

## **Yu Baorong, a Christian from The Church of Almighty God brutally tortured by Chinese Communist Police**

HRWF (19.12.2018) - Yu Baorong was born on October 15, 1965 and is from Quanshan District in Xuzhou City, Jiangsu Province. She joined The Church of Almighty God (CAG) in January 2014. She was arrested by the Chinese Communist Party police in June 2018 and brutally tortured during questioning, leaving her with permanent physical defects. Her eardrums and nasal passages suffered severe damage and she now has hearing loss and difficulty breathing. She also has pain and limited mobility in her left arm to this day.

Around 3:00 p.m. on June 9, 2018, Yu Baorong was with two other Christians from The Church of Almighty God in a rented room on Bazi Street of Xuzhou's Gulou District. Suddenly, eight or nine uniformed police officers from Xuzhou's Tongshan District Xuzhuang Police Station burst through the door, and an officer yelled, "Someone has reported that you're believers in God. Our country doesn't allow that. Your faith is illegal." The three CAG members were taken to the Xuzhou Economic Development Zone Public Security Bureau for separate questioning.

Around 7:00 p.m. that evening, two officers, Zheng Xin and Liu Chengwei questioned Yu Baorong about her personal life as well as information on the CAG. Yu Baorong would not disclose any information, so Officer Liu Chengwei grabbed her by the hair and repeatedly punched her face with his fist and an empty water bottle. He also took off his belt and whipped her across the mouth with it, over and over. In extreme pain, Yu Baorong's face, eyes, and lips swelled and her eyes bled. When she still did not tell them anything, the police continued to hit her in the head. The beating lasted until 4:00 a.m. before the police stopped their questioning for the night.

The next afternoon, they resumed the interrogation in a hotel at an undisclosed location. When Yu Baorong still would not talk, Officer Zheng started punching her left arm and Officer Liu Chengwei violently beat her right shoulder with his fists. She was held and subject to such beating and questioning for five days straight. Her left arm was hit so many times during questioning that it became swollen and bruised to the point she could no longer lift it.

The interrogation came to an end without Yu Baorong giving any information about the CAG. On June 16, she was taken to the Sanbao Detention Center in Xuzhou and held there.

On the morning of July 21, 2018, the police took Yu Baorong to the bank and ordered her to withdraw 5,000 RMB (about 650 euros) for bail money, and then released her on bail pending trial. She was told she was not allowed to believe in God, warned not to leave the area, and instructed to make herself readily available to the police as needed.

As a result of this interrogation, Yu Baorong still feels the effects of this beating and torture to date. She suffered extreme pain from her injuries, and her left arm remained swollen and bruised for over a month after she was released. She still cannot move her arm properly and her ears and nose are permanently damaged.