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CHINA: Special weekly newsletter on freedom of religion or belief

Protestants

05.02.21 – Shandong Province orders: Do not publish audios and videos of preaching from online gatherings/services

On January 29, the Three-Self Patriotic Association and Christian Association of Qingdao City, Shandong Province, published a copy of the notice relating Restrictions on Churches in China's Shandong Province: A ban on live broadcasts as well as releases of preaching audios and videos.

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03.02.21 – Imprisoned Pastor Wang Yi's poem, Miss my Son, reflects our Heavenly Father's love

Two days prior to learning that Chinese Communist Party (CCP) authorities had sentenced him to serve 9 years in prison during a secret trial December 30, 2019 [one year after being arrested], Pastor Wang Yi wrote the following poem.

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01.02.21 – CCP forcibly removes cross of 100-yr-old Shuixin X'tian Church in Wenzhou city

Early February 1, for the second time since 2014, Chinese Communist Party (CCP) officials forcibly removed and demolished the cross of 100-yr-old Shuixin X'tian Church in Wenzhou City, Zhejiang Province. A large number of armed Chinese police officers raided the church to facilitate the annihilation of the cross from the church roof top.

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Uyghur Muslims

05.02.21 – The UK genocide amendment: Let's try it again

Resisting pressures, the Lords confirmed the amendment aimed at punishing Chinese atrocities in Xinjiang. Now, it goes back to the Commons.

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04.02.21 – US 'disturbed' by reports of rape of Muslims in China camps

The US warns of serious consequences for atrocities committed against women in internment camps for ethnic Uighurs.

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03.02.21 – Systematic rape in Xinjiang camps

A shocking BBC report (with some images from Bitter Winter) led politicians from all over the world to call for an UN-led investigation of “crimes against humanity.”

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02.02.21 – China retaliates against Uighur activists by imprisoning relatives, US officials say.

U.S. officials say China is targeting relatives of some Uighur activists with terrorism charges, while intimidating others who raise awareness about the plight of the Muslim minority in the Xinjiang region.

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Tibetan Buddhists

03.02.21 – Biden Administration promises continued US support for Tibet

The administration of U.S. President Joe Biden will continue to promote policies supporting human rights for Tibetans living under Chinese rule, working with allies to press Beijing to engage in dialogue with exiled Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama, the State Department said this week.

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05.02.21 – Chinese officials engaged in ‘takeover’ of Tibetan Buddhist monastery: Human Rights Watch

Chinese officials are engaging in a “takeover” of one of the world’s largest Tibetan Buddhist monasteries with a plan to put Communist Party officials in charge of its administration, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said on Wednesday.

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02.21 – Tibetan Buddhism: Religious Freedom in China

Revival and expansion: Tibetan Buddhism has revived significantly since the rampant destruction of the Cultural Revolution. Over the past decade, it has gained millions of new believers from the urban Han elite across China, joining the widespread piety among roughly six million Tibetans.

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Falun Gong

06.02.21 – 74-year-old man detained incommunicado for 14 months

A 74-year-old man in Hutou Town, Yinan County, Shandong Province, has been detained incommunicado for over a year for his faith in Falun Gong, a spiritual and meditation discipline that has been persecuted by the Chinese communist regime since 1999.

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06.02.21 – Once imprisoned for three years, Liaoning woman again faces indictment for her faith

A Shenyang City, Liaoning Province, woman detained since December 2020 is now facing indictment for her faith in Falun Gong, a spiritual and meditation discipline that has been persecuted by the Chinese communist regime since 1999.

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05.02.21 – Two Heilongjiang residents sentenced to prison for speaking out for their faith in Falun Gong

Two Jiamusi City, Heilongjiang Province residents were sentenced to prison by the Xiangyang District Court in late January 2021 for their faith in Falun Gong, an ancient spiritual and meditation discipline that has been persecuted by the Chinese communist regime since 1999.

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Church of Almighty God

07.02.21 – How do you call an explicitly announced CCP plan to “annihilate” a large group of Chinese citizens because of their faith?

In an interview published in Bitter Winter last week, former Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Terzi stated that the CCP repression of Falun Gong, including organ harvesting, can be described as a “genocidal practice.”

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05.02.21 – CHINA: Church of Almighty God: Over 1000 members in prison in 2020

In 2020, at least 7055 members of The Church of Almighty God (CAG) were arrested in China, 1098 of them were sentenced to a prison term, and 21 lost their lives under torture, according to the 2020 Annual Report of the Church.

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