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# **CHINA: Special Bimonthly newsletter on freedom of religion or belief (01.03 -15.03.2021)**

**General**

**05.03.21 – New Report Highlights Severe Lack of Religious Freedom in China**

In its recent Freedom in the World report, Freedom House—a D.C.-based human rights watchdog group—ranked 195 countries and 15 territories on their political rights and civil liberties. The report considered many specific questions within the categories of political and civil freedom, including the extent to which each country allows its citizens to freely practice and express their religion.

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**12.03.21 – -U.S. condemns China at UN rights forum for abuse of Uighurs, Tibetans**

The United States on Friday condemned China's abuse of ethnic and religious minorities, including what it called "crimes against humanity and genocide" in Xinjiang against Muslim Uighurs and severe restrictions in Tibet.

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### **Uyghur Muslims**

**05.03.21 – Five Uyghurs from one family imprisoned for Egypt study, another believed to have died in camp**

Five relatives of a Uyghur trader who died after being freed from an internment camp in northwest China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) are in prison, according to officials, while one other is believed to have died in a camp after being ordered home from Egypt.

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**09.03.21 – Uyghur Human Rights Project welcomes bill to provide Uyghurs safe haven**

The Uyghur Human Rights Project (UHRP) welcomes the introduction of the Uyghur Human Rights Protection Act (H.R. 1630) in the U.S. House of Representatives to address the Uyghur refugee crisis.

“This legislation would empower the U.S. government to rescue vulnerable Uyghurs who have escaped China's genocide,” said UHRP Executive Director, Omer Kanat.

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**13.03.21 – “I was a teacher in a concentration camp”: Women and the Uyghur genocide**

The CCP has shamelessly attacked the character of Uyghur women who have courageously testified to the rape and torture they endured or witnessed with their own eyes. Here is one.

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## **The Church of Almighty God**

**02.03.21 – Heavier sentences for Church of Almighty God members**

As part of the campaign aimed at eradicating the movement, jail terms have been substantially increased.

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**15.03.21 – Christian mistreated, tormented for refusing to give up belief**

In July 2020, Li Huizhen (pseudonym), a Christian of The Church of Almighty God (CAG), finally got out of prison after she completed her three-year sentence term for her belief due

to the CCP cruel persecution.

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## **Falun Gong**

**13.03.21 – 54-year-old man denied medical parole, dies two months after being imprisoned**

A 54-year-old man died two months after he was imprisoned for his faith in Falun Gong.

Mr. Yue Caiyun, a native of Yucheng County, Henan Province, was arrested in Hangzhou City, Zhejiang Province, where he had been living the past few years, on August 21, 2020. The Hangzhou police accused him of mailing informational materials about Falun Gong and held him at the Red Cross Detention Center in Xiaoshan District.

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**15.03.21 – Guandong women sentenced to two years for reading Falun Gong teachings**

A woman in Jieyang City, Guangdong Province was recently sentenced to two years for her faith in Falun Gong. Ms. Lin Liqing was arrested on June 14, 2020 while reading Falun Gong teachings at Ms. Lin Wanzhen's home. Ms. Lin Wanzhen's two other practitioner-guests, Ms. Wu Rongduan and a female practitioner whose name is unknown, were also arrested.

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### **15.03.21 – Report: 3,020 Elderly Falun Gong practitioners targeted for their faith in China between 2018 and 2020**

In recent years, the persecution of elderly practitioners has become especially rampant. Even those in their 80s or 90s weren't spared.

This report focuses on the persecution of elderly Falun Gong practitioners and how they have been physically and mentally abused despite their age. Some were even persecuted to death as a result of torture and pressure from the authorities.

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**Catholics**

## 14.03.21 – Cardinal Bo calls for week of prayer for China Church

Cardinal Charles Bo, president of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC), has called on the faithful to join a week of prayer for the Chinese Church from May 23-30.

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