxe handle on 17 November by two men while on the way to his car in Bradford. Detective Inspector Andy Howard, of Bradford District CID, said initial investigations suggested it was a targeted attack and it is being treated as a religious hate crime. *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians 4/12/2015; MailOnline 19/11/2015*
- August 2014 - Travelodge, one of Britain's largest hotel chains, proceeded to remove Bibles from its hotels regardless of numerous complaints including from the Church of England. *International Christian Concern 18/8/2014 & Fox News Network [www] 17/8/2014*

Evidence (45)

- July 2014 – A Christian bakery in Northern Ireland is in a legal battle for refusing to create a cake that depicted Bert & Ernie and declared 'Support Gay Marriage.' Same-sex 'marriage' is not legal in Northern Ireland, although laws have been passed throughout the rest of the UK. *"The Equality Commission asked us to propose how we would recompense the customer for this discrimination,"* Ashers Baking Company General Manager Daniel McArthur explained. *"It also said it would pursue legal proceedings if we didn't respond within a seven-day time period."* In Nov 2014 the Equality Commission ruled that Ashers must pay compensation or face legal action. *International Christian Concern & Christian News Network [WWW] 10/7/2014; International Christian Concern & Christian News [WWW] 9/11/2014*
- November 2014 - Charles Windebank, a senior at Pine Creek High School in Colorado Springs, started a prayer meeting three years ago with fellow Christian students during their school day free time. He has now been told by the school to cease the meetings due to them being 'non-curriculum' and during 'instructional time' (i.e. during school hours). *International Christian Concern & FoxNews [WWW] 10/11/2014*
- October 2014 - In Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, two ordained ministers, Donald and Evelyn Knapp, of Hitching Post Wedding Chapel, refused to marry a same-sex couple. The city has a non-discrimination statute that includes sexual orientation and gender identity. The Knapps are facing 180-day jail term and \$1,000 fine for each day they decline to celebrate the same-sex wedding. Later in October the city relented saying that the chapel, although for-profit, may be exempt from the non-discrimination law. *International Christian Concern 18 & 26 Oct 2014; The Daily Signal [WWW] 26/10/2014; Christian Post [WWW] 26/10/2014*
- October 2014 - A Lexington, Kentucky Human Rights Commission examiner has ordered a Christian screen printing company to print T-shirts that bear pro-homosexual messages and undergo diversity training for declining to make shirts for a 'gay pride' celebration in 2012. *International Christian Concern 13/10/2014 & Christian News [WWW] 8/10/2014*
- September 2014 - Two recent incidents in Oklahoma, including the beheading of 54-year-old Colleen Huffort by a Muslim co-worker, are sparking concern that radical Islam may be influencing violence towards Christians.

Jacob Muriithi, a Kenyan native, was arrested pending charges in Oklahoma after threatening to behead a fellow co-worker. He reportedly told a female co-worker that he represented ISIS and that they killed Christians. *International Christian Concern & Christian News [WWW] 30/9/2014*
- September 2014 - New Jersey state court has allowed Samantha Jones, a high school student, to defend her right to say the Pledge of Allegiance and "one nation under God" with representation by Becket Fund for Religious Liberty. Jones and her family are responding to the atheist group American Humanist Association's second attempt to rid the pledge of these words. *"When I say the Pledge of Allegiance, I am recognizing that my rights come from God, not from the government,"* said Jones. *"If anyone wants to remain silent, that is their right. But it is not their right to silence me."* *International Christian Concern & Charisma News [WWW] 24/9/2014*
- September 2014 - Intervarsity Christian Fellowship (IVCF) has been "derecognized" by California State University schools because they require their leaders to have Christian beliefs. IVCF will no longer be a recognized campus organization on any of the 23 schools in that system. The group is allowed to 'share', but they do not have 'equal access' to the university community. *International Christian Concern 6/9/2014; Christianity Today [WWW] 6/9/2014*
- August 2014 - Kendra Turner, a student at Dyer County High School, received an in-school suspension for saying 'bless you' to a fellow student who sneezed. Local media outlets reporting Turner said her computer teacher banned the phrase 'bless you' for it should only be allowed in the Church. *International Christian Concern 23/8/2014 & CBN [www] 9/8/2014*
- August 2014 - Monica Miller, attorney for the American Humanist Association (AHA) is now threatening to sue Chestatee High School in Georgia due to accusations by a 'concerned citizen' that coaches are allegedly leading or joining the team in prayer and citing Bible verses on documents. *International Christian Concern 11 & 17 Aug 2014, FoxNews.com [www] 12/8/2014; Christian News Network [www] 15/8/2014*
- July 2014 - A war memorial in a North Carolina city with the image of a soldier kneeling before a cross has been brought to court. Steven Hewett, a veteran represented by Americans United for Separation of Church and State (a secular group), wants the cross removed. *International Christian Concern & Christian Post [WWW] 9/7/2014*
- July 2014 – On 21st July, President Obama signed an executive order that banned employment discrimination based upon gender identity and sexual orientation within businesses and organizations that have federal contracts. Christian leaders called for a strong religious exemption to be included in the order to allow freedom of conscience in the workplace. This request was denied. *International Christian Concern & Christian Post [WWW] 21/7/2014*
- June 2014 - La Paz County of Arizona is forcing Church of the Isaiah 58 Project of Arizona to pay \$68,000 or else face foreclosure. Despite the fact that the Arizona Department of Revenue has stated that the church does not owe the tax, La Paz County continues to enforce the unreasonable payment. This church, which has been an integral part of the community in helping the homeless, will be forced to close its doors. *International Christian Concern & Charisma News [WWW] 2/6/2014*
- June 2014 – A magistrate judge has ruled that a New York public school's removal of Christian items from Joelle Silver's (science teacher) classroom was legal. Joelle had multiple Bible verses on display, as well as a painting that included three crosses on a hill and a prayer request box on her desk that was placed there by the school's Bible Study Club, which she served as a faculty monitor. *International Christian Concern & Christian Post [www] 27/6/201*
- July 2016 - Javier Chavez, a senior store detective at Macy's Flushing, New York, received a report of a male accessing the ladies room. A female customer and her daughter were afraid to enter the restroom due the male's presence there. A security guard reporting to Chavez directed the man to leave and use the men's room. The man left claiming to be female and made a complaint. An assistant security manager told Chavez that transgender individuals can use the bathroom of their choosing. Chavez said it was contrary to his religion and the Bible, but said that even so, he would enforce Macy's policy. Chavez was then called to a meeting with his human resources manager, who suspended him, and he was subsequently fired. *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians 21/07/2016*
- January 2016 - Robert and Cynthia Gifford live in a barn on their farm and have occasionally hosted weddings on the first floor and the surrounding backyard area. An Albany, New York court affirmed a Division of Human Rights ruling against the couple for declining to coordinate a same-sex wedding ceremony. They have been fined \$10,000 plus \$3,000 in damages and ordered to implement re-education training classes designed to contradict the couple's religious beliefs about marriage. *Alliance Defending Freedom 14/01/2016*
- January 2016 - Geneva College in Pennsylvania, Southern Nazarene University, Oklahoma Wesleyan University, Oklahoma Baptist University and Mid-America Christian University – have filed an opening brief with the Supreme Court specifically objecting to providing abortifacients. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services mandate forces employers, regardless of their religious or moral convictions, to provide abortion-inducing drugs, sterilization, and contraception through their health plans under threat of heavy penalties. *Alliance Defending Freedom 05/01/2016*
- September 2015 – The Military Religious Freedom Foundation has issued a complaint regarding a sign reading, "God Bless the Military," on a Hawaii Marine Corps base. The group stated that the presence of the sign is unconstitutional and demanded that it either be removed entirely or relocated to the chapel. However, along with the support of Alliance Defending Freedom, the Commanding Officer of the base recently responded to the complaint, stating that they refused to remove or relocate the sign. *From International Christian Concern Email 16/10/2015 quoted in Christian News Network 13/10/2015*
- September 2015 - Apostolic Christian, Kim Davis, a county clerk in Kentucky, was jailed on 3rd September for 'contempt of court' after defying a federal court order to issue marriage licenses to homosexual couples. The judge said, "Her good faith belief is simply not a viable defense." She was ordered by the same judge to be released from jail after five days. *Observatory on Intolerance Against Christians 4 & 10 Sept 2015*
- August 2015 – Christian cake artist, Jack Phillips, was ordered to re-educate himself and his employees about marriage by the Colorado Civil Rights Commission. In July 2012 he declined to use his artistic talents to celebrate a same-sex ceremony. An appeal court on 13 August rejected Phillips' argument that his First Amendment right to freedom of religion and to free speech or expression had been violated on the basis that he broke state law against discrimination based on sexual-orientation. *Alliance Defending Freedom 11/6/2015; Daily Signal [WWW] 16/8/2015*
- March/February 2015 – Christian, Barronelle Stutzman, a florist was sued by the Washington State Attorney General and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) because she respectfully declined to create floral arrangements and provide full wedding support for a long-time client and friend's same-sex ceremony. On February 18, Benton County Superior Court Judge Alexander Ekstrom ruled that she had violated the state's anti-discrimination law in both cases. On March 27 Judge Ekstrom ordered Ms. Stutzman to pay a \$1,000 fine, plus \$1 for court costs and fees. *Alliance Defending Freedom 4 & 11 June 2015; Wikipedia [WWW] accessed 10/12/2015*
- January 2015 - Atlanta Fire Chief, Kelvin Cochran, was fired in January 2015 after 34 years of service because he wrote a Christian book for men discussing how to be strong leaders, husbands, and fathers, in which he briefly stated the Bible's teaching that sex is reserved for the marriage of one man to one woman. In late 2014 gay activist groups became aware of his book and demanded that he be dismissed. Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed maintains Cochran's book was judgmental and amounted to discrimination. *Alliance Defending Freedom 04 & 11 June 2015; Daily Signal [WWW] 6/7/2015*

Evidence (46)

- May 2014 - The Home & Garden Television (HGTV) network has announced that it has decided to pull the plug on an upcoming real estate reality show after lobbying by Right Wing Watch activists. They accused the evangelical Christian hosts, David and Jason Benham, of being anti-gay and pro-life apparently based on comments about homosexuality, abortion and divorce made by their father, Evangelical Pastor Flip Benham. *International Christian Concern & Fox News [WWW] 8/5/2014*
- May 2014 - Jeanette Golden from Hemphill, Texas, has been ordered by the Department of Transportation to remove a Ten Commandments sign from her property. *International Christian Concern & One News Now [WWW] 16/5/2014*
- April 2014 - At Patrick Air Force Base in Brevard County, a Bible honouring missing soldiers and prisoners of war was removed from one of the base's dining halls in response to the Department of Defense's Equal Opportunities Agency diversity policy. *International Christian Concern & Christian Post [WWW] 2/4/2014*
- April 2014 - The American Centre for Law and Justice is suing the Community College of Baltimore County Maryland after Brandon Jenkins was denied admittance to a radiation therapy program because of his faith in God. He was told that among the reasons why he was not selected was because his chosen field is 'not the place for religion'. *International Christian Concern & Christian Post [WWW] 25/4/2014*
- March 2014 - The American Humanist Association complained to the city saying a memorial cross that marked where Annmarie Devaney's 19-year-old Christian son died (Lake Elsinore, California.) was on public property, therefore, unconstitutional and a matter of separation of church and state. Annmarie removed the cross to avoid a conflict. *International Christian Concern & Christian Post [WWW] 10/3/2014*
- March 2014 - Dr. Mike Adams, a Criminology Professor at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington, has been subjected to job discrimination since his conversion from Atheism to Christianity. On behalf of Adams, the Alliance Defending Freedom attorneys have filed a lawsuit against the university. *International Christian Concern & Charisma News [WWW] 19/3/2014*
- March 2014 - The Freedom From Religion Foundation has demanded Wisconsin Governor, Scott Walker, to remove posts from his official Facebook and Twitter feeds quoting Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." They accused the Governor of misusing his authority to 'promote not just religion over non-religion, but one religion over another in a manner that makes many Wisconsin citizens uncomfortable.' *International Christian Concern & Fox News [WWW] 24/3/2014*
- June 2015 - Officers at Karmana District Police Station, among them Feruz Ruziyev, tortured Murot Turdiyev until he lost consciousness, while another fellow-Protestant was threatened with rape. The two were among four Protestant men stopped at a traffic checkpoint. "The Police know his car, and the licence plate, and seemingly they were informed about their arrival in town, and were waiting for them there," one Protestant told Forum 18. When Forum 18 asked why he had beaten Turdiyev, Officer Ruziyev immediately put the phone down. Gofur Namozov, Chief of Karmana Criminal Police, adamantly denied to Forum 18 that any of the four had been beaten and tortured. "We only questioned them about the many visas and foreign stamps in their passports," he claimed. Administrative cases against the four appear to have been handed to court. Meanwhile police and other officials went almost daily in May to the Karshi home of Guljahon Kuzebayeva, banging on the gates of the yard 'like hooligans' and trying to climb over the wall. She has been in hiding since July 2014 to evade arrest for her religious activity. *Forum 18 Email 4/6/2015*
- April 2015 - Doniyor Akhmedov - a Baptist - was one of three Protestants known to have been imprisoned in March and April. He was held after offering a religious leaflet to a passer-by on the street.

For the last part of his 15-day imprisonment, it is understood that Akhmedov was held in a small, overcrowded cell with more than 10 people, where there was barely any space to sleep on the floor. Once freed he was summoned to court and fined more than three years' official minimum wage. Local Christians said that Akhmedov has refused to pay the exorbitant fine on the basis that 'he only exercised his fundamental human right'. *Forum 18 Email 24/4/2015 & Barnabas Fund Prayer Focus Email 2/6/2015*

Uzbekistan

- November 2016 - Shokir Rakhmatullayev and Dmitri Inyushev, were jailed for five days on 9th November for possession of 'illegal' literature. A police raid on their homes, in the Termez, found a Russian Bible, Uzbek New Testament, Christian CDs, audio tapes and DVDs. Judge Bakhridin Ikromov ordered them to pay 15 per cent each of one month's minimum salary as 'compensation' for the costs of jailing them. They were freed on 14th November. *Open Doors 07/12/2016*
- November 2016 - Christians Muhabbat Kabulova and Khursheda Hatamova were each fined 651,200 Soms - around £160 (five times the minimum monthly salary) for meeting as a church without state permission. *Open Doors 07/12/2016*
- November 2015 - Police in Tashkent raided a Protestant worship meeting in November and detained and abused members of the group, including nursing members of the group, including nursing children. Christian literature was confiscated, as well as computers and other electronic devices. The believers were convicted of violating religious laws and fined. *Release Magazine Jan-Feb 2016 & Barnabas Aid Magazine Mar/Apr 2016*
- September 2015 - In late September a Judge in Karshi fined ten members of a Baptist church up to 50 times the minimum monthly wage each for meeting for worship without state permission. In a regular practice for Uzbekistan, the Judge ordered that confiscated personal Bibles and song books be destroyed. Officers asked the community in August why it was still meeting after being warned in an April raid that it was 'illegal'. The UN Human Rights Committee expressed concern in July over religious censorship, as well as torture, prison sentences, detentions and fines to punish individuals for exercising their right to freedom of religion or belief. It called on Uzbekistan to change its laws and practices. *Forum 18 email 20/11/2015*
- August 2015 - Pastor Sergei Rychagov of Grace Presbyterian Church near to Tashkent, was heavily fined for violating the Religion Law, missionary activity, 'illegal' religious teaching and violating the procedure for holding religious meetings. Police bullied children from a local orphanage who had been attending the church into writing statements against him, they added. The officer who brought the case insisted to Forum 18 that Rychagov had violated the law, while the judge who fined him refused to explain why he had done so. In Urgench, Anti-Terrorism Police accused a local Baptist of 'teaching religion illegally'. Police have already seized religious literature and the man's car. *Forum 18 email 6/8/2015*
- November 2014 - Recently fined for meeting to exercise their freedom of religion were 15 Protestants and a non-Christian flat owner who rented her flat to Christians. The fines imposed varied between 10 and 55 times the minimum monthly salary; books and other religious material were ordered to be confiscated. Judge Sherzod Yuldashev refused to explain why he ordered the destruction of Christian holy scriptures. He also fined Durдона Abdullayeva and Ulugbek Kenzhayev, whose personal New Testaments they were, 30 times the minimum monthly salary. *Forum 18 News Summary 26/10/2014*
- September 2014 - On September 5th Artur Alpayev was fined 50 times the minimum wage in Uzbekistan for storing religious literature in his home in Navoi. Christian literature, including Bibles, is banned from being stored anywhere apart from licensed church buildings and is liable to confiscation by the authorities. *Barnabas Aid Jan-Feb 2015, Forum 18 News Summary 18/9/2014, Barnabas Persecution Update 9/10/2014*
- September 2014 - Peaceful and officially registered Baptists cannot meet for worship in their homes because authorities confiscated their religious books, including Bibles. *F18News Sept 2014*
- September 2014 - Four Christians in Syrdarya were fined for holding a religious meeting without state permission after police raided the home of Denis Absattarov on 5th September. The court also ordered that two Bibles and two Christian songbooks be seized, and that a personal diary, a video tape and 26 DVDs be destroyed. *Barnabas Persecution Update 5/12/2014*
- July 2014 - On 30th July, authorities in Tashkent region, once again raided the summer camp of Tashkent City's officially registered Baptist Church. The Baptists were renting the officially registered Full Gospel Church's camp site in the village of Niyazbash of the Region's Yangiyul District. About 100 members of the Church and their children were having their summer holiday. The Baptist Union had bought its own camp site in Bostanlyk in 2000. However, in September 2013, Tashkent City Economic Court ruled to expropriate the plot of land. Judge Maika Kalandarova upheld the claim of Tashkent Regional Department of Privatisation and Deregulation of Property (DPD), and ruled that the land is to be returned to its "lawful owner", in other words to the State. In 2009, 2011 and 2012 the camps had been raided and participants punished. *F18News Sep 2014*
- July 2014 - A new Prevention Law, which becomes legal on 15 August, means heavy punishments being imposed on people exercising freedom of religion or belief and talk only in their communities, but not in outside. *F18News 4/7/2014*
- July 2014 - Igor Kulyada, a Baptist from Uzbekistan's capital Tashkent, was jailed for three days from 3rd-6th July. His offence was to put up in public leaflets with verses from the Bible. Some of his property was ordered to be destroyed and a fine was also imposed on him. *Forum 18 News Summary 24/7/2014*
- June 2014 - Dmitry Chaplin and one other member of the Almalyk Full Gospel Protestant Church were fined 100 times the minimum monthly salary and 80 times the minimum monthly salary for leading a meeting for worship without state permission in a private home. *Forum 18 News Summary 4/7/2014*
- June 2014 - Two families who meet in a private home to pray and read the Bible together have been fined and have had property confiscated by the authorities. *Barnabas Prayer Focus. No. 212 Jun2014*

Evidence (47)

- June 2014 - Fatima Kim and Galina Sirotina were each fined 50 times the minimum monthly salary under Administrative Code Articles 184-2 (Illegal production, storage, or import into Uzbekistan, with the intent to distribute or actual distribution of religious materials by physical persons), 240 (Violation of the Religion Law), and 241 (Teaching religious beliefs without specialised religious education and without permission from the central organ of a [registered] religious organisation, as well as teaching religious beliefs privately). Fiala Kim, Lyubov Fomina, Yelena Pavlenko and Tsoy were all fined 20 times the minimum monthly salary under Article 184-2. Confiscated Bibles, New Testaments, Christian books, and mobile phones were ordered to be permanently confiscated. *Forum 18 News Summary 4/7/2014*
- May 2014 - 15 police and other officials raided a church's Sunday meeting for worship in a home in Syrdarya. Police officer Oybek Turdiyev, who took part in the raid, said that they "received an instruction from above to go to check up on the gathering." *Forum 18 News Summary 9/5/2014*
- May 2014 - Grigory Kasparov and his wife, Yelena, have been fined for 'illegally storing' Kasparov's Christian books in their private home. The verdict in the case states that the books were destroyed even before the Court had found Kasparov 'guilty' and decided what to do with the books. A court official admitted that bailiffs destroyed the books, but refused to state whether bailiffs are allowed to do this before a verdict. *Forum 18 News Summary 13/5/2014*
- May 2014 - Two Baptist families were fined in October 2012 for religious activity, but refused to pay them. Over a year later - after the legal time period for a penalty to be imposed had expired - two Uzbeki bailiffs went to the homes of these Baptists, confiscating private property in the absence of those who were initially given the fine. When pressed, one of the bailiffs admitted the seizure had been illegal, but dismissed its importance: "Yes, we were late with the confiscation, but so what?" *International Christian Concern & Forum 18 [WWW] 9/5/2014*
- May 2014 - Residents of a Protestant-run drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre in Tashkent were driven out during a 31 May Police and Tax Office raid. Officials confiscated religious literature, office equipment and money closing the Shelter Rehabilitation Centre. Pyotr Tikhomirov, who taught metal-working to residents was fined for 'illegally' storing religious literature 'posing a threat to the peace and security of the population'. Criminal cases were opened against him and the Centre's founder, Vladislav Sekan, for not paying taxes on wages, not having a cash-register and exploiting residents by not paying them for clearing up after themselves. "For twelve years of its work, large numbers of drug and alcohol addicts were freed from their harmful habits and restored to normal life in the Rehabilitation Centre," commented Sekan. *Forum 18 News 26/9/2014*
- April 2014 - Protestant Gayrat Buriyev died on 9 April in a village near Tashkent. Relatives sought the assistance of the local Administration Chief, but he and the Regional Imam blocked the burial in the state-owned cemetery. "Those who accepted other religions may not be buried in the same cemetery with Muslims" said an official of Uzbekistan's Ombudsperson's Office. *Forum 18 News Summary 25/4/2014 & Barnabas Persecution Update 2/5/2014*
- March 2014 - In one raid in the central city of Samarkand, Anti-Terrorism officer Makhmud Nodyrov 'tore posters with Scripture texts from the walls, and kept threatening home owner, Veniamin Nemirov, a Baptist, that his home could be taken away from him, and that his children could be expelled from school.' *Forum 18 News Summary 18/03/2014 & Forum 18 News Summary 9/5/2014*
- January 2014 - Christians are thwarted from registering their buildings so none are registered, hence their gatherings are deemed illegal. It is particularly difficult in the area known as Karakalpakstan. Christians sometimes 'meet' by driving around in their cars. *Release International Issue 77 Jan/Feb 2014*
- January 2014 - Rozalina Abyazova from Tashkent Region is challenging in the Supreme Court a fine for allegedly involving her 12-year-old son in 'illegal' religious education. Her son was taking art lessons with two women who happen to be members of a Protestant congregation. The women and five other parents were also fined. *Forum 18 News Summary 29/1/2014*
- January 2014 - Three Protestant women in Fergana Region are preparing to challenge fines given to them by a local court for discussing their faith with each other. *Forum 18 News Summary 29/1/2014*
- January 2014 - NSS secret police and Anti-Terrorism Department raided the home of Natalya Gaiyer in Tashkent. Christian books and other materials were confiscated and ordered to be destroyed. She was fined three times the minimum monthly salary. Judge Davron Narbayev claimed he was not authorised to comment on his own decision and why he fined someone for possessing legally purchased books, which he ordered to be destroyed. *Forum 18 News Summary 6/2/2014*
- January 2014 - A decree has been passed banning books and other materials encouraging individuals to change their beliefs or which, in the state's opinion, 'distort' beliefs. *Forum 18 News Summary 12/2/2014*

Vietnam

- July 2017 - Nguyen Van Dai was finally charged with a crime on 30th July, following 19 months of investigative detention. He and four other human rights activists were charged with 'carrying out activities with the purpose of overthrowing the People's administration' under Article 79 of the Penal Code. *Jubilee Campaign email 21/08/2017*
- April 2017 - On Easter Sunday, whilst Fr. Peter Nguyen Dinh Thai from Lao Cai parish, was preparing to celebrate Easter Mass in a family's home, a group of more than 20 'officials' attempted to detain the priest and take him to the local Communist Party headquarters. Many of the Catholics present surrounded and protected the priest. Churchgoers contacted provincial officials and the group of '20 officials' left the church and mass proceeded. *International Christian Concern email 28/04/2017*
- May 2016 - On 14th May two 'Open Doors' field partners, Hian and Phung (names changed) were arrested for distributing tribal hymnals. All the hymnals were confiscated by the Vietnamese police, except one which was sent to authorities in southern Laos for further inspection. After a month in prison they were released on 14th June. *Open Doors 19/05/2016 & 28/06/2016*
- May 2016 - Prisoner's wife Tran Thi Hong was beaten and twice interrogated by police in May. When her 18 year old son tried to intervene to save her, he was violently choked. She describes her situation as 'intolerable'. Her husband Nguyen Cong Chinh, a missionary pastor in the Central Highlands, is serving an 11 year sentence for allegedly 'undermining national security'. *Release Magazine Jul/Aug 2016*
- January 2016 - While there has been no news on Vietnamese Christian lawyer Nguyen Van Dai, who was assaulted when leaving a human rights conference and later detained, several governments have released statements expressing their concern. *Christian Solidarity Worldwide Email 9/1/2016*
- December 2015 - Around 20 plain-clothes police officers confronted Christian lawyer Nguyen Van Dai and three of his friends and beat them with sticks after they took part in a conference on 6 December to inform people living in the country's Nghe An Province about their human rights, including their right to religious freedom. The men were stripped of their personal possessions and the authorities pushed Mr Nguyen into the sea after taking his jacket and shoes. *Barnabas Aid Magazine Mar/Apr 2016*
- November 2015 - 17 Montagnard refugees are planning to return home to Vietnam after they had fled to Cambodia citing religious and political persecution. The past few years have seen hundreds flee to Cambodia from the central highlands in Vietnam. The Montagnard are predominantly a Christian minority group which has experienced persecution and discrimination by local authorities in the region as the central highlands is more rural to the south bordering both Laos and Cambodia. These are the latest to voluntarily return home as their requests for refugee status have gone unfulfilled by the United Nations. *From the Phnom Penh Post quoted in International Christian Concern email 24/11/2015*
- January/February 2015 - On 1st February a Montagnard family of five who had crossed into Cambodia's jungle were arrested and taken to a secret location by the police. The Montagnard Christians of Vietnam are fleeing their homes in the Central Highlands of Vietnam due to persecution from the authorities. Four different groups fled to Cambodia in January alone. Hiding in the jungle in North-eastern Ratanakiri province of Cambodia, these groups were afraid of being arrested and forcibly deported to Vietnam. *Barnabas Aid Magazine May-Jun 2015*
- January 2015 - Following the brutal attack on Pastor Quang at his Bible College, it is reported that in November police 'hired thugs' who attacked his Christian centre. The police also detained several Christians for not having ID papers that officials had in fact previously confiscated. *Release International Issue 84 Mar-Apr 2015*
- January 2015 - On Sunday 18th January, Nguyen Hong Quang and his associate pastor, were attacked by 5 men near the Bible college he founded and still leads. Their assailants hit them with bricks and rocks until they fell to the ground and then kicked them repeatedly. Pastor Quang suffered a broken nose, broken ribs and teeth and injuries to his jaw. No arrests were made after the assault. *Voice of the Martyrs email 3/2/2015*
- November 2014 - In November 2014, police employed thugs wielding hammers and metal cutters to ransack the Mennonite centre and drag away nine Christians. Two Mennonite pastors and the son of Pastor Quang were among those arrested. They were interrogated for two hours before being released and being charged with not being in possession of ID cards and temporary residence papers. *Release International Issue 83 Jan-Feb 2015*

Evidence (48)

- October 2014 - Local authorities in Dak Nong Province are conducting an investigation into possible acts of 'irresponsibility' by the police which may have contributed to the death of Hoang Van Ngai, an elder of Bui Tre Church in March 2013. An officer who has been arrested, Le Manh Nam, was the Deputy Chief of Police in the town. Police released an official report claiming the 38-year-old Christian leader had committed suicide 'by electric shock' following an arrest on unknown charges. *Christian Solidarity Worldwide 16/10/2014; International Christian Concern 23/10/2014; UCA News [WWW] 17/10/2014*
- June 2014 - Mennonite church leader Pastor Nguyen Hong Quang has long been an outspoken advocate for religious and other freedoms. He has previously been arrested, abused and often been vilified and slandered in the state media. At 11pm on 9th June 2014, 100 men forced their way into the ground floor of the pastor's Mennonite Bible College in Ho Chi Minh City. An estimated 300 more stood outside. 76 pastors and leaders staying at the college for a seminar were stripped of their shirts and forced to stand on their heads. After 2 hours, trucks arrived and the assembled pastors, leaders and students were herded out past a gauntlet of thugs, who struck them fiercely with batons. They were taken to the police station where men were separated from women. The female prisoners, including some young ethnic minority teenagers were kept separately in a locked room. When the frightened girls began to sing Christian songs to comfort each other, the lights were turned out and men came into the room wildly hitting anyone in the way. After the 76 people who were arrested were released in the morning, they discovered 20 among them had serious injuries. When they tried to leave the centre to find medical help, police prevented them from doing so. *Release International Issue 83 Jan-Feb 2015*
- March 2014 - Christian families' homes in the Con Dau area of Da Nang were demolished by the authorities on 7 March. The government decided in 2010 to demolish all the houses and the Christian cemetery in Con Dau in order to build a luxury tourist resort. The area has been home to around 400 Christian families, who have not been offered adequate compensation or help to resettle elsewhere. *Barnabas Prayer Focus Number 211 May 2014, Barnabas Persecution Update 10/4/2014; Barnabas Prayer Focus Update May 2014/February 2014* – The conviction of Catholic lawyer, Le Quoc Quan, has been upheld on appeal and he has been jailed for 30 months and fined US\$ 57,000 for 'tax evasion'. The defendant's lawyer challenged the court, asking that his client be tried for his activism, 'not on trumped-up charges. His family was not allowed to attend the trial. Outside the courthouse, more than a hundred people protested, calling for his release. *Barnabas Persecution Update 20/2/2014 & Asia News [PIME] 18/2/2014*
- January 2014 - A Christian leader has been beaten and tortured by a Communist party official, when police blocked him and a group of believers who were delivering blankets to the needy. He was hospitalised with multiple internal injuries. *Barnabas Aid Magazine Jan/Feb 2014 & Barnabas Prayer Focus Number 208 Feb 2014*
- January 2014 - The authorities of District No. 2 are trying to expropriate land and property of the Roman Catholic archdiocese of Saigon for 'new urbanization' with assistance from the Communist People's Committee, and without state 'authority.' *International Christian Concern & Asia News [PIME] 14/1/2014*
- August 2014 - Nazeera, 33, died two weeks after being severely burned while trying to cook breakfast for her 16-year-old son and her husband Saeed. "I was told by one of our relatives that it was a set-up, and they replaced the cooking oil with petrol, which caught flames as soon as she poured it out," said Saeed. Before the attack, Saeed and his wife converted to Christianity, and had already decided to flee with their families. *International Christian Concern & Morning Star News [WWW] 29/8/2014*

Zanzibar

- January 2015 - Earlier this year suspected extremists bombed three church buildings, including the Anglican Christ Church Cathedral. Also targeted was the Evangelistic Assemblies of God Zanzibar church building outside Zanzibar City. Some people suffered minor injuries in the explosion. *Release International Issue 83 Jan-Feb 2015*
- January 2015 - Zanzibar has also seen a spate of attacks on Christians in the last couple of years. In September 2013 acid was thrown on a 60 year old priest in the out kirts of Zanzibar City, while in February a priest was shot and killed. On Christmas Day 2012 another priest was seriously injured in a shooting incident. *Release International Issue 83 Jan 2015*
- June 2014 - Gunmen killed at least 57 people in the predominantly Christian town of Mpeketoni, while more than 30 died in brutal attacks on the mainly Christian town of Gamba in the East of the country. *Release International Jan-Feb 2015*
- March 2014 - Islamic terrorists opened fire on a church in Likoni, near Mombasa, killing six members of the congregation. *Release international Jan-Feb 2015*

Zimbabwe

- November 2014 - Heaven's Light Church in the Harare region, was demolished by Shenkore administrative district officials. The Heaven's Light Church leadership has, for years, attempted to register land for a proper place of worship, but after repeated rejection, resorted to holding a weekly gathering of around 100 Christians in the home of an attending congregant. The church had been in operation for five years prior to its demolition on 28th November. *International Christian Concern 1/12/2014*

Yemen

- March 2016 - Militant gunmen stormed a Catholic nun-operated retirement home in Aden, Yemen. Officials said the attackers moved room to room handcuffing the victims before finally shooting 15 staff members in the head. The home was created as a charity by Mother Theresa and is run by nuns who dedicated their lives to continuing her work throughout the war-torn region. In addition to those killed, an Indian priest was kidnapped in the attack, and his status remains unknown. In addition to those four nuns, the other victims were four local nurses, four security guards, and three cleaning staff. *International Christian Concern email dated 11/3/2016 & Middle East Concern email dated 10/3/2016*

This document is compiled and published by the Maranatha Community.

Maranatha is a nationwide movement of many thousands of Christians in all the churches and has strong links in territories throughout the world. It is actively engaged in issues of human rights and responsibilities and in various humanitarian projects. Maranatha members are deeply involved both professionally and voluntarily in work for peace, healing and reconciliation and are responsible for aid initiatives throughout the world.

The Community seeks justice for all, irrespective of their religious or political convictions and practices.