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## **Special Weekly FORB Newsletter (7 December – 13 December)**

### **The price of studies in inland China for Uyghur youth.**

13.12.19 - Enrolled to study outside Xinjiang, Uyghur students are subjected to intense indoctrination and "hanification," intended to veer them from their religion and culture.

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### **Central government inspections prompt assaults on believers.**

13.12.19 - Before the second round of religious work review in Shandong Province, local authorities intensified crackdowns on religious venues and groups of all denominations.

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### **Nazi-style CCP book burning targets religious books.**

13.12.19 - Images of books removed from libraries in China and publicly burned evoke disturbing reminiscences of the Nazi campaign of 1933.

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### **CCP uses believers' donations to indoctrinate them.**

12.12.19 - The regime tightens control over finances of state-approved churches, as a tool to limit religious activities to the minimum and ultimately take over them entirely.

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### **Chinese persecution of religion denounced in the Lithuanian Parliament**

12.12.19 - An international conference evidences the repression of all religions by the CCP, with a focus on Ethnic Kazakhs and The Church of Almighty God.

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### **Bitter Winter feature series for Human Rights Day (III): Sinicizing Religions.**

12.12.19 - December 10 was Human Rights Day. Bitter Winter celebrates it with four articles. The third is devoted to the real meaning of religious "sinicization."

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### **Welcome to Xinjiang. But you are not allowed to leave.**

11.12.19 - Through government incentives, Han Chinese have been lured to Xinjiang to accelerate the "hanification" of ethnic Muslims. Now, it's not easy for them to return home.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **20 Bitter Winter reporters vanished in the air.**

11.12.19 - Writing for Bitter Winter is a crime in China. 45 of our reporters were arrested. 20 are still in custody but we don't know where - actually, we cannot even confirm they are alive.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Bitter Winter feature series for Human Rights Day (II): High-tech surveillance measures.**

11.12.2019 - December 10 was Human Rights Day. Bitter Winter celebrates it with four articles. The second is devoted to how high-tech surveillance is used to violate human rights.

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### **For the CCP, cultural confidence means ban of anything foreign.**

10.12.2019 - In a nationwide drive, place names are purged to reflect "excellent traditional Chinese culture" and show the country's resistance to the "worship of foreign things."

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### **Bitter Winter feature series for Human Rights Day (I): religious persecution.**

10.12.2019 - December 10 is Human Rights Day. Bitter Winter celebrates it with four articles summarizing typical cases of violations of human rights in China. The first is devoted to religious persecution.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **68 Church of Almighty God Members sentenced to heavy prison terms in Xinjiang.**

09.12.2019 - The crackdown in Xinjiang affects all religions. The world's attention is focused on the Uyghurs, but the CCP also persecutes members of Christian movements.

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### **Face scans for mobile users - Expansion of China's autocracy.**

09.12.2019 - Facial recognition further invades people's lives after the regime introduced mandatory facial scans for all new customers signing up for mobile phone contracts.

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### **CCP officials: All house churches must be eliminated.**

08.12.2019 - Refusing to be controlled by the government, house churches are deemed illegal and are suppressed in the name of eliminating "gangs and evil forces."

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### **Doing business with Hong Kong? Expect to be punished**

08.12.2019 - Companies in mainland China are scrutinized and sanctioned, as the regime enforces "stability control measures" to offset the effects of the pro-democracy movement.

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### **Chinese Ethnic Kazakh refugees in Kazakhstan: A new dramatic case.**

08.12.2019 - Two ethnic Kazakhs escaped detention and torture in China and entered Kazakhstan, but they risk being sent back there, says their lawyer Lyazzat Akhatova.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **'Give back our venue,' plead members of a destroyed church.**

07.12.2019 - Gathered on the ruins of their church, believers pray and ask the state to respect religious freedom. Not many can dare even such small acts of defiance in China.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **China is clearly unfit to host Olympics in 2022 - But IOC will not intervene**

07.12.2019 - Ten U.S. Senators tell the International Olympic Committee that China's human rights violations are incompatible with the Olympic spirit - they will not be heard.

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## Special Weekly FORB Newsletter (30 November – 6 December)

### **CCP shows no mercy to the Buddhist Goddess of compassion.**

06.12.19 - Despite pleas by local Buddhists, a 17-meter-tall statue of Guanyin in Hebei Province was demolished, joining the long list of China's shattered religious icons.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **The temple demolition campaign devastates devotees.**

05.12.19 - Ignoring pleas from believers and threatening to suppress them, the Chinese regime wantonly destroys Buddhist and Taoist temples, loots their assets.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Dissidents, believers jailed in psychiatric hospitals.**

05.12.19 - Public security officers in China lock up people in mental asylums for money or to avoid the hassle of legal proceedings, subjecting them to years of torture.

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### **Hiding from Police, believers unable to seek medical care.**

04.12.19 - Labeled as most wanted criminals just for their faith, Church of Almighty God members are hunted by the regime, forced into hiding at great risk to their lives.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Believers forced to worship China's only God - President Xi**

04.12.19 - Xi Jinping's personality cult is reaching unparalleled heights as his portraits replace religious symbols not only in places of worship but believers' homes too.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Uyghur act passed by the U.S. House: Good, but what's next?**

04.12.19 - The new law is a tougher version of a bill passed last September in Senate. It still needs Senate and President Trump's approval-and a look at context.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Mosques lose islamic symbols, repurposed for government use.**

03.12.19 - Communist regime continues to forcibly "sinicize" mosques, demolishing Islamic symbols and replacing them with Chinese-style structures.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **For mobile users in China, one 'wrong' word means punishment.**

02.12.19 - A former employee of the largest state-owned telecommunications provider reveals how the regime is monitoring citizens' calls and messages on mobile phones.

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### **Reading the Bible in China: tough times for religious publications.**

30.11.2019 - Any books and printed materials not approved by the regime are confiscated, and religious periodicals are prohibited from being published and distributed.

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### **Enforcing 'Social Stability' through censorship and propaganda.**

30.11.2019 - Amid the US-China trade war, the Chinese regime manipulates public opinion and imposes restrictions on citizens to evade adverse effects on its totalitarian rule.

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## **USCIRF “adopts” 35 Chinese prisoners—25 are members of The Church of Almighty God**

***The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom delivers a powerful blow to China. This proves just how useful USCIRF is, despite criticism by some US lawmakers.***

By Massimo Introvigne



*Former USCIRF Commissioner and Vice-Chairperson Kristina Arriaga with Bitter Winter's editor-in-chief Massimo Introvigne. Arriaga holds in her hands a collection of documents denouncing CCP atrocities against The Church of Almighty God.*

*The booklet held by Kristina Arriaga "**NGOs Unite Against Religious Freedom Oppression in China**" is a publication of Human Rights Without Frontiers. It can be consulted online at <https://hrwf.eu/forb/our-reports/> as well as "**Tortured to Death**."*

Bitter Winter (29.11.2019) - <https://bit.ly/2YzfuyK> - Ms. Du Xiaoqin was born on August 28, 1972, in Xialou Town, Lingbi County, Anhui Province, China. She joined The Church of Almighty God (CAG) in 1998. According to a judgment published in the very official data base China Judgments Online, and reported by pro-government Chinese media, on July 16, 2018, twenty-four CAG members were sentenced to jail terms of 3 to 5.5 years by the Yuhui District People's Court of Bengbu City, Anhui Province.

The police had arrested altogether 36 CAG members, including Du Xiaoqin, while they were gathering in Bengbu and shooting CAG gospel videos. After 45 days of secret surveillance, the police had discovered their six gathering places. On August 29, 2016, the Bengbu police conducted a unified arrest of 36 CAG members and confiscated their video-shooting equipment.

Twenty-four of the CAG members arrested, including Du Xiaoqin, were indicted by the Yuhui District People's Procuratorate of Bengbu City on suspicion of organizing and using a xie jiao, i.e. a religious group prohibited under Chinese law. Information on the remaining 12 arrested CAG members is unavailable. On July 26, 2018, Du was sentenced to 3 years and 6 months and fined 8,000 RMB (about 1,200 USD) by the Yuhui District People's Court in Bengbu under Art. 300 of the Chinese law, the provision against the xie jiao. Du and 17 other CAG members still remain in prison.

The CCP obviously believed that Du and the others would simply be forgotten, subject to the harsh life of a remote Chinese jail where mistreatment and torture are common. The CCP, however, was wrong. Not only scholars have studied these cases of application of Art. 300 as gross violations of religious liberty, and evidence that indeed Chinese law punishes the most elementary forms of religious activity by the groups labeled as xie jiao. Now, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Liberty (USCIRF) has

published a list of 35 prisoners of conscience in China, including Falun Gong practitioners and others. 25 out of 35 are members of the CAG, confirming that the CAG is currently the most persecuted religious movement in China.

What is USCIRF? It is an independent and bipartisan commission of the U.S. Federal Government, created in 1998 to monitor the situation of religious liberty outside of the United States. Its yearly international report is regarded as one of the most authoritative assessments of the status of religious freedom internationally. Part of its mandate is to “adopt” selected prisoners of conscience, whose cases it has investigated. Some of those selected by USCIRF are then personally “adopted” by members of the US Senate and House, who start personally advocating for their cases.

Human rights activists and scholars throughout the world have learned to highly respect USCIRF and its documents. It is an official commission of the U.S. Government, yet it is politically independent. Unfortunately, not everybody likes this independence. USCIRF advocates for religious freedom irrespective whether the perpetrators of human rights violations are good economic partners of the U.S. or otherwise. The CCP and other enemies of religious liberty hate USCIRF with a vengeance. And USCIRF bases its work on the idea that religion is a force for good in the world and should not be persecuted.

Interests hostile to religious liberty have now come together in the US, and certain MPs have proposed a law that would dramatically change the scope of USCIRF, submitting the independent Commissioners to government bureaucrats, introducing a political control of their documents, and extending its mandate to crimes allegedly committed not “against” but “by” religions, in discriminating against others (including atheist, women, and homosexuals). Obviously, these problems also exist, but there are plenty of federal agencies in the US dealing with them. The aim of the law is simply to de-potentiate USCIRF, whose good work has disturbed both countries that are important business partners of the U.S. and American companies that work with them. Naming names would be pleonastic. Our readers easily understand which kind of countries do not like USCIRF.

In protest against the new draft law, Ms. Kristina Arriaga de Bucholz, who has been for years a leading and brilliant Commissioner (and Vice-Chairperson) there, has resigned from USCIRF and explained why in a Wall Street Journal article. Followed widespread protest, the controversial draft bill “reforming” USCIRF was withdrawn. But maneuvers against the USCIRF are not over. The precious work USCIRF does about Chinese prisoners of conscience just proves once again that the independence and the role of the Commission should be maintained and preserved—in the interest not of the U.S. only but of all friends of religious liberty and human rights.

## **HRWF Comment**

As of mid-November, HRWF’s Database of FORB Prisoners in China (<https://hrwf.eu/hrwf-prisoners-database-china/>) contained:

- More than 2800 documented cases of members of the Church of Almighty God
- More than 2000 documented cases of Falun Gong practitioners
- Documented cases of Catholics, Protestants, Muslims, Buddhists

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## **Special Weekly FORB Newsletter (22-29 November)**

**Eliminating buddhism by razing statues of deities.**



29.11.19 - Local governments throughout China intensify efforts to annihilate Buddhist symbols, suppressing believers and spending a lot of money in the process.

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### **USCIRF "adopts" 35 Chinese prisoners-25 are members of The Church of Almighty God.**

29.11.19 - The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom delivers a powerful blow to China. This proves just how useful USCIRF is, despite criticism by some US lawmakers.

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### **Hong Kong's Human Rights Activist Lee applauds U.S. Pro-Hong-Kong law.**

29.11.19 - U.S. took the right course of action, said Mr. Lee Cheuk-yan. Will Europe follow suit?

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### **Hundreds of Buddhist statues demolished in Sichuan Province.**

28.11.19 - Large outdoor statues continue to be targeted for destruction as part of the CCP's nationwide campaign to eliminate all open-air religious symbols.

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### **From Tiananmen to Hong Kong: "The CCP is incorrigible," says Lee Cheuk-yan.**

28.11.19 - A survivor of the Tiananmen massacre, former well-known Hong Kong politician, and now human rights activist, Mr. Lee tells Bitter Winter that Honk Kong's fight for democracy is just as crucial for the West.

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### **Henan: state-run churches closed, assets worth millions looted.**

28.11.19 - Even religious venues that are managed by the government come under severe persecution, the CCP aiming to weaken Christianity and eradicate it eventually.

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### **Arrested for listening to foreign pastors' audio sermons.**

27.11.19 - In the name of suppressing "foreign religious infiltration," the Chinese authorities close down churches suspected of ties with abroad, harass believers.

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### **"La Cina è vicina": Chinese police roaming the streets of Italy.**

27.11.2019 - Is China keeping its citizens in Italy, both tourists and asylum seekers, under watch? A chat between Bitter Winter and Alessandra Bocchi, a young journalist with a long experience of all matters Chinese.

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### **Eliminating christianity through "sinicization".**

26.11.2019 - The Chinese government is forcing believers and the clergy to replace Christian teachings with traditional Chinese culture and socialist doctrine.

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### **Hong Kong, the day after: Voices from the field.**

26.11.2019 - The anti-CCP camp triumphed in the elections. But the real turning point, local experts explain, will come in September 2020, when voters will choose the new executive.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Dead during detention: families suspect foul play.**

25.11.2019 - More and more people die while in police custody or serving their sentences in China's prisons as a result of torture and mistreatment.

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### **Xi Jinping portraits replace catholic symbols in churches.**

25.11.2019 - Places of worship refusing to be controlled by the state are being shut down, while government-run churches are used to worship the Chinese Communist Party.

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### **China's anti-christian student league of 1922: preparing the persecution.**

25.11.19 - Arguments and campaigns of the 1920s against Christianity were still used in subsequent decades, from Chairman Mao to Xi Jinping.

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### **Patriotic education by injecting hatred for democratic values.**

23.11.2019- To cultivate submissive followers, CCP imbues students - from kindergartens to universities - with "red patriotism" glorifying China's revolutionary past.

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### **CCP tightens measures to stop leaks of its repressions.**

23.11.2019 - The regime aims to conceal its devious acts by censoring online communication and classifying anything related to religious persecutions as top-secret.

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## **Special Weekly FORB Newsletter (16-22 November)**

### **Over 1,000 Church of Almighty God members arrested in Shandong.**

22.11.19 - Organized operations to suppress the Church are sweeping across the province; the newest round was launched this autumn in the port city of Qingdao.

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### **Hong Kong: Live coverage by Ed Chin for Bitter Winter.**

22.11.19 - A whole city is transformed into a battlefield. The main organizer of the "2047 HK Monitor" group is there to document developments for us.

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### **Is the West finally ready to support Hong Kong?**

21.11.19 - The US Senate and the UK Foreign Office criticize the CCP. Bitter Winter interviews John Patterson (HK Watch) and Edward Chin (2047 HK Monitor).

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### **Believers brutally tortured for their faith.**

20.11.19 - Members of The Church of Almighty God share horrific experiences of being starved, deprived of sleep, beaten, subjected to other forms of torture during detention.

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### **Students in China indoctrinated to Abhor Hong Kong protestors.**

19.11.19 - Strict control over the minds of university students in the mainland has been imposed to prevent them from being influenced by democratic beliefs and ideals.

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### **"The Xinjiang Papers": Either turning or returning point.**

19.11.19 - Two Uyghur leaders comment on the scoop by The New York Times. Will this change the world's attitude toward China's crimes, or everything will remain as it is?

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### **Facial recognition to spy on people at home, Quash believers.**

18.11.19 - Invasive high-tech surveillance equipment, installed even in public toilets, is used to monitor and control China's residents every step of their way.

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### **China's systematic sabotage of the UN's Human Rights Council.**

18.11.2019 - The author delivered the following speech on November 14 at the Geneva Forum 2019 on human rights, organized by the Department of Information & International Relations of the Geneva Office of Tibet of the Central Tibetan Administration under the title China's High-Tech Repression and Freedom of Religion.

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### **Buddhist Temple in Shaanxi forcibly modified for public use.**

18.11.2019 - As religion "sinicization" campaign sweeps across China, the state repurposes places of worship, replacing spiritual texts and symbols with propaganda.

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### **House Church venues demolished, believers arrested.**

16.11.2019 - House church Christians all over China are brutally suppressed for refusing to join the state-controlled Three-Self Church. Believers are resolute to persevere.

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### **Propaganda intensifies to suppress The Church of Almighty God.**

16.11.2019 - Government-sponsored nationwide campaigns are paving the way for organized operations to arrest members of China's largest Christian new religious movement.

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### **Tibetans cast alarm on high-tech persecution of faiths in China.**

18.11.2019 - The Geneva Forum 2019, hosted by the Tibetan government in exile, documents that CCP's perversity is also exported abroad. Tortured witnesses brought the audience to tears.

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## **39 Falun Gong practitioners in China sentenced to prison in October 2019 for refusing to renounce their faith**

Minghui.org (19.11.2019) - <https://bit.ly/2CTxeeq> - According to information compiled by Minghui.org, the month of October 2019 recorded 39 new cases of Falun Gong practitioners sentenced to prison by the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) court system.

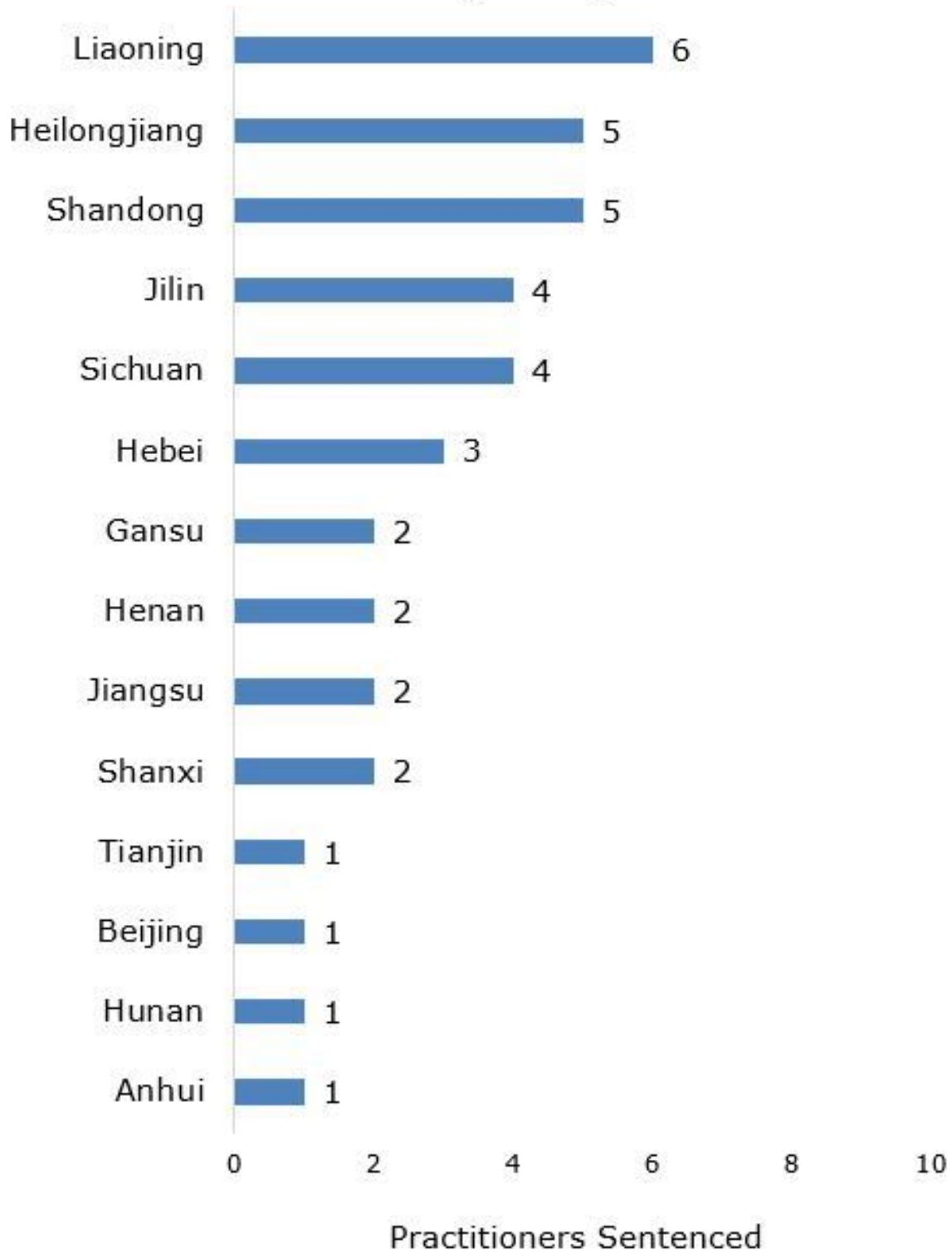
Falun Gong, also known as Falun Dafa, is a spiritual practice based on the principles of Truthfulness-Compassion-Forbearance. Since the CCP started persecuting the practice in July 1999, many practitioners have been subjected to arrest and detention, imprisonment, torture, forced labor, and even organ harvesting.

The practitioners were sentenced for raising awareness of the persecution of Falun Gong, including telling people about Falun Gong and distributing calendars and brochures with information about Falun Gong.

These sentenced practitioners come from 14 provinces and municipalities in China, with the province of Liaoning registering the most sentences (6). The prison terms ranged from 1 to 11 years, with an average of 3.32 years.

## 39 Falun Gong Practitioners Sentenced in October 2019

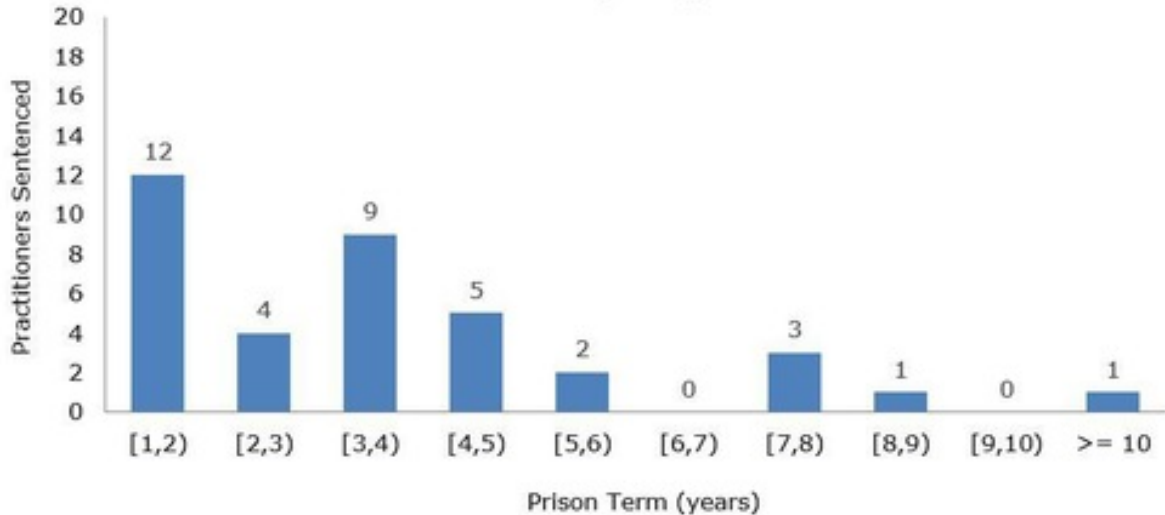
Minghui.org



## Prison Terms of 39 Falun Gong Practitioners Sentenced in October 2019

Not on graph: 2 sentence unknown

Minghui.org



Some of the practitioners sentenced in October 2019 have been repeatedly persecuted for their faith over the past 20 years. Some of their elderly parents or other family members were also implicated.

Due to the CCP's information blockade, the number of Falun Gong practitioners who were sentenced cannot always be reported in a timely manner, nor is all the information readily available.

Among the 39 cases, 11 practitioners had money extorted from them by the police or were fined by the court for a total of 68,000 yuan, with an average of 6,182 yuan per person.

Six of the practitioners are aged 65 or older. Their sentence terms ranged from 1.5 to 7 years, with Mr. Peng Songwei, 71, sentenced to 7 years.

The following is a snapshot of some of the sentenced practitioners.

### ***Dentist Disabled Due to Beatings, Sentenced to 11 Years in Prison***

Mr. Li Yongquan, a dentist in Tianjin, was sentenced to 11 years in prison around October 2019.

Mr. Li was arrested at work on December 28, 2017. He was beaten after being taken to Shangmatai Police Station and became disabled as a result.

Related report: Additional Persecution News from China – May 27, 2019 (7 Reports)

### ***Siblings Sentenced to Prison Six Months Apart for Their Faith in Falun Gong***

Mr. Yuan Bin, 52, of Chengdu City, Sichuan Province, was sentenced to four years and fined 10,000 yuan by Longquanyi Court on October 15, 2019.

Mr. Yuan was arrested on January 24, 2019, for seeking the release of his sister, Ms. Yuan Xuefen, who was arrested on May 21, 2018, for removing propaganda posters attacking Falun Gong.

The siblings' arrests traumatized their parents, who both fell unconscious and were hospitalized. Although their mother was resuscitated, their father passed away from complications.

Ms. Yuan was sentenced to two years on April 28, 2019.

Prior to his latest sentencing, Mr. Yuan has been repeatedly arrested and incarcerated for not giving up his faith. He served one year in a forced labor camp and eight years in prison. He lost his job as a teacher. His wife also divorced him.

Years of imprisonment and torture have taken a toll on Mr. Yuan's health. His hair turned gray, his teeth have fallen out, and his vision has become blurred. He has frequent pain in many of his joints and is unable to lift his right arm due to a frozen shoulder.

Another practitioner, Ms. Ding Shuqing, who was arrested on October 25, 2018, after being reported for using banknotes with printed information about Falun Gong, appeared in court with Mr. Yuan. She was sentenced to three years in prison and fined 10,000 yuan.

Related report: Two Sichuan Residents Sentenced to Prison for Removing Propaganda Poster Slandering Their Faith

### ***Former Prison Guard Given Second Prison Term for His Faith in Falun Gong***

Mr. Dai Qihong, a former prison guard in Mudanjiang City, Heilongjiang Province, was sentenced to five years in prison around October 2019. He is serving time at Mudanjiang Prison.

Mr. Dai went missing during a police sweep of Falun Gong practitioners on June 25, 2019. It was confirmed in July that he had been arrested and detained in the Mudanjiang City No.1 Detention Center.

The local court said his latest arrest was triggered by an earlier arrest in 2017.

Mr. Dai was arrested on August 31, 2017, for seeking the release of a detained practitioner. The police confiscated 18,000 yuan cash from him. He went on a hunger strike to protest the arbitrary detention and was twice hospitalized. He was released on bail on March 6, 2018.

On April 8, 2018, the police ordered him to go to the local police station but he refused to go.

They then told him to go to the Aimin District Procuratorate so that the prosecutor would return the confiscated cash to him.

Mr. Dai went to the procuratorate on April 9, only to be taken to the police station and then to the Aimin District Court. The judge sentenced him to an unknown length of time and ordered the police to take him to prison.

Both the prison and detention center refused to accept him after he failed the physical examination. He was released on bail again, before being re-arrested and admitted to the prison one year later.



Prior to his latest prison term, Mr. Dai, a former guard at Mudanjiang Prison, was arrested on March 20, 2008, and sentenced to five years. He endured savage beatings, force-feedings, and being hung up by the wrists and shocked with electric batons. The guards also deprived him of sleep and forced him to sit on a small stool for long hours. He had injuries all over and was emaciated.

His wife divorced him and he was fired from his job while he was incarcerated. He was destitute after his release.

### ***76-Year-Old Woman Sentenced to 3.5 Years in Prison***

Ms. Li Gang, 76, of Dalian City, Liaoning Province, was sent to Liaoning Women's Prison on October 22, 2019, after being sentenced to 3.5 years in prison for her faith in Falun Gong.

Ms. Li was arrested on March 22, 2018. She was first sentenced to seven years in prison. When she appealed to the Dalian City Intermediate Court, the judge at the appeals court sent her case back to the lower court for a retrial. The judge at the lower court later reduced her sentence by half.

### ***Anhui Man Secretly Sentenced to Four Years in Prison***

Mr. Nie Pengge, 51, a native of Huainan City, Anhui Province, was arrested in April 2019 when working in Zhejiang Province. He was taken back to Huainan and detained at Huainan City Detention Center.

His family was informed by the authorities to visit him on October 30, 2019. Only then did they learn that Mr. Nie has been secretly sentenced to four years in prison without a court hearing. He has been taken to Suzhou Prison.

### ***Heilongjiang Woman Sentenced to Four Years in Prison for Practicing Falun Gong***

Ms. Feng Junqing of Hegang City, Heilongjiang Province, was recently sentenced to four years in prison and fined 4,000 yuan for practicing Falun Gong. She has appealed her verdict with the Hegang City Intermediate Court.

It remains to be investigated when Ms. Feng was tried and when the judge announced the verdict.

Ms. Feng and her husband, Mr. Peng Yanfeng, were arrested at home on February 14, 2019. The police restrained Ms. Feng in an interrogation chair and Mr. Peng in a metal cage with his hands cuffed overnight.

The couple was held in custody for 42 days and released only after the police extorted 20,000 yuan from their family.

Ms. Feng was later indicted by the Xing'an District Procuratorate and taken back into custody. She has been held in the Hegang City Detention Center ever since. The timing of her second arrest remains to be investigated.

Another practitioner Ms. Li Chunhui, 44, was arrested on April 25, 2019, when she went with Mr. Peng to request Ms. Feng's release and urge the police not to participate in the persecution of Falun Gong.

Mr. Peng was released 15 days later, but Ms. Li remained in the Hegang City Detention Center. The guards there claimed that Ms. Li was a key coordinator in the Falun Gong group and denied her father's requests to visit her three times. The father is not only concerned about his daughter's wellbeing but also worries about how her two boys, ages 12 and 9, are going to cope with their mother's imprisonment.

It was reported that Ms. Li has also been sentenced to four years in prison and has appealed the verdict. However, the date that Ms. Li's verdict was announced remained unknown at the time of writing.

### ***Two Jilin Women Sentenced to Prison for Their Faith, Family Threatened by Police***

Two residents of Liaoyuan City, Jilin Province were sentenced to prison on October 17, 2019, for talking to people about Falun Gong.

Ms. Zhang Shufen was given 1.5 years and Ms. Sun Shiduo 1 year by Longshan District Court.

The two women were arrested on June 5, 2019. The police confiscated their Falun Gong books and other belongings. Both have been held at Xiangyang Detention Center since. Ms. Sun's brother-in-law, who happened to be at her home during the police raid, was slapped in the face by one officer and held at the police station for more than an hour. The police also threatened to force Ms. Sun's son, a college student, out of school, if she didn't give up her faith.

Ms. Sun is an only child. Her father just passed away last year, and her sentencing dealt another blow to her mother, who recently became ill and struggles to care for herself.

### ***Liaoning Woman Given One Year for Putting Up a Banner about Falun Gong***

Ms. Huang Keqin, a 55-year-old resident of Fushun City, Liaoning Province, was sentenced to one year in prison and fined 4,000 yuan for hanging up a banner that said, "Falun Dafa is good."

Ms. Huang was arrested on April 25, 2019, and indicted by the Dongzhou Procuratorate on August 9.

Her family went to the local police station and procuratorate to seek justice for her but to no avail.

Ms. Huang was tried by Dongzhou District Court in a makeshift courtroom at Nangou Detention Center on September 4, 2019. Her lawyer entered a not guilty plea for her. She also testified in her own defense.

### ***Woman, 63, Sentenced to 7 Years in Prison***

Ms. Zheng Quanhua's family was informed by Jimo Court in late October 2019 that she was sentenced to seven years in prison.

Ms. Zheng, 63, of Qingdao City, Shandong Province, was arrested on July 17, 2018. She has since been held in the Pudong Detention Center and denied family visits.

Within three days following Ms. Zheng's arrest, the police also arrested her husband Mr. Yu Haibo and daughter-in-law Ms. Liang Yanni and detained them for a month.

The Jimo Court informed Ms. Zheng's family that she was scheduled to appear in late July 2019 but did not specify the location of the hearing. Ms. Zheng's family went to the court on the morning of the hearing, only to be told that the hearing would take place in the detention center. When they rushed to the detention center, the hearing was already over.

Ms. Zheng's grandson was so traumatized by the arrests of his grandmother and mother that he became mute.

Mr. Yu recently suffered a stroke because of the repeated arrests and harassment he has had to face in the past 20 years. He remains hospitalized at the time of writing.

Related report: [After Grandparents and Mother Arrested in Four Days, Young Boy Suffers Post-traumatic Mutism](#)

### ***Single Mother of Ten-Year-Old Boy Sentenced to Three Years for Her Faith***

A single mother in Qingdao City, Shandong Province, was sentenced to a three-year prison term for talking to people about Falun Gong.

Ms. Sui Ying's ten-year-old son was deeply traumatized by her imprisonment and struggled to cope.

Ms. Sui, 44, was arrested on April 10, 2018. She was held at the Pudong Detention Center for four days and released on bail on April 14.

The Huangdao District Court issued a summons on May 29, 2019, ordering her to go to the courthouse to sign a document about her case. After she refused to show up, the judge ordered the police to take her back into custody at the Pudong Detention Center.

The Minghui website recently confirmed that she was sentenced to a three-year prison term. The timing of her sentencing is still being investigated.

This is not the first time that Ms. Sui was arrested.

On October 1, 2000, Ms. Sui was arrested and detained for a month in the Dashan Detention Center when she went to Beijing to appeal for Falun Gong. She was tortured and forced to do unpaid labor.

She returned to Beijing in 2000 and was arrested for doing the Falun Gong exercises at Tiananmen Square. She was later sentenced to two years in the Shandong Province No. 2 Women's Prison.

The authorities transferred her to a local brainwashing center for further persecution at the end of her term and demanded that her parents pay for her living expenses and tuition there.

### ***Two Shanxi Residents Sentenced to Prison for Distributing Materials***

Ms. Jia Baoling, 53, and Ms. Yang Erbian, 62, both retired from a chemical plant in Yangquan City, Shanxi Province, were arrested on March 12, 2019, for distributing informational materials about Falun Gong. The police confiscated their Falun Gong books and many other personal belongings before taking them to Yangquan City Detention Center.

Ms. Jia's father-in-law was in tremendous mental distress following her arrest. He lost his appetite and his health quickly deteriorated. He passed away soon after, at the age of 86.

It was recently confirmed by Minghui.org that Ms. Jia has been sentenced to 2.5 years and Ms. Yang to 1.5 years by Pingding County Court.

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## **Special Weekly FORB Newsletter (09-15 November)**

### **People of faith punished for traveling abroad, even years ago.**

15.11.19 - In the name of resisting "foreign religious infiltration," the CCP prevents believers from going abroad and having any contact with overseas groups or individuals.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Shanxi: 135 Church of Almighty God members arrested in 2 days.**

15.11.19 - Captured during an operation against China's largest Christian new religious movement on September 9-10, 98 believers remain in detention and are indoctrinated.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **The perils of The Church of Almighty God - 2.**

15.11.19 - The third in a series of three articles about an incident used by CCP propaganda to justify its persecution of The Church of Almighty God.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **The perils of The Church of Almighty God - 1.**

14.11.19 - A British researcher encounters a book about a persecuted Christian religious movement in China (1 in a series of two articles).

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Reprisals expand against Catholics rejecting patriotic church.**

14.11.19 - To make all Catholics join the state-run church, CCP continues to intimidate clergy and believers, shuts down charitable organizations.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Labeled as "terrorists," Uyghurs deprived of basic rights.**

14.11.19 - Xinjiang Muslims who live outside the region are put under harsh surveillance and control, discriminated against under the pretext of "de-radicalization."

[Continue reading...](#)

### **"Sinicization" of Islam accelerates in Northwest China.**

13.11.19 - Building on the experiences in Xinjiang, the CCP steps up its suppressive policies against Islam in other "autonomous" regions inhabited by ethnic Muslims.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Resolute to persevere, Christians worship in dire conditions.**

13.11.2019 - A collection of Bitter Winter reports on how Christians in China continue practicing their faith, in the face of persecution, deprived of places to worship.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Tightening control of postal services invades peoples' privacy.**

12.11.2019 - To ensure bans on the mailing of items deemed harmful to the regime, the government conducts covert investigations, severely punishes companies and employees.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Want to enter church? Scan your fingerprints and face.**

11.11.2019 - Hi-tech surveillance equipment is put into use for further control over believers in state-run Three-Self churches in Hubei Province and elsewhere in China.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **More bizarre alterations of Buddhist and Taoist statues.**

11.11.2019 - The CCP is reaching new highs of "creativity" in crushing religious belief, by revamping statues of Buddha and Lao-Tzu to look like Chinese emperors and writers.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **State-run churches shut down and ruined, congregations merged.**

11.11.2019 - The CCP deploys all possible means to reduce the number of Three-Self churches, forcing congregations to sign handover agreements and manipulating them otherwise.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Portraits, statues of Mao and Xi replace deities in temples.**

09.11.2019 - To save Buddhist and Taoist temples from demolition, believers hide or remove religious statues, replace them with images of China's past and current leaders.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **"Art" to prevent demolition: A national catastrophe for religious statues.**

11.11.2019 - After the CCP ordered a crackdown on religious statues, many were modified in bizarre ways as this was the only alternative to destruction. Bitter Winter here collects several typical cases for our readers.

[Continue reading...](#)

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## **Special Weekly FORB Newsletter (03-08 November)**

### **Fearing family clans, CCP eliminates ancestral halls.**

08.11.19 - Tongcheng county government in Hubei Province launched a coordinated crackdown against folk religions by repurposing family shrines built to honor ancestors.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **More house churches subjected to violent attacks and seizures.**

08.11.19 - The Chinese regime spares no effort in assaulting places of worship that are not under its control to force them into joining the official Three-Self Church.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Inside the Shenzhen Family suicide (III): CCP's nazi-style propaganda.**

08.11.19 - The third in a series of three articles about an incident used by CCP propaganda to justify its persecution of The Church of Almighty God.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Inside the Shenzhen Family suicide (II): political driving force behind fake case.**

07.11.19 - The second in a series of three articles about an incident used by CCP propaganda to justify its persecution of The Church of Almighty God.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Mongolian buddhism: Under the shadow of the CCP**

07.11.19 - Since 2012, Buddhists in Mongolia are without an officially recognized Jebtsundamba, their local leader. Beijing claims Mongolia should only enthrone a CCP-friendly Jebtsundamba - or else.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Inside the Shenzhen Family suicide (I): Fake news with countless holes.**

06.11.19 - The first in a series of three articles about an incident used by CCP propaganda to justify its persecution of The Church of Almighty God.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **29-meter-tall Shakyamuni Buddha sculpture blown up in Jilin.**

06.11.19 - Outdoor religious statues continue to be destroyed across China, local officials in charge threatened to be dismissed if they disobey the central government orders.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Something is rotten in the State of Saudis: Non-Muslim Chinese allowed into Mecca.**

05.11.2019 - Uyghur refugee Tahir Imin reveals a major Muslim scandal-and evidence of the pervasive CCP influence on Arab countries

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Jiangsu Province launches new crackdown on Christianity.**

05.11.2019 - To implement direct orders from President Xi Jinping, the Jiangsu provincial government started in July a new targeted campaign in five cities.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Two three-self churches demolished in a Fuzhou Village.**

04.11.2019 - Even places of worship under CCP's control are deemed ideological enemies and also face brutal suppressions: closed down, forced to merge, even destroyed.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Hundreds join a march in Seoul to support Hong Kong.**

04.11.2019 - On November 2, during a rally "Stand with Hong Kong," civil society organizations urged the South Korean government to back the pro-democracy movement.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **On CCP's orders, Bible characters "reborn" as ancient Chinese.**

03.11.2019 - A state-run Christian monthly "sinicized" biblical stories, where Jesus is shown wearing traditional Han attire and Mary is personified as an ancient Chinese woman.

[Continue reading...](#)

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## **Special Weekly FORB Newsletter (25 October – 2 November)**

### **Buddhists across China were forced to celebrate national day.**

02.11.19 - On the 70th anniversary of Communist China, to show their loyalty to the regime, Buddhist masters were forced to sing patriotic songs, nuns ordered to dance.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **30 believers sentenced to long terms in prison.**

02.11.19 - Two courts in Sichuan sentenced a group of Church of Almighty God members to prison - from four and a half to 11 years - and punished them with exorbitant fines.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Mosques, cemeteries "sinicized" in Henan.**

01.11.19 - Home to a large number of Hui Muslims, Henan Province is losing Islamic symbols, as authorities intensify the campaign to expel Saudi and Arabic influence.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Jiangxi Province steps up efforts to quash "unruly" churches.**

01.11.19 - Regarded as "illegal," the churches refusing to join state-controlled organizations are raided and closed down.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Searching for the relatives that are not missing.**

31.10.19 - Families of Church of Almighty God members who fled abroad are pressured to join CCP's efforts to make their relatives return to China, where they will be hounded.



[Continue reading...](#)

### **A new document war at the UN: the free world vs China on Xinjiang**

31.10.19 - Led by Britain, 23 countries denounce mass detention of Uyghurs. China mobilizes its usual Axis of Shame to react. Sadly, a few European Countries, including Italy, did not sign the critical document.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Half of town's temples closed, believers guarding them evicted.**

30.10.19 - To implement orders from the central government, Liuhe town officials in Hubei Province are cracking down on Buddhist and folk religion places of worship.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Jailed believer subjected to forced labor, denied medical care.**

29.10.19 - A Church of Almighty God member recounts to Bitter Winter his horrifying experience serving a four-and-a-half-year jail sentence, received because of his faith.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **1,800 religious statues "disappeared" in a scenic area.**

28.10.2019 - The Arhat Mountain scenic area, built with private funds to pay tribute to Confucianism, Buddhism, and Taoism, came under the government's attack.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Who will pay for Xi Jinping's "vanity projects"?**

28.10.2019 - With China's economic downturn, ordinary citizens are left to suffer as a result of failing policies that were supposed to help them initially.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Every word of support to Hong Kong silenced in Mainland China.**

27.10.2019 - To prevent people from knowing the truth about the pro-democracy protests, the CCP controls online comments, restricts citizens' and officials' travels.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **CCP suppresses any form of christian evangelization**

27.10.2019 - For Christians, one of the most important activities in practicing their faith is sharing the gospel. But not in China, where it is prohibited.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Bishop Shao Zhumin once again taken in for indoctrination.**

27.10.2019 - The bishop of Wenzhou Diocese, detained repeatedly for refusing to join the Patriotic Catholic Church, is under surveillance, forbidden to hold religious activities.

[Continue reading...](#)

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## **Special Weekly FORB Newsletter (19-25 October)**

### **Temples stifled, believers arrested for defending their rights.**

25.10.19 - Over the past few months, multiple Buddhist and Taoist temples were forcibly dismantled or shut down in Hubei Province.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Bans on minors' religious activities enforced throughout China.**

25.10.19 - Ever since the restrictions started being implemented in the beginning of last year, the young are not allowed to practice their faith openly.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **More bad news for the CCP: Uyghur dissident Ilham Tohti wins the Sakharov Prize.**

24.10.19 - Unlawfully detained since 2014, the famous economist has now received one of the highest European awards. For the CCP, denying repression in Xinjiang becomes even more untenable.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **In China, even toddlers' education starts with indoctrination.**

24.10.19 - All are required to embrace the mandatory, all-pervasive "love the Party" doctrine: from 3-year-olds in kindergartens to high school students.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **The Shenzhen Family suicide: More fake news against The Church of Almighty God.**

23.10.19 - Business as usual: the CCP is launching another massive international campaign of defamation, falsely blaming The Church of Almighty God for a multiple suicide.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Two colossal outdoor Guanyin statues demolished.**

22.10.19 - The sculptures of the Buddhist Goddess of Mercy were removed as part of the CCP's campaign to eliminate all large open-air religious symbols.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Erdogan "sinicizes" Istanbul - Uyghurs protest.**

21.10.19 - Turkey needs China's support and tourists. The government is covering Istanbul with signs in Mandarin, something Uyghur refugees regard as offensive.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **CCP increases control over printed religious materials.**

21.10.19 - As part of the campaign "to eradicate pornography and illegal publications," the state targets religious venues, imposes more bans on publications.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **A Sichuan Scenic Area Loses All Buddhist and Taoist Statues.**

21.10.2019 - The CCP is spending exorbitant sums of money and workforce to eliminate all outdoor religious symbols by demolishing or concealing them.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **House Churches with Hong Kong Ties Targeted for Crackdowns.**

20.10.2019 - Amid pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong, the CCP intensifies efforts to shut down house churches in mainland China under the pretext of "preventing riots."

[Continue reading...](#)

### **CCP Members, Officials Forced to Learn "Xi Thought" by Heart.**

19.10.2019 - Party bureaucrats are demanded to always carry quotes by the president and study them; those who can't recite them from memory may face punishment.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **245 Ancestral Halls Converted into Party Propaganda Bases.**

19.10.2019 - Tongshan county government in Hubei Province is repurposing folk religion shrines, in which families have been paying respects to their ancestors for generations.

[Continue reading...](#)

## Special Weekly FORB Newsletter (12-18 October)

### Numerous venues of State-run churches shut down.

18.10.19 - Places of worship, set up by Three-Self churches to facilitate believers with disabilities or in far-away regions, are facing increasing suppression by the state.

[Continue reading...](#)

### Xi Jinping thought invades religious venues.

18.10.19 - For the CCP, it's not enough to replace the Ten Commandments with the president's portraits and quotations. It is now mandatory for believers to study his work.

[Continue reading...](#)

### Arrested for mailing gloves and doorbells to Hong Kong.

17.10.19 - The CCP intensifies control of postal and courier services, imposing especially harsh measures on shipments to Hong Kong, Beijing, and other "sensitive" regions.

[Continue reading...](#)

### Guanyin Statue "hidden" in a giant vase, other icons demolished.

16.10.19 - The Chinese government is determined to destroy all outdoor religious statues in the country, regardless of their location - be it in a temple or a public square.

[Continue reading...](#)

### Is Mao Zedong becoming the main deity in China?

16.10.19 - As religious sculptures and other symbols are being destroyed throughout the country, Chairman Mao statues stand tall for people to worship.

[Continue reading...](#)

### The nightmare of Uyghurs returning to Xinjiang.

15.10.19 - Coming home is usually a happy occasion. But for Uyghurs who work outside Xinjiang, every visit to the native region may end with detention in an internment camp.

[Continue reading...](#)

### African Christian students can't practice their faith in China.

15.10.19 - They are not allowed to have their places of worship or join Chinese. Besides, they have been placed under surveillance and are targeted in secret investigations.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **How Chinese Christians worship in the face of persecution.**

15.10.19 - Even pigsties, sheep pens, and cemeteries can become meeting venues for believers - as long as it allows them to avoid questioning and inspections by the state.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Muslims forced to sing patriotic songs on religious festivals.**

15.10.2019 - Mosques across China are "sinicized" by the regime that forcibly imposes communist ideology on the faithful, removing religious tenets and values from their lives.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Hong Kong, Taiwan residents controlled in Mainland China.**

14.10.2019 - To curb any possibility of democratic sentiment dispersing in the country, the government imposes strict measures on visitors to and from the two regions.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Xi Jinping defeated in Nepal, threatens to "smash opponents into pieces"**

14.10.2019 - The Chinese President reacted angrily after the Himalayan kingdom refused to sign an extradition treaty aimed at deporting Tibetan refugees back to China.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Suppressing Jehovah's Witnesses to "prevent espionage".**

13.10.2019 - More than 100 believers were summoned by law enforcement and investigated, numerous foreign missionaries arrested and deported from China.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **CCP intensifies pressure on catholic conscientious objectors.**

13.10.2019 - The auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Mindong, Guo Xijin, strong-armed again to join the Patriotic Church; rebellious places of worship shut down.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Xinjiang children sent to inland schools for "Sinicization"**

12.10.2019 - "To control Xinjiang youth means to control the region's future" seems to be the slogan behind the CCP's campaign to educate Muslim children in the Han environment.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **"Smart Communities" turn people's homes into prisons**

12.10.2019 - Residents are deprived of privacy and freedom, as the state watches their every move using big data, facial recognition, and invasive surveillance.

[Continue reading...](#)

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## **Special Weekly FORB Newsletter (05-11 October)**

### **Church demolished, believers falsely accused and arrested.**

11.10.19 - After members of a True Jesus Church in Henan refused to have their place of worship repurposed by the state, about 1,000 government personnel came to destroy it.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Obedient "Red Successors" cultivated from young age.**

10.10.19 - Since the first day of the new semester, the CCP has been intensifying patriotic education and anti-religious propaganda in primary and secondary schools.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **True Jesus Church: A Chinese Pentecostal Movement.**

10.10.19 - Founded in 1917, and severely persecuted in the 1950s, this movement whose story is told in a new scholarly book by Melissa Inouye, accepted to join the Three-Self Church-but is now at risk again.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Mandatory DNA collection imposed to expand national database.**

09.10.19 - Forced collection of biometric data intensifies all over China, aimed at even broader surveillance of residents. Ethnic minorities and believers are prime targets.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Three-Self Church clergy dismissed for being "anti-party".**

09.10.19 - Preachers of state-approved churches pressured to replace God with communist ideology. Those who disobey are accused of disloyalty to the regime and are fired.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Social credit-like measures employed to suppress churches.**

09.10.19 - Similar to the infamous national reputation system, used for mass surveillance and control of citizens, churches face closure for "defying" government regulations.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Hui Muslim culture, religion purged in Henan and Ningxia.**

08.10.19 - Muslims outside Xinjiang face growing suppression, as the CCP removes symbols of their faith, controls mosques, executing its five-year plan to "sinicize" Islam.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **One year after the veterans' protest in Pingdu.**

07.10.19 - On October 5, 2018, retired soldiers from across China came to Shandong to voice their grievances but were suppressed by the state they sacrificed their lives to.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Government scams believers to demolish their churches**

07.10.2019 - To prevent members of state-approved Three-Self churches from practicing their faith, the CCP forces them to "donate" places of worship or seizes them forcibly.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **A Taoist God sculpture turned into a billboard.**

06.10.2019 - The government of Chongqing municipality is demolishing Taoist and Buddhist symbols, as part of the nationwide crackdown on outdoor religious statues.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **"Devil's Birthday": CCP's victims remembered worldwide.**

06.10.2019 - As Beijing lavishly celebrated 70 years of communist rule, thousands of protestors in many countries gathered to condemn the brutal regime.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Prisoners of conscience deprived of rights to medical care.**

05.10.2019 - Sentenced to serve time in China's prisons, dissidents and people of faith are denied treatment, left to die. Even severely ill are forced to manual labor.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **CCP's plans to install a false Dalai Lama exposed.**

05.10.2019 - Tibetan leaders convene in Dharamshala and warn the world that the CCP will designate a counterfeit reincarnation of the current Dalai Lama when he will die.

[Continue reading...](#)

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## **60 Falun Gong practitioners in China sentenced to prison in August 2019 for refusing to renounce their Faith**

Minghui.org (07.10.2019) - <https://bit.ly/35jDp8H> - According to information compiled by Minghui.org, the month of August 2019 recorded 60 new cases of Falun Gong practitioners sentenced to prison by the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) court system.

Falun Gong, also known as Falun Dafa, is a spiritual practice based on the principles of Truthfulness, Compassion, and Forbearance. Since the CCP started persecuting the practice in July 1999, many practitioners have been subjected to arrest and detention, imprisonment, torture, forced labor, and even organ harvesting.

The practitioners were sentenced for raising awareness about the persecution of Falun Gong, including telling people about the practice, distributing calendars and brochures with information about Falun Gong, and disseminating information about the persecution using wifi hotspots.

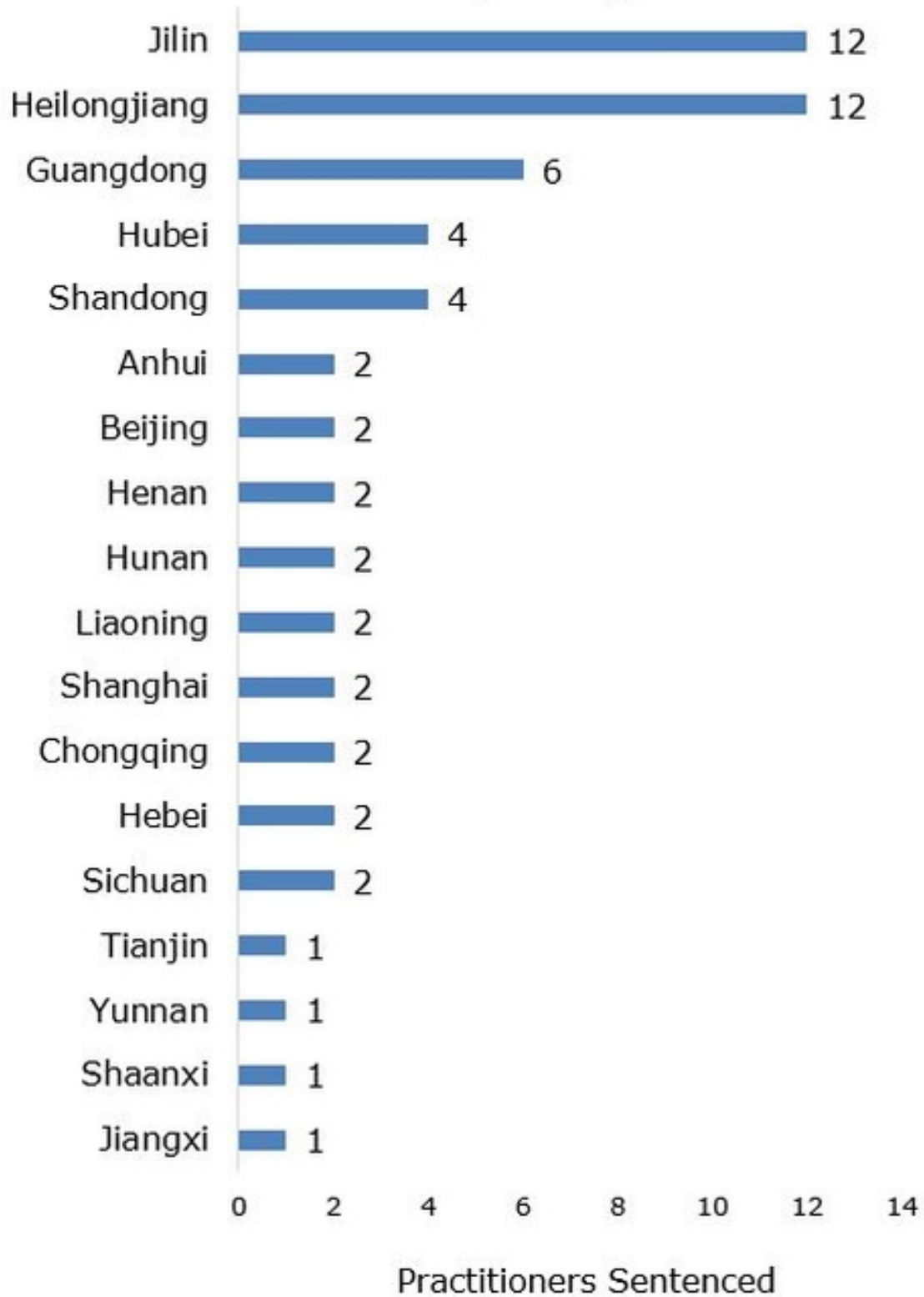
These sentenced practitioners come from 18 provinces and municipalities in China, with the provinces of Jilin and Heilongjiang topping the list with 12 cases each. The prison terms ranged from 1 to 11 years, with an average of 3.36 years.

Due to the CCP's information blockade, the number of Falun Gong practitioners who were sentenced cannot always be reported in a timely manner, nor is all the information readily available.



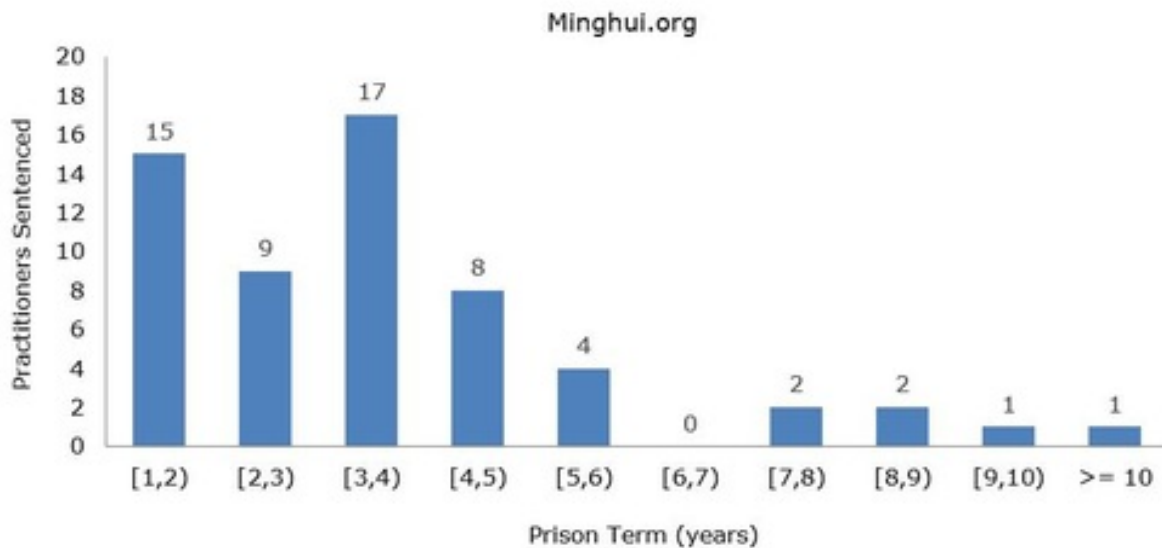
## 60 Falun Gong Practitioners Sentenced in August 2019

Minghui.org



## Prison Terms of 60 Falun Gong Practitioners Sentenced in August 2019

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The police extorted money from, or the court fined, 24 practitioners for a total of 239,000 yuan, with an average of 11,381 yuan per person.

Eleven of the practitioners are 65 or older. Their sentences ranged from one to nine years, with Ms. Ma Yunhua, 70, sentenced to 9 years and fined 20,000 yuan.

The following are snapshots of several of the practitioners who were sentenced.

### ***Jilin Man Sentenced to 11 Years, Two Weeks Following His Arrest for Practicing Falun Gong***

A local court in Fuyu City, Jilin Province, secretly sentenced Falun Gong practitioner Mr. Liu Qing to an 11-year prison term for his faith in Falun Gong, without informing his family. His wife learned of his sentence later, from an insider.

Mr. Liu's sentence came two weeks after he was arrested at his rental place in Songyuan City, Jilin Province, on August 15, 2019. The arrest came four years after he was forced to move to avoid persecution following an earlier arrest on July 16, 2015.

Because Mr. Liu developed serious health problems after 11 days of detention in July 2015 and was frequently harassed after being released on bail, he decided to live away from home to avoid the police.

The police reopened his case a few days after his latest arrest. He appeared in the Fuyu Court on August 27, 2019.

Without enough time to hire a lawyer, Mr. Liu defended himself and argued that he had not violated any laws by practicing Falun Gong and upholding his faith.

According to his wife who attended the hearing, Mr. Liu was emaciated. He had a bandage on his head and a feeding tube in his nose.

She initially thought that he was holding a hunger strike to protest the persecution and was being force-fed. But when she was asked to come to Fuyu Detention Center to urge him to eat on August 29, she learned from Mr. Liu that he wasn't holding a hunger strike but had been vomiting everything he ate.

### ***Hebei Couple Sentenced to Prison for Distributing Calendars about Their Shared Faith***

A couple from Qinhuangdao City, Hebei Province, was sentenced to prison on August 27, 2019, for handing out calendars with information about Falun Gong.

Mr. Li Yanchun, 66, a retired hospital president, was sentenced to 7.5 years with a 20,000-yuan fine. His wife, Ms. Pei Yuxian, also 66, an award-winning oncologist, received four years and a 5,000-yuan fine. The couple said they will appeal the verdict. The two were arrested on November 25, 2018, after being reported for handing out calendars with information about Falun Gong. The police interrogated them for over six hours.

The officers later took the couple to their home and ransacked their residence. When Mr. Li resisted, the officers slapped him in the face, causing his mouth to bleed, and forced him to kneel down with his hands cuffed behind his back.

Mr. Li was released on bail due to high blood pressure after 20 hours of detention, but Ms. Pei was taken to the Qinhuangdao City Detention Center.

They appeared in the Changli County Court on May 31, 2019. Their Falun Gong books, computer, printer, and cellphone were used as "evidence" against them.

The couple's lawyer argued that his clients' possession of Falun Gong books broke no law, according to a notice issued in 2011 by the Chinese Publication Bureau that [revoked the ban on Falun Gong books](#). When the lawyer mentioned the notice for a second time, the presiding judge threatened to remove him from the courtroom should he talk about the notice again.

### ***Two Anhui Women Sentenced to Prison for Their Faith***

Two women from Hefei City, Anhui Province, were sentenced to prison on August 9, 2019, for distributing informational materials about Falun Gong.

Ms. Ding Shumei was sentenced to eight years in prison and fined 50,000 yuan and Ms. Huang Liping was sentenced to five years and fined 30,000 yuan. Both have appealed the verdicts.

The women were arrested in a residential area on October 30, 2017. It was reported that the police had been monitoring the women for months and waited for the two to go out together to arrest them.

The Gaoxin District Procuratorate indicted them on August 6, 2018, and submitted their cases to the Gaoxin District Court, which held two hearings, on November 9, 2018 and May 31, 2019, via teleconferencing.

The practitioners' lawyers pled not guilty on their behalf and the women also testified in their own defense. The judge frequently interrupted them.

The judge convicted them two months later on the grounds that Ms. Ding handed out more than 1,400 copies of Falun Gong materials and Ms. Huang distributed over 700 copies.

This is the second time that both women have been sentenced for their faith.

Ms. Ding was previously sent to a forced labor camp for a year and given a five-year prison term in 2011 by the same court. She was also fired from her job with China Electronics Technology Group Corporation No. 38 Institute.

Ms. Huang was sentenced to eight years by the Luoyang District Court in 2006.

### ***70-year-old Woman Given Another Nine Years for Her Faith after Eight Years of Incarceration***

Ms. Ma Yunhua, 70, of Xi'an City, Shaanxi Province, was sentenced to nine years and fined 20,000 yuan on August 22, 2019, for talking to people about Falun Gong. The sentence came nine months after Ms. Ma appeared in the Lianhu District Court on November 1, 2018. She has appealed her sentence.

This was not Ms. Ma's first arrest. She was sent to a forced labor camp for a year in March 2000 and her company was pressured by the authorities to fire her.

When Ms. Ma was sent to a forced labor camp again in April 2001, this time for three years, she managed to escape but was captured again months later and sentenced to seven years in Shaanxi Province Women's Prison, where she was savagely beaten, water-boarded, hung up, and not allowed to use the restroom.

Ms. Ma was severely injured and traumatized by the time she was released in 2008, but she was arrested three more times—in 2010, 2012, and 2013. She was held in brainwashing centers for months each time.

Because the authorities stopped her pension during her imprisonment, Ms. Ma went to the local police station to seek compensation in April 2014, only to be arrested again.

She escaped from a hospital during a health checkup that was required for further detention and was then put on a nationwide wanted list as a fugitive.

After her latest arrest on February 6, 2018, the police reopened Ms. Ma's case and vowed to give her a long prison term.

Her older sister, who is deaf and in her 80s, frequented different agencies to seek her release, only to be threatened by the police.

### ***73-Year-Old Sentenced to Prison in Illegal Trial***

Ms. Wang Jianhua, 73, from the Nangan District, Jilin Province, was arrested by officers from the Nanlingjie Police Station in the Nangan District around 8 p.m. on April 14, 2018. She was taken to the Changchun City No. 4 Detention Center at 1 a.m. on April 16.

She first appeared in court on May 10, 2019, and then on August 9, 2019. The combined time of the two court hearings was 15 minutes. Ms. Wang was given a four-year prison term and fined 10,000 yuan at the end of her second hearing.

### ***Three Family Members Sentenced to Prison for Practicing Falun Gong***

Three family members in Maoming City, Guangdong Province, were sentenced to prison by the Maonan District Court on August 13, 2019, for their faith in Falun Gong.

Ms. Lin Lizen and her son Mr. Wu Chaoqi were each sentenced to five years with a 10,000 yuan fine. Her younger sister, Ms. Lin Yanmei, was sentenced to 4.5 years in prison and fined 8,000 yuan.

The practitioners' lawyers complained to the judge about the heavy terms. The judge implied that he only announced the verdicts that had been predetermined by the 610 Office and he didn't have any say on it. "Feel free to appeal it if you don't agree," he told the lawyers.

The 610 Office is an extralegal agency tasked with eradicating Falun Gong and given power to override the judicial system.

Ms. Lin Yanmei's son, Wang Ruixin, applied to attend their trial in the makeshift courtroom inside the Maoming No.1 Detention Center, but he was turned down.

The Lin sisters' 86-year-old father, Mr. Lin Tong, was depressed to learn that his daughters had been sentenced. "Why do they persecute good people like this? I will go to the city government to appeal for them," he said.

While arresting the three family members in late August 2018, Chen Changxing (director of the 610 Office) and Lu Shanghui (director of the Domestic Security Division) said, "We've finally arrested you all. Now we can get a bonus."

### ***Arrested While Visiting a Relative, Jiangxi Man Secretly Sentenced to Three Years in Prison***

Mr. Geng Decheng of Yingtan City, Jiangxi Province, was recently sentenced to three years in prison for his faith in Falun Gong. He was arrested on February 27, 2019, when he travelled 70 miles to Jinxi County in Fuzhou City to visit a relative.

Mr. Geng's wife learned of his sentencing four days later after she went to inquire about his case on August 7, 2019.

Fu Shuhua, the head of Jinxi County Domestic Security Office in Jiangxi Province, said that Mr. Geng was sentenced by the Linchuan Intermediate Court in Fuzhou City, Jiangxi Province.

When Mr. Geng's wife demanded to know why she wasn't informed of the hearing, Fu claimed that she had attempted to call her, but no one answered the phone.

Mr. Geng's wife next went to the Jinxi County Detention Center to deliver clothes to her husband. The guards denied having any knowledge of his sentencing. Only one security person said he overheard people talking about Mr. Geng's prison term.

Mr. Geng's wife didn't stay at the detention center for too long, because she had to rush home to take care of their daughter, Weiwei, who had suffered a mental breakdown after witnessing repeated home-ransackings, arrests, and the detention of her parents for their faith in Falun Gong when she was still a little girl.

When the police ransacked Mr. Geng's home on February 28, 2019, following his latest arrest, they even confiscated his daughter's flash drive with her favorite music. She was so terrified that her face turned pale and she began to mumble nonsense to herself.

### ***Four Practitioners in Jilin Province Sentenced to Prison***

Three practitioners from Yushu City, Jilin Province were sentenced by the Dehui City Court on August 13, 2019.

Mr. Liu Fengbao, in his 60s, was given three-and-a-half-years in prison and fined.

Ms. Ding Lijie, in her 40s, was sentenced to four-and-a-half years and fined.

Ms. Yang Yanjie, 52, was sentenced to two years with two years' probation and fined 10,000 yuan.

Mr. Liu, Ms. Ding, and Ms. Yang were followed and arrested by officers from the Zhengyang Police Station when they were hanging banners that said "Falun Dafa is good!" on January 7, 2019.

The homes of Ms. Ding and Ms. Yang were ransacked. Mr. Liu's electric car was impounded and his Falun Gong materials were confiscated. The three practitioners were detained for 15 days before being transferred to a detention center four or five days later. They were officially placed under arrest by the Procuratorate on January 29, 2019.

A fourth practitioner, Ms. Guo Yuzhen, 72, from Wukeshu Town, Yushu City, was given a three-year prison term and fined by the Dehui City Court on August 5, 2019.

Ms. Guo was arrested by Wukeshu Town Police Station officers when she was distributing calendars with information about Falun Gong on December 31, 2018. She was detained for 15 days. She was then transferred to the Yushu City Detention Center on January 14, 2019. She was officially placed under arrest by the Procuratorate about two weeks later.

The four practitioners were tried in the Dehui City Court on April 29, 2019. Mr. Liu Fengbao said in court, "Practicing Falun Gong brings a person health and fitness. If everyone practiced Falun Gong, they would be healthy." A lawyer was assigned to Ms. Guo by the court, but she declined to accept him.

Mr. Liu has previously been arrested six times for his faith. He was twice sent to the Chaoyanggou Forced Labor Camp in Changchun City, where he was mentally and physically abused.

Related report: [Ms. Guo Yuzhen, 72, Given a Three-Year Prison Term; Three Others Tried in Court](#)

### ***Mother of Canadian Resident Sentenced to Four Years for Speaking Up for Her Faith***

An award-winning teacher in Beijing and mother of a Canadian resident was sentenced to a four-year prison term for distributing calendars with information about Falun Gong a week after she appeared in the Shijingshan District Court on August 16, 2019. She is currently detained in Beijing Women's Prison and her family is preparing to file an appeal for her.

Ms. Chen Yan, 51, a chemistry teacher at Beijing No. 9 Middle School, was arrested on December 3, 2018. Her case has received widespread attention in and outside of China.

After hearing about Ms. Chen's arrest, many of her former students called the Shijingshan District Procuratorate and demanded her release.

On the other side of the globe, her daughter, Karen, who currently resides in Montreal, Canada, took to the streets to call for more international support to secure her mother's release.

At the same time, Amnesty International initiated a campaign to rescue Ms. Chen. They urged people to contact Wang Chunfeng, the prosecutor in charge of Ms. Chen's case, and Cui Tiankai, the Chinese Ambassador to the United States.

Many Canadians who've heard about her case wrote letters to the prosecutor and some posted information about Ms. Chen's case on social media.

In response to the global rescue efforts, the prosecutor said that they would release her if she wrote a statement to renounce Falun Gong. Ms. Chen refused to betray her faith.

### ***Having Served 12 Years, Shandong Man Gets Three More Years for His Faith***

A Linyi City, Shandong Province, man was recently sentenced to three years for practicing Falun Gong.

Mr. Gong Maohai's latest sentence came only five years after he served 12 years in prison, also for his faith.

When Mr. Gong was released two years ahead of his previous 14-year term in 2014, his hair had turned gray, his teeth were loose, and he suffered from hearing loss as a result of lengthy physical and mental abuse.

With no place to stay, as his wife had abandoned him and his daughter had gotten married, Mr. Gong did odd jobs to make a living in Linyi City. The police still monitored his phone and tracked his daily activities.

Mr. Gong was arrested again while visiting a practitioner on September 29, 2018. He was tried in the Lanshan District Court on July 11, 2019. His lawyer entered a not guilty plea for him.

*Yunnan Woman, 69, Sentenced to 3.5 Years for Her Faith*

A woman from Kunming City, Yunnan Province, was sentenced to 3.5 years in prison and fined 5,000-yuan on August 30, 2019, for not renouncing her faith in Falun Gong.

Ms. Li Zhuxiu, 69, was arrested on February 27, 2019. The police never informed her family of her situation, and it took them months to find out on their own that she had been taken to the Kunming City No.1 Detention Center following her arrest.

Ms. Li appeared in the Yiliang County Court on July 30, 2019. According to her family who attended the hearing, she looked exhausted and a bailiff had to help her into the courtroom.

Her lawyer entered a not guilty plea on her behalf.

Given her condition, Ms. Li's lawyer requested twice to have her handcuffs and shackles removed, but the judge refused.

Prosecutor Li Haibo accused Ms. Li of "undermining law enforcement with a cult organization," the typical pretext used to frame and imprison Falun Gong practitioners.

Her lawyer argued that no law criminalizes Falun Gong in China and that the prosecutor failed to specify what law's enforcement was undermined by his client and how. The lawyer also challenged the prosecutor for attempting to use her previous imprisonment for her faith as evidence to charge her again.

Ms. Li testified in her own defense and argued that she practices Falun Gong to improve her health and hadn't violated any law in upholding her faith. The judge interrupted her.

Because she refuses to renounce her faith that freed her from kidney stones and stomach problems, Ms. Li has already spent a year-and-a-half in a forced labor camp and three years in prison.

***Guangdong Woman Convicted for Spreading Information about the Persecution of Her Faith***

A Shenzhen City, Guangdong Province, woman was recently sentenced to three years and three months in prison after she appeared in the Nanshan District Court on April 18, 2019.

Ms. Fu Xiufang, 51, was arrested on October 25, 2018, and indicted by the Nanshan District Procuratorate on February 14, 2019, for disseminating information about the persecution of Falun Gong using wifi hotspots.



## ***Sichuan Teacher Sentenced to 4.5 Years in Prison***

Mr. Xia Chenghui, an elementary school teacher in Luzhou City, Sichuan Province, was sentenced to four-and-a-half years in prison in August 2019 and is currently incarcerated in Jiazhou Prison.

Mr. Xia and his wife, Ms. Liu Xiaolin, were first targeted in 2015 for filing criminal complaints against former Chinese communist party leader Jiang Zemin for launching the persecuting of Falun Gong. Ms. Liu was arrested in November 2015 and later sentenced to five years in prison. Mr. Xia escaped arrest but was forced to live away from home for more than two years.

On March 6, 2018, hours after Mr. Xia finally returned home, he was arrested, interrogated, and detained. The police released him on bail 15 days later when he became critically ill. He recovered at home by practicing Falun Gong, only to be taken back into custody months later.

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## **Special Weekly Newsletter (29 September – 4 October)**

### **Article 300: CCP's secret weapon of religious persecution.**

04.10.19 - A study of 200 court decisions published in the scholarly Journal of CESNUR demonstrates that living a normal religious life in a banned group is enough to go to jail in China.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Joining foreign churches means betraying the party, CCP claims.**

03.10.19 - Under the regime's harsh crackdown on overseas religious groups active in China, countless churchgoers forced to give up faith or even end up losing freedom.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Missionaries deported to "resist religious infiltration".**

03.10.19 - The CCP intensifies crackdowns on overseas religious groups in China; believers not allowed to have contacts with foreigners or even watch TV programs from abroad.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Oppressed religious groups joined anti-totalitarianism rallies.**

03.10.19 - To support Hong Kong's protesters and denounce communist tyranny, 65 cities in 24 countries around the world held rallies on September 29.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Clampdowns on house churches continue across China.**

02.10.19 - CCP intensifies its campaign to eradicate places of worship that don't belong to the official Three-Self Church. Bibles destroyed, assets seized, believers arrested.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Documents expose CCP's efforts to manipulate Chinese Diaspora.**

01.10.19 - Provincial governments intensify the "united front work" to track down and use overseas Chinese for expanding the regime's influence abroad and suppressing dissent.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Family blocked from learning the cause of Son's death.**

01.10.19 - 18-year-old Zhang Ning died under suspicious circumstances on a school campus. Instead of getting help and answers, the grieving family faced violence and obstacles.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Beijing ramped up crackdowns on churches before National Day.**

01.10.19 - To celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Communist Party rule, China's capital prepared a "gift" for believers by closing down their places of worship.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **CCP's birthday: A view from Xinjiang**

01.10.2019 - Xi Jinping celebrated with great fanfare the 70th anniversary of the Communist victory in China. The Uyghurs try to tell the world that all that glitters is not gold.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Ancestral halls converted into communist propaganda bases.**

30.09.2019 - Nurtured through generations, sacred places for families to pay respect to their ancestors are taken over by the state for indoctrination, shut down or demolished.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Buddhist sculptures of high artistic value destroyed.**

29.09.2019 - The CCP continues its campaign to dismantle all open-air Buddhist icons. Even pieces of art with religious connotations are not spared.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Suppression of believers intensifies ahead of National Day.**

29.09.2019 - Over 100 Church of Almighty God members were arrested during a nationwide crackdown before the 70th anniversary of the People's Republic of China.

[Continue reading...](#)

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## **Special Weekly Newsletter (22-27 September)**

### **Catholicism in China discussed at a seminar in the European Parliament.**

27.09.19 - Experts convened in Brussels to discuss religious persecution and the aftermath of the Vatican-China deal of 2018, one year after it was signed.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Parents arrested while seeking justice for their dead sons.**

27.09.19 - Numerous questions remain unanswered about the deaths of two boys in Hunan Province. Instead of looking for answers, police persecute the aggrieved family.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Suspicious deaths during detention become the sad norm.**

26.09.19 - The growing number of mortalities in prisons or police custody is another cause for concern as to the state of human rights in China. Two families tell their stories.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Ecclesia Catholica in Sina.**

26.09.19 - Religious Freedom of Catholics in China.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Teachers and students castigated for their faith.**

25.09.19 - Forced to choose between the loyalty to their faith or the CCP, those who select the former pay a heavy price: suspension, expulsion, and life-long repressions.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Hong Kong students fight on, despite efforts to muzzle them.**

25.09.19 - Schools enforce restrictive measures on campuses to prevent students from expressing their support to the pro-democracy movement.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Europe condemns nazism and communism as parallel evils: But what about communist China?**

25.09.19 - A resolution of the European Parliament recognizes that the two totalitarian regimes of the 20th century were twin in crimes against humanity. Someone needs to tell Beijing.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Destroying lives for the sake of a "beautiful countryside" .**

24.09.19 - Land expropriations, demolitions of properties, and even deaths are the results of China's nationwide rural rejuvenation campaign.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Buddhist Deity statue replaced with a giant teapot.**

24.09.2019 - CCP's frenetic campaign to demolish outdoor Buddhist statues has resulted in yet another bizarre spectacle. Religious sculptures in cemeteries also face destruction.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **What it Means to be blacklisted by China's Regime.**

23.09.2019 - Dissidents, the religious, anyone considered "dangerous" by the state, end up on its records and are harassed; even a seven-year-old child and a dying elderly man.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **House churches told to replace God with communist party.**

23.09.2019 - Fearing that the spread of Christianity will pose a threat to the CCP's rule, authorities around Jiangxi Province increasingly suppress private religious venues.



member.

Ablikim Abla, a 22-year-old ethnic Uyghur and Chinese national, was arrested by police in Morocco after arriving at Casablanca's Mohammed V International Airport on Sunday, en route to Germany, and had warned relatives in Istanbul that he might be deported to China, where he could face persecution.

Musajan Hesen, Abla's cousin, told RFA's Uyghur Service on Wednesday that he arrived safely in Istanbul following his three-day detention in Morocco.

"He returned to Istanbul a few hours ago—he sent me a text around 4:00 p.m.," he said, adding that he was "not exactly sure about the situation surrounding his return."

An immigration officer who answered the phone at Mohammed V International Airport told RFA that he had no information about Abla, and details about why he was detained there were not immediately available.

According to family members, Abla's parents took him to Turkey from their home in northwest China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) in 2016 to enroll in school, but were detained upon their return to the seat of Aksu (in Chinese, Akesu) prefecture's Aykol township, where they live and work as farmers.

While Abla's mother is believed to have been released, his father, Abla Jelil, was sentenced to 10 years in prison for sending his son to Turkey, a country with a substantial Uyghur exile population that is blacklisted by authorities for travel by Uyghurs due to the perceived threat of religious extremism.

A spokesperson with New York-based Human Rights Watch told RFA on Wednesday that the organization is investigating Abla's case, but was also unclear why he might have been detained.

"We would like to reiterate that no one should send Uyghurs back to China these days, given the very high likelihood of persecution," the spokesperson said in an email.

Last month, a Uyghur man facing deportation to China from Qatar said that his decision to flee Pakistan was prompted by claims that nine members of his ethnic group had been forcibly returned home from the South Asian nation, where he ran a company with ties to a Beijing-backed infrastructure plan.

Ablikim Yusup, 53, arrived safely in the U.S. in early August with the help of U.S. Embassy officials after initially trying to reach Europe by way of Bosnia, which refused him entry and had sent him to Qatar, where authorities said they would deport him to Beijing, according to media reports.

Yusup had appealed for days for help on social media posts from Qatar's Doha International Airport, saying that he feared for his safety if sent back to China.

Also last month, sources told RFA that a woman and her two toddler daughters were deported to China from Turkey via Tajikistan in June and now face persecution from authorities in the XUAR.

Zinnetgul Tursun and her daughters, Hilal Shehinur and Banu Abdullah, were first sent from Istanbul, Turkey to Tajikistan's capital Dushanbe, and then taken by Chinese police officers on a June 31 flight from Dushanbe to the XUAR capital Urumqi, according to her sister, who lives in exile in Saudi Arabia.

### **Mass incarcerations**

Authorities are believed to have held more than 1.5 million Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities accused of harboring “strong religious views” and “politically incorrect” ideas in a vast network of internment camps in the XUAR since April 2017.

While Beijing initially denied the existence of the camps, China this year changed tack and began describing the facilities as “boarding schools” that provide vocational training for Uyghurs, discourage radicalization, and help protect the country from terrorism.

Reporting by RFA’s Uyghur Service and other media organizations, however, has shown that those in the camps are detained against their will and subjected to political indoctrination, routinely face rough treatment at the hands of their overseers, and endure poor diets and unhygienic conditions in the often overcrowded facilities.

Mass incarcerations in the XUAR, as well as other policies seen to violate the rights of Uyghurs and other Muslims, have led to increasing calls by the international community to hold Beijing accountable for its actions in the region.

On Tuesday, at an event on the side lines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John J. Sullivan said that the U.N. had failed to hold China to account over its policies in the XUAR and should demand unfettered access to the region to investigate reports of the mass incarceration and other rights abuses against ethnic Uyghurs.

***Reported by Jilil Kashgary for RFA’s Uyghur Service. Translated by Alim Seytoff. Written in English by Joshua Lipes.***

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## **Special Weekly Newsletter (15-21 September)**

### **Buddhist temple suppressed despite being "Politically Apt".**

21.09.19- Portrayed as a model of "CCP support and patriotism" for paying respect to revolutionary heroes, the temple in Hebei succumbs to religious persecution nonetheless.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Catholics face obstacles on a pilgrimage in Inner Mongolia.**

21.09.19 - By refusing permits, blocking roads, and sending hundreds of police officers to control believers, authorities impeded the annual pilgrimage to Mozi Mountain.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **State violates farmer's Rights by seizing legally-owned land.**

21.09.19 - The government forcibly demolishes residences and farms under the pretext of "restoring arable land," destroying people's lives, forcing them into poverty.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **September 22: first anniversary of the Vatican-China deal.**

20.09.19 - Time for a sober assessment of the agreement. While it would be excessive to state that all Chinese Catholics oppose it, its application is problematic, dissident priests are persecuted, and underlying theological issues on religious liberty remains unsolved.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **International Day of Peace at the UN in Geneva: How persecuted new religions work for world harmony and justice.**

19.09.19 - A roundtable featured, with many others, CESNUR and The Church of Almighty God.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Lao-Tzu Sculpture Concealed for "Violating Religious Policy".**

19.09.19 - Even symbols of traditional Chinese spiritual teachings are not spared in the campaign to eliminate all religions, as Taoist symbols and temples face demolition.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Church of Almighty God believer dies in Police Custody.**

18.09.19 - Arrested for her faith, Ren Cuifang, 30, passed away on the 12th day of detention. After seeing her bruised body, the family suspects she has been tortured to death.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Zhejiang authorities demolish temples as "Illegal Buildings".**

17.09.19 - Buddhist and Taoist places of worship fall victim to the government's religion suppression crackdowns, which they execute on trumped-up pretexts.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **CCP's campaign to purge disloyal" Uyghur scholars.**



17.09.2019 - Former president of Xinjiang University Tashpolat Tiyp faces execution, as Chinese authorities intensify the "study, purge, resist" crusade against dissent.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Collateral victims of religious suppression.**

16.09.2019 - On top of countless tortured to death for their belief, some people in China choose death over life without faith or die attempting to escape persecution.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Ancient Folk traditions deemed illegal by the CCP.**

16.09.2019 - People making offerings and sacrifices or praying for blessings are punished as part of the authorities' drive to "eliminate feudal superstition."

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Church of Almighty God member pressured to spy on Co-Believers.**

15.09.2019 - Police in China terrorize the religious into becoming agents to collect information about people who escaped religious persecution to foreign countries.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **"Big Brother's" helpers planted in each community to serve the regime.**

15.09.2019 - Grid administrators are given increasing responsibilities to monitor and report on the daily lives of each resident. Believers and dissidents are primary targets.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Is it the Beginning of the End of Human Suffering in Xinjiang?**

15.09.2019 - If the US House of Representatives passes the "Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act," it will be the first such legislation in the world condemning China for its crimes.

[Continue reading...](#)

## Special Weekly Newsletter (9-14 September)

### **Famous Mosque in Zhengzhou becomes a "Sinicization" model.**

14.09.19 - As part of a five-year plan to reform Islam, mosques remodeled to look Chinese and Hui culture suppressed, sparking anger among Henan capital's Muslim residents.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Xi Jinping's quotes replace the Ten Commandments in churches.**

14.09.19 - Implementing its ultimate goal of becoming the sole deity revered in China, the CCP continues to smother the Christian doctrine, replaces it with the party line.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **CCP tightens restrictions on religious publications.**

14.09.19 - Under stiffening laws, printing houses are threatened with fines for publishing anything religion-related. Mailing or buying religious books is prohibited, too.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Tormented Jehovah's Witnesses missionaries leave China.**

13.09.19 - Believers from South Korea are packing their things and get ready to go home to escape CCP's persecutions and harassment they face every day because of their faith.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **The emblematic Case of Dr. Gulshan Abbas one year later.**

13.09.19 - An accomplished professional disappeared in one of the detention camps called "professional schools" by the CCP. A new website launched to aid her liberation.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Islamic culture vanishes from the streets of Inner Mongolia.**

13.09.19 - The CCP continues to annihilate Muslim traditions from the Hui people-inhabited areas by demolishing Islamic architecture and symbols; no signs in Arabic are allowed.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Churches converted for "Civilization Practices" in a new era.**

12.09.2019 - CCP takes over places of worship for new propaganda centers, aimed at instilling "Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics" into people's brains.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Buddhists Suppressed Ahead of an International Sports Event in Wuhan.**

12.09.2019 - Hubei capital's authorities continue repressions against the religious under the pretext of "cleaning up the city" before the start of Military World Games.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Government Closes and Loots Official Protestant Churches.**

12.09.2019 - Breaking the laws and disregarding state-issued religious activity permits, the CCP represses churches, with the ultimate goal to eliminate Christianity in China.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Han Teachers in Xinjiang: Save Uyghur children!**

10.09.2019 - Accounts by four teachers who witness daily CCP's destruction of Uyghur culture and language, psychologically torturing Uyghur youth in the process.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Burial reform: Exhumed bodies and forced cremations.**

10.09.2019 - The ruling to impose cremations in Jiangxi Province sparked protests, which the state quickly crushed. Some elderly chose suicides to be buried ahead of reform.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Government pulls out all the stops to resist foreign religious infiltration.**

09.09.2019 - New testimonies from across China shed more light on the extent of the nationwide operation to suppress religious groups affiliated with abroad.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Missionary and Martyr: Father Friedrich Hüttermann (1888-1945).**

09.09.2019 - The story of a German priest who became a key figure in the Catholic missions to Shandong before being killed in 1945.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **"Sinicizing" Christianity: The Bible according to Confucius.**

09.09.2019 - Three-Self Church clergy forced to interpret the Bible through the prism of traditional Chinese culture - part of CCP's campaign to make religions "more Chinese."

[Continue reading...](#)

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## **Tormented Jehovah's Witnesses missionaries leave China**

***Believers from South Korea are packing their things to go home to escape CCP's persecution and harassment they face every day because of their faith.***

By Li Mingxuan

Bitter Winter (13.09.2019) - <https://bit.ly/2kzN6gC> - "I've never encountered such persecution as in China anywhere else I have been to. There are surveillance cameras everywhere. There is no personal freedom," a Jehovah's Witnesses elder from South Korea summarized to *Bitter Winter* his ten-year-plus experience living in China.

He came to the eastern [province](#) of Shandong over a decade ago to devote himself to missionary work. This year, he decided to return to his home country. He said that like other Jehovah's Witnesses from abroad, he would try to persevere until the end of the year. Now, he is getting ready to sell his apartment before the move.

In mid-August, he asked a fellow local believer to keep some of his religious books and CDs, because he was afraid that they could be used to deport him should the police find them at his home. He was reluctant to part with the books; after all, he has used them for preaching in Shandong for the past decade.

The main reason for his decision is the intensifying suppression against religious movements and groups from abroad. After the [United Front Work Department](#) and the [Ministry of Public Security](#) jointly issued last year the *Work Plan of the Special Operation to Investigate and Deal with Overseas Christian Infiltration According to Law*, authorities throughout China have been cracking down on [Jehovah's Witnesses](#) and other religious groups, like [South Korean Christian churches](#).

Because of the crackdowns, [more and more Jehovah's Witnesses from abroad have been arrested and deported](#). In May, a Jehovah's Witnesses elder was deported back to his home country from Shandong's Qingdao city after the police tracked him down during a religion-related investigation. As a rule, according to Jehovah's Witnesses in China, the deported missionaries are prohibited from returning to China for five years, but church elders are permanently barred from entering the country again.

"To avoid being tracked down and arrested by the [CCP](#), we have installed several 'layers' to enter our meeting venue. First, there is a security door; then, large foam boards are

attached to it, and also a folding partition conceals the door,” the elder from South Korea explained some security measures that they had to implement. “During our gatherings, we keep the windows tightly closed and put up several layers of curtains. Besides, we can’t gather at the same place for a long time and must change the meeting venue whenever necessary. We often have to gather on short notice because we don’t know where the gathering is being held. Since January, our meeting venue has been changed more than a dozen times.”

As part of their customs, female Jehovah’s Witnesses usually wear long skirts to express their devotion to God. In the tense and hostile environment in China, women started wearing pants during gatherings. That way, if the police come to arrest them, they don’t need to change their clothes and can flee immediately – one of the many tricks they were forced to learn [to survive being Jehovah’s Witnesses in China](#).

A Jehovah’s Witness from South Korea who also lives in Shandong told Bitter Winter that seeing foreign missionaries around her being deported, one after another, she and her husband have become more cautious in their daily lives.

“When we need to buy a SIM card or rent an apartment, we ask local believers to do it for us. When property management staff come knocking on our door, we don’t dare to open it. We wanted to take the subway when it had just opened, but after hearing that IDs are checked, we were discouraged,” she said. “Every day, when we open our eyes and see that everything is fine, we thank God.”

“One time, I went to the bus station to pick up a friend, and a person in uniform questioned and photographed me. I was terrified at the time, thinking he was a police officer. I later learned that he was a security guard. It was frightening, but I wasn’t in any danger,” she said with lingering fear while recounting her experience.

Jehovah’s Witnesses in other parts of China also face the same dangers. A member from Cangzhou city in the northern province of Hebei, a native Chinese, recounted to Bitter Winter that last May, five South Korean preachers from one venue were arrested and deported, others were harassed by the authorities. The believer also revealed that to evade the government’s surveillance, believers started using public telephones to contact each other. On their mobile phones, they don’t indicate real names on contact lists, and they never answer calls from unknown numbers.

“We keep our gatherings concealed now. It’s like guerrilla warfare – we’re constantly on the move from place to place. We have no choice. The CCP’s persecution forces us to do this. We have to be careful,” the believer from Cangzhou said. “The government is afraid of us having contact with foreigners, fearing that this will threaten the Communist Party’s regime. We never get involved in politics. All we do when we’re together is worship God.”

Although not on the list of the [xie jiao](#), the activities of Jehovah’s Witnesses in China are regarded as illegal. In mid-April, 17 Jehovah’s Witnesses in [Xinjiang’s](#) Korla city were indicted for “using an evil religion organization” to “incite the obstruction of law enforcement” and one for “obstructing law enforcement by organizing and using an evil religious organization.” It is the first time that [Article 300](#) of the Criminal Code, usually reserved for organizations listed as xie jiao, [was applied against Jehovah’s Witnesses](#).

## Special Weekly Newsletter (1-7 September)

### **Chinese mythological goddesses replace Buddhist deities.**

07.09.19 - The CCP intensifies crackdowns against Buddhists and Taoist outdoor statues by removing or modifying them. Even the smallest religious symbols must go.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Bans on shipment of goods imposed to curb Hong Kong Protests.**

07.09.19 - Masks, helmets, umbrellas, and other "sensitive" items are no longer allowed to be sent from mainland China to Hong Kong and neighboring regions.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **New testimonies help to sort out the mystery of Pastor's suicide.**

06.09.19 - Bitter Winter uncovered more information about the suicide of Song Yongsheng, the leader of the state-run Protestant Church in Henan's Shangqiu city.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Purge of religious symbols invades residents' privacy.**

06.09.19 - The campaign to eliminate unauthorized Islamic and Christian symbols is in full force, religious insignia replaced with communist propaganda or patriotic slogans.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **CCP attempts to enforce social credit in Hong Kong campuses.**

06.09.2019 - An analog of the system that judges people's behavior and reliability was introduced in a Hong Kong school, jeopardizing the education of students with low credit.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **CESNUR Conference in Turin, Italy: A scholarly look at religious persecution in China and the case of The Church of Almighty God.**

06.09.2019 - Holly Folk, Massimo Introvigne, and J. Gordon Melton analyze CCP's religious policy. Sen. Lucio Malan, a hero of religious liberty in Italy, greets a large audience.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **59 households left homeless as the State builds new road.**

05.09.2019 - Violating ownership rights, authorities forced residents in a Henan Province village to give away their homes, without providing new housing or compensation.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Villagers fail to save an ancestral temple from demolition.**

04.09.2019 - After a month of guarding the temple, residents of a village in Jiangxi's Nanfeng county see it turned into ruins, as officials wage war against folk religions.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **House Churches stifled for refusing to be controlled by CCP.**

04.09.2019 - Religious meeting venues that go against government's requirements to joint Three-Self Church are sealed off and their pastors arrested across China.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Singing communist songs while being Christian.**

03.09.2019 - CCP's idea of celebrating 70 years of the People's Republic of China - performances of patriotic songs and dances in churches. For believers, it's an erosion of faith.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Church of Almighty God Members given hefty prison sentences.**

02.09.2019 - Ten believers from Jiangxi Province, arrested last year, were sentenced to prison from 3.5 to 11 years. They did nothing wrong except practiced their faith.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **What is successful education according to CCP?**

02.09.2019 - China's leaders believe that the main cause of radicalism - including protests in Hong Kong - is deficient patriotism and insufficient exposure to communist ideology.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Miracle in Istanbul: A Uyghur school in the Turkish exile.**

01.09.2019 - An interview with Lokman Hira'i, a self-taught teacher who keeps alive Uyghur language and culture among refugee children and teenagers in Istanbul.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Henan: Islamic symbols removed from 50 Mosques.**

01.09.2019 - Crescent moon and star symbols, traditional domes are disappearing, as the CCP carries out its campaign to "sinicize" Islam across the country.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Diocese of Mindong Catholics face further retaliations.**

01.09.2019 - The CCP is pressuring Catholic conscientious objectors to join the Patriotic Church by using the Vatican's pastoral guidelines as an excuse.

[Continue reading...](#)

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## **Special Weekly Newsletter (25–30 August)**

### **CCP's ideological education erodes children's minds.**

30.08.19 - Schools intensify efforts to indoctrinate students with communist thought, ensuring that the "red gene" is alive and is passed on through generations.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **China is suffocating citizens with increasing surveillance.**

31.08.19 - With facial recognition and other high-tech equipment monitoring their every move, ordinary people are starting to feel that they live in a prisonlike reality.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Is something rotten in the World Bank? A story of money given to China for charity that it used to oppress people in Xinjiang.**

30.08.19 - A Letter by the Congressional-Executive Commission on China to the World Bank raises the issue and voices concern. "Foreign Policy" magazine says it's not the first time.



[Continue reading...](#)

### **Massimo Introvigne's 'Black book' of Chinese persecution.**

29.08.19 - A collection of "Bitter Winter's" articles is published in Italy, offering a coherent, updated map of repressions against religion in the land of the red dragon.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Building China's image on the ruins of citizens' wellbeing**

29.08.19 - Ahead of Military World Games in Hubei Province's capital Wuhan, the government is "beautifying" the city by destroying people's homes and businesses.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Xunsiding church: the rise and fall of a house church.**

28.08.2019 - The exemplary tale of a venerable house church in Xiamen, Fujian, whose glorious existence was brutally terminated by the CCP.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Hui Muslims: 'we're facing an unprecedented crisis of faith'.**

28.08.2019 - Hailed for their loyalty to the CCP for years, the "good Muslims" are losing their preferential status and become victims of persecutions just because of ethnicity and faith.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **What would Hippocrates say? Patients forced to divulge their faith before getting medical care.**

28.08.2019 - The CCP requires medical staff to register the evidence of patients' religious belief in databases that the state uses to control every aspect of people's lives.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Patriotic sermons replace pure faith.**

28.08.2019 - The CCP is mandating the five authorized religions in China to hold preaching contests that must include socialist doctrines and elements of traditional culture.

[Continue reading...](#)

## **Xinjiang camp survivor exposes CCP's fake news.**

28.08.2019 - Amid international condemnation, China is falsifying information about the real situation in re-education camps and spreads lies through propaganda.

[Continue reading...](#)

## **State ensures that children stay off religion on holidays.**

25.08.2019 - The CCP strictly prohibits minors from having contact with religion, churches becoming forbidden zone for children. Even during their breaks from school.

[Continue reading...](#)

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## **Another Chinese bishop, two days after the last**

*The country has its second ordination in three days after Beijing ratified the Vatican's recommendation from April*

UCA News (28.08.2019) - <https://bit.ly/2PmdAAR> - The Catholic Church in China has ordained another bishop after the Vatican's recommendation was ratified by Beijing.

Father Stephen Xu Hongwei, 44, was ordained as coadjutor bishop of Hanzhong in the northern state of Shaanxi on Aug. 28, just two days after the ordination of Bishop Joseph Yao Shun of Jining in Inner Mongolia, the first since the 2018 China-Vatican provisional agreement on bishops' appointments.

Bishop Xu was approved as a candidate for bishop by the Vatican on April 11 but, just like Bishop Yao before him, had to wait several months for it to be rubberstamped by the government.

The head of the Bishops' Conference of the Catholic Church in China (BCCCC), Bishop Joseph Ma Yinglin of Kunming, held the ordination and concelebrated with Bishop Aloysius Yu Runshen of Hanzhong, Bishop John Baptist Yang Xiaoting of Yan'an (Yulin), Bishop Anthony Dang Mingyan of Xi'an, Bishop Martin Wu Qinjing of Zhouzhi, Bishop Joseph Han Yingjin of Sanyuan, Coadjutor Bishop John Baptist Wang Xiaoxun of Ankang and Bishop Tong Changping of Weinan.

About 500 people attended the Mass at St. Michael Cathedral in the city of Hanzhong. A local priest, who asked not to be named, told ucanews.com that this ceremony was attended by stronger security than Bishop Yao's.

"All the participants had to register and some of them were not allowed to take in cameras or video recording devices," he said.

A parishioner told ucanews.com that a diocesan priest who is still not recognized by the government was not allowed to attend the ceremony and another one was absent "on travel."

Bishop Xu duly received an approval statement from the BCCCC, declaring that "after verification and a valid election, we give our official approval now. This candidate was approved by the pope."

However, following the signing of the China-Vatican deal, the sentence "This candidate was approved by the pope" is a new addition, while another sentence was omitted compared with the old version.

An ordination ceremony should be undertaken within three months of the appointment being approved by the BCCCC, according to church custom, and "once he is ordained, he becomes the formal successor of the apostles and a member of the bishops' conference." Bishop Xu was born on Jan. 16, 1975, in Shaanxi. He studied in a Xi'an seminary in 1996 and was ordained as a priest in Hanzhong in 2002. He graduated with a master's degree on pastoral theology in Rome in 2008 and served in the Diocese of Vancouver in Canada until 2010.

Hanzhong Diocese has 27 priests, eight nuns and one seminarian serving nearly 20,000 Catholics in 21 churches.

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## **Special weekly FORB Newsletter (17-24 August)**

### **Buddhist, Taoist temples destroyed secretly at night.**

24.08.19 - Authorities across China are demolishing places of worship at odd hours to avoid protests from believers, who are left with no chance to voice their grievances.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **CCP's Go-To tool to curb faith - Forced "Donation" of churches.**

24.08.19 - By coercing congregations into signing mandatory "donation agreements" to give away churches, authorities attempt to present forced takeovers as "legitimate."

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Jilin Province launches a comprehensive program to suppress "Religious Infiltration" from abroad.**

24.08.19 - Confidential documents expose plans to consolidate state institutions' forces in cracking down on groups and activities associated with foreign countries.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Shandong steps up attacks against The Church of Almighty God**

23.08.2019 - Arrest campaigns of CAG members intensify, as the CCP employs high-techsurveillance tools, incites residents to report on believers who have nowhere to hide.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Man spends 20 years fighting the State for unpaid pensions.**

23.08.2019 - An 83-year-old former engineer recounts to Bitter Winter his ordeal petitioning for rightful retirement benefits: brutally beaten and locked in a mental hospital.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **CCP to believers: accept our control, or we outlaw you.**

22.08.2019 - Crackdown on religion continues to escalate in Jiangxi Province, as numerous house church venues are shut down, some forcibly demolished, their assets looted.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Qatar withdraws from Axis of shame.**

22.08.2019 - The Arab Emirate is the first country to admit it is ashamed of having signed the infamous letter supporting China's persecution of Uyghurs.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Losing sleep (and lives) to cram Xi Jinping thought.**

21.08.2019 - Fearing public humiliation or losing their jobs, government employees and Party members spend hours strenuously accumulating points on "Xi Study Strong Nation" app.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Over 40 Three-Self church venues shut down in one city.**

20.08.2019 - The government forced to close these state-run places of worship in Heilongjiang Province's Hegang city in the period of four months - from March to June.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Propaganda against the Church of Almighty God surges in Henan.**

20.08.2019 - By vigorously manipulating public opinion, Henan Province intensifies suppression campaigns that have resulted in the arrest of over 300 believers since January.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Catholics increasingly bullied to join State-run church.**

20.08.2019 - Authorities are pulling out all the stops to shove "disobedient" believers under the state's control: churches shut down, congregations threatened and surveilled.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **The White Paper on Xinjiang: the CCP's latest white lie.**

20.08.2019 - Beijing has published a document claiming that the transformation through education camps in Xinjiang are just beautiful schools.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Persecution and sexual abuse of Tibetan buddhist nuns by the CCP.**

19.08.19 - Expelled from their monasteries, nuns face violence and rape in horrific "detention centers."

[Continue reading...](#)

### **How CCP is eliminating buddhist and folk religion venues.**

18.08.19 - Wanshan Forest Park in Henan Province used to house 13 temples. After numerous government inspections, all of them have been sealed off, believers driven away.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Children become victims of anti-religion campaign.**

17.08.19 - CCP's aggressive policy to keep the young away from churches has caused traumas to children and their families. Testimonies of Christians who have been affected.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Abusing People's Rights, CCP Collects DNA for Tighter Control.**

17.08.19 - A nationwide campaign to forcibly collect people's biometric data is in full swing across China, often misleadingly presented as a means "to fight crime."

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Kazakhstan: Serikzhan Bilash free but silenced.**

17.08.19 - The activist who denounced Xinjiang transformation through education camps is free but had to agree to stop his public campaigns against the CCP.

[Continue reading...](#)

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## **Qatar withdraws support for China over its treatment of Muslims**

**By Zainab Fattah**

Bloomberg (21.08.2019) - <https://bloom.bg/2HjdweI> - Qatar withdrew from a letter signed by dozens of countries expressing support for China's human-rights record despite growing international condemnation over its detention of as many as two million ethnic Muslim Uighurs.

Qatar informed United Nations Human Rights Council President Coly Seck of its decision to withdraw from the July 12 letter, which was signed by mostly majority-Muslim nations, according to a copy of the correspondence seen by Bloomberg. Several calls and e-mails to Qatar's government communications office and the UN mission weren't returned.

"Taking into account our focus on compromise and mediation, we believe that co-authorizing the aforementioned letter would compromise our foreign policy key priorities," Ambassador Ali Al-Mansouri, Qatar's permanent representative to the UN in Geneva, wrote to Seck on July 18. "In this regard, we wish to maintain a neutral stance and we offer our mediation and facilitation services." His signature also appeared on the July 12 letter supporting China.

It wasn't clear what prompted the change of heart. Qatar, the world's largest exporter of liquefied natural gas, would be loathe to damage ties with China, which was the country's third-largest trading partner in 2018 with some \$13 billion in total commerce, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani visited Beijing in January, when President Xi Jinping addressed him as an "old friend and a good friend," according to reports.

But more than two years into a diplomatic and economic embargo by a four-nation, Saudi-led coalition, Doha has also stressed its desire to build ties with the West, including European nations and the U.S.

Thirty-seven countries, including Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, signed the letter defending Xi's government and dismissing its ongoing crackdown on Uighurs in the far western region of Xinjiang.

It was sent after 22 mostly Western nations mounted the first collective global criticism of China's policy toward Uighurs. They urged Beijing to end the mass detentions and expressed concern over "widespread surveillance and restrictions" on Uighurs in a July 8 statement to another UN body, the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

<b>CRITICAL LETTER (JULY 8)</b>	<b>SUPPORTIVE LETTER (JULY 12)</b>
Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, U.K.	Algeria, Angola, Bahrain, Belarus, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Comoros, Congo, Cuba, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Gabon, Kuwait, Laos, Myanmar, Nigeria, North Korea, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Tajikistan, Togo, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela, Zimbabwe

The re-education camps in Xinjiang, a region home to some 10 million Uighurs, have prompted calls for sanctions against Beijing from U.S. lawmakers, human rights advocates and religious groups. The State Department says as many as two million Uighurs are being held in the camps, a number China contests even though it hasn't disclosed an official figure.

Xi's government has defended the crackdown as necessary to combat terrorism and has used Xinjiang as a laboratory for its sophisticated mass surveillance system, from facial recognition technology to security checkpoints at markets.

Qatar has been caught in the crosshairs of the Uighur crackdown before.

Earlier this year, activists worked to stop the deportation of Uighur advocate Ablikim Yusuf from Qatar back to China, allowing him to leave for the U.S. instead. Yusuf had posted a video online from Doha's international airport asking for help to avoid being sent home, where he would face punishment for his advocacy on behalf of other Uighurs.

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## **Special weekly FORB Newsletter (10-16 August)**

**Political courses for clergy, patriotic songs for believers.**

16.08.2019 - Pastors and preachers of state-run Three-Self Church are forced to undergo political re-education, as the CCP is intensifying efforts to "sinicize" Christianity.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Officials punished for ineffective suppression of religion.**

15.08.2019 - Grassroots-level bureaucrats are supervised to ensure their diligence in executing the central government's policies on religion. Any misstep results in a penalty.  
[Continue reading...](#)

### **Organs on demand: China's illegal transplant industry flourishes.**

15.08.2019 - Despite international condemnation, organ harvesting from prisoners of conscience in China has never stopped. One can get a kidney of choice in just two weeks.  
[Continue reading...](#)

### **Religious suppression surges ahead of military World Games in Hubei's Capital Wuhan.**

15.08.2019 - "President Xi Jinping hates to see crosses," declare authorities, as they clamp down on places of worship, in preparations to host the sports event in October.  
[Continue reading...](#)

### **Government continues to dismantle house churches in Fujian.**

14.08.2019 - Accused of "illegality" or "disturbance," terrorized and manipulated, numerous house churches are closed down to make them join the official Protestant church.  
[Continue reading...](#)

### **CCP resorts to bread and circuses policy, seeking to keep people away from religion.**

13.08.2019 - Local authorities intensify efforts in organizing events of popular appeal to make people refute their faith and pray to the only God - the Communist Party.  
[Continue reading...](#)

### **"Please save my husband": Serikzhan Bilash's life is in danger.**

12.08.2019 - Wife of imprisoned Kazakh anti-CCP activist asks the international community to save her husband, claiming he may be secretly deported to China and "disappear" there.  
[Continue reading...](#)

### **The State seized a Three-Self Church in Henan.**

12.08.2019 - Under the CCP's totalitarian rule, even state-licensed churches become "illegal" after well-organized campaigns of threats and manipulations are implemented.  
[Continue reading...](#)

### **Henan wages intense crackdown on Hui Muslims' faith.**

12.08.2019 - The CCP is "sinicizing" Muslims outside Xinjiang, eliminating their culture and religion, as part of the five-year plan. Islam-related symbols are first to go.  
[Continue reading...](#)

### **Guilt by association: Re-Educating Church of Almighty God Believers' families in Xinjiang.**

11.08.19 - The CCP has a new mission: eliminating house churches nationwide within the next two years. In the meantime, it's upping the ante, forcibly shutting down churches and targeting them even in cyberspace.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Buddhist temples "reformed" to become CCP's pawns.**

11.08.19 - The CCP is training abbots as mouthpieces to spread propaganda and requires temples to undergo standardized management assessments.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Hui neighborhoods "sinicized," spreading fear among residents.**

10.08.19 - Buildings in traditional Islamic style and any signs with relevance to Muslim faith are disappearing from areas inhabited by China's Hui Muslims.

[Continue reading...](#)

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## **Special weekly FORB Newsletter (04-09 August)**

### **Hong Kong protests: The Catholic factor.**

09.08.2019 - The Hong Kong Catholic Church's past, present, and future-and decisions to be taken by the Vatican-weigh heavily on the fate of the protest.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **All outdoor Buddhist statues must go, no matter the cost.**

09.08.2019 - Regarded by the CCP as its fiercest enemies, the statues of Buddhist deities are being demolished across China under orders from the central government.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Old churches demolished, new ones not approved.**

09.08.2019 - Defrauded by the CCP, congregations of state-approved churches are left with nowhere to worship after they agree to tear down their dilapidated buildings.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Informants on believers rewarded with cash.**

08.08.2019 - Monetary rewards by the government nurture the culture of snitching in China, putting people of faith in permanent danger and resulting in the closure of churches.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **The land drenched in tears: In Xinjiang, it's the cultural revolution-again.**

07.08.2019 - A moving, timely book. The harrowing memoir of a young Tatar muslim medical student describes the horrific life under the Cultural Revolution in Xinjiang. She says what is happening today is even worse.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Young believer loses sight in one eye after torture.**



07.08.2019 - Seven years ago, a 23-year-old man was imprisoned for being a member of The Church of Almighty God. He continues to be persecuted after his release from custody.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **CCP's fear of the Ten Commandments.**

07.08.2019 - Allowing the Chinese to worship only the Communist Party, authorities are ordering the removal of the fundamental law of Christianity from churches.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **CCP distorts Vatican's pastoral guidelines.**

07.08.2019 - Although the Holy See has demanded that the CCP "respect" those who refuse to join the Chinese Patriotic Catholic Association, they keep being harassed and punished.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Buddhist temples hit hard in Shandong.**

07.08.2019 - The CCP builds up momentum in its effort to eliminate independent Buddhism. Under various pretexts, temples and statues are destroyed, and monks told to "return home."

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Church of Almighty God members "transformed" in Xinjiang.**

06.08.2019 - Alongside millions of persecuted Muslims, CAG members are also sent to internment camps. Those who are not are indoctrinated at home to renounce their faith.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **The CCP Secret Plan revealed: Eradicate house Churches in two years.**

06.08.19 - The CCP has a new mission: eliminating house churches nationwide within the next two years. In the meantime, it's upping the ante, forcibly shutting down churches and targeting them even in cyberspace.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Children of detained Uyghurs left to fend for themselves.**

06.08.19 - Testimonies by Han Chinese about the plight of "orphaned" children in Xinjiang: freezing on streets, monitored by classmates and teachers as suspected terrorists.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **China turning Buddhist and Taoist temples into entertainment centers.**

06.08.19 - Across the country, the CCP is "transforming" temples into cultural auditoriums, government offices and elderly activity centers.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **10 Sola Fide meeting venues in Zibo City, Shandong, shut down.**

06.08.19 - Four of the church's leaders were also arrested in one of the largest operations against this network of house churches.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Orders to State-run churches: Become more Chinese or face destruction**

05.08.19 - As CCP's "sinicization" campaign intensifies, Three-Self churches are forcibly transformed, losing religious symbols and any likeness to European architecture.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Demolish or sell! Three-Self Churches dispersed in Jiangxi.**

04.08.19 - Government-controlled Protestant churches suffer brutal crackdowns, often resulting in closures that leave large numbers of believers without a place to worship.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Worshipping in a bathhouse to evade persecution.**

04.08.19 - To avoid raids and arrests, house church believers disguise their venues or opt to pray in the mountains, just to stay away from the watchful eyes of the regime.

[Continue reading...](#)

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## **Special weekly FORB newsletter (29 July-04 August)**

### **Attacks on Religious Venues Surge in Hubei Ahead of Central Government Inspections.**

04.08.2019 - Provincial and municipal governments are intensifying purges against churches and temples to demonstrate the superiors their achievements in suppressing religion.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Don't Worship Buddha - the State Orders You to Learn Calligraphy Instead.**

04.08.2019 - Buddhist and Taoist places of worship are continuously taken over by the government. Believers are dispersed, religion replaced with "red" cultural activities.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Inform on Religious Friends or Relatives, Get a Reward and Keep Your Job.**

04.08.2019 - Arrest quotas, monetary bonuses, fines, other "stick and carrot" methods are widely used to encourage officials and police officers to suppress people of faith.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Big Brother's "Sharp Eyes" Monitor Religious Venues 24/7.**

03.08.2019 - Each word and movement by believers now tracked, as churches and temples are included in the nationwide massive surveillance project for rural areas.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **The Bizarre of CCP's Crackdowns on Buddhism and Taoism.**

01.08.2019 - The government orders to change the appearance of temples, prohibits religious words and traditional ceremonies. Some believers end up in police custody.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **A County in Henan Launches 5-Star Rating for Churches.**

01.08.2019 - A new control measure imposed on the government-approved churches threatens to close down any religious venue that loses points for disobeying the regime.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **From Actor to Refugee: The Story of Jia Zhigang.**

31.07.2019 - He was once a famous actor in China. Then, he converted to The Church of Almighty God and escaped religious persecution by fleeing to South Korea. The CCP keeps persecuting him even there.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Church "Facelifted" in Preparation for an Inspection.**

31.07.2019 - Three-Self churches ordered to change extensively, replacing religious symbols with communist paraphernalia. If the Party is not satisfied, they risk being closed.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Exorbitant Fines Imposed on Landlords of Religious Venues.**

31.07.2019 - Anyone renting to a house church can be punished with a steep fine - up to \$ 30,000. The measure, supported with propaganda, has left many churches homeless.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Accused of "Foreign Infiltration," Japanese Jehovah's Witnesses Deported.**

31.07.2019 - CCP is surveilling and arresting foreign missionaries across China as part of a nationwide campaign, forcing believers to meet in hiding and conceal their faith.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **"We released 90% of the Uyghurs." The CCP Lies Again, Bitter Winter Reveals the Truth.**

30.07.19 - Xinjiang CCP leaders claim that the majority of the camps' inmates have found "suitable work." In fact, they have not been released but are compelled to work in factories built inside the camps.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **CCP Launches Nationwide Investigations to Prevent Leaks on Religions Persecutions.**

30.07.19 - To make sure that their devious acts are not made public, authorities are chasing for whistleblowers who expose them. The arrested could face severe punishment.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **How China Is Bullying and Blocking the UN Human Rights Mechanisms.**

30.07.19 - A detailed UNPO report documents how Beijing (and other illiberal regimes) is preventing - legally and illegally - the voice of the persecuted from being heard internationally.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Kazakhstan: Bilash Trial Moves to Almaty.**

30.07.19 - Judge rules that the proper venue for the trial of the human rights activist who exposed the horrors of China camps is Almaty rather than Nur-Sultan.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **China Recruits 13 More in its Axis of Shame.**

29.07.19 - Another 13 countries, including Iran, signed the letter supporting the CCP's horrific treatment of Uyghurs and other Muslims in Xinjiang.

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### **Little-Known Prisoners of Xinjiang Camps: Members of The Church of Almighty God.**

29.07.19 - Believers of the single most persecuted religious group in China are detained indefinitely for "transformation," no information is provided to their relatives.

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### **Mandated Love: Children, Businesses Ordered to Worship the Communist Regime.**

29.07.19 - Signs with propaganda slogans required to be displayed outside shops and factories, as kindergarten and elementary school students pledge to follow the Party.

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## **Special weekly FORB newsletter (06-12 July)**

### **Local officials vow to stifle temples: "If Xi Jinping says to demolish, we will!"**

12.07.2019 - Ancient or new, Buddhist, Taoist, and folk religion temples continue to be suppressed; even those with proper government certification and approval are demolished.

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### **No church can be more beautiful than State buildings.**

11.07.2019 - Three government-approved Protestant churches have been destroyed in Shandong's Linyi city for various made up reasons.

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### **Is Huawei a backdoor for the Chinese military and secret services?**

10.07.2019 - A research by Dr. Christopher Balding on the telecommunication giant created by former military Mr. Ren Zhengfei documents the connections that Italian former Foreign Minister Giulio Terzi considers alarming.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Tianjin Diocese: Bishop Melchior Shi Hongzhen forced to join Patriotic Church.**

10.07.2019 - The coadjutor of the deceased bishop of Tianjin is threatened with the annulment of his episcopal rights if he doesn't join the CPCA.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Chess and cards instead of faith: More christian churches repurposed.**

10.07.2019 - The CCP continues taking over places of worship, threatening congregations to demolish buildings if they refuse. Testimonies from Jiangxi, Liaoning, and Shaanxi.

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### **The ideological rape of the Xinjiang youth. For scholar Adrian Zenz, it is cultural genocide.**

09.07.2019 - His new research details (quoting "Bitter Winter" extensively) the attempt to suppress the transmission of the religious and cultural identity of a people through the disruption of families.

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### **A Politburo member's visit to Henan leaves a trail of stifled religious venues.**

08.07.2019 - Eager to prove to higher-ups their gusto in suppressing religions, Xingyang city authorities shattered numerous Christian and folk religion places of worship.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Campaign to deface mosques in Western China heightens Hui Muslims' anxiety.**

08.07.2019 - The CCP is implementing a systematic plan to eliminate the faith and customs of Hui Muslims, as buildings undergo "facelifts" to rid them of Islam-related symbols.

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### **Ms. O again! She insults Islam, Uyghurs, refugees... and Bitter Winter.**

08.07.2019 - Ms. O Myung-ok, the notorious Korean anti-cult and pro-CCP activist, attacks the June 20 conference organized by Bitter Winter and claims Islam "is not one of the world's major religions".

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### **How to survive being Jehovah's Witness in China?**

07.07.19 - Believers from Shandong Province share their experience of how to avoid being identified as religious and evade persecution while practicing their faith.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Over 100 house church believers in Shanxi threatened with arrest to renounce their faith.**

07.07.19 - A place of worship in Taiyuan city was forcibly shut down for "disturbing public order," its congregation members taken away for interrogation.

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### **Looting house churches to prevent their resurgence.**

07.07.19 - To ensure that congregations have no means to reopen closed down places of worship, CCP is confiscating their assets and burning Bibles and religious symbols.

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### **Three-Self clergy warn congregations to beware of fake believers.**

06.07.19 - With increasing surveillance by undercover agents in state-approved churches, churchgoers must exercise caution to avoid being implicated and suppressed.  
[Continue reading...](#)

### **Cooking in Riot Gear - a sign of happy life in Xinjiang.**

06.07.19 - Authorities continue to harass Han shop and restaurant owners, demanding mandatory participation in "anti-terrorism" measures that target their Muslim compatriots.  
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## **Pro-CCP hackers in action: FOREF site attacked**

**Forum for Religious Freedom Europe's most successful videos ever denounced the persecution against The Church of Almighty God's refugees in South Korea. A dark hand (or rather a red hand) made them inaccessible.**

Bitter Winter (04.08.2019) - <https://bit.ly/2OEgVuI> - On July 31, 2019, Bitter Winter published an article by Jia Zhigang. Jia was a well-known actor in China. After he converted to The Church of Almighty God, he had to flee China because of persecution and currently lives in South Korea. Our article led many readers to search Google for Jia Zhigang. They discovered that in 2018, he had already been interviewed by Austrian journalist Peter Zoehrer, and the video was posted on the Web site of FOREF, the Forum for Religious Freedom Europe, a NGO whose president is the world-famous human rightsactivist, Dr Aaron Rhodes.

Actually, for a somewhat exceptional coincidence - believers would rather say thanks to the providence of God - Zoehrer happened to be in Seoul for a conference in the same days when the 2018 false "spontaneous demonstrations" against The Church of Almighty God refugees were organized by the CCP and its Korean fellow traveler, Ms. O Myung-ok. The demonstrations were repeated on July 22-24, 2019 and in both cases ended in disgrace.

Zoehrer was able to document the 2018 false demonstrations, and to produce 14 videos where The Church of Almighty God refugees told their stories of detention and torture in China, and harassment in Korea. These videos were the most successful media production of FOREF ever. They have been downloaded or watched by more than 56,000 viewers.

In the last few days, hackers attacked FOREF's YouTube channel and were able to make eight videos inaccessible, including the one about the false demonstrations of 2018 and seven interviews with members of The Church of Almighty God living in South Korea. One of them was actor Jia Zhigang.

The videos have now been made accessible again. The attack, however, confirms how much the CCP and its minions are afraid of truth. In Communist countries, as Soviet dissident Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn (1918-2008) used to say, "the lie has become not just a moral category, but a pillar of the State."

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## China recruits 13 more in its Axis of Shame

***Another 13 countries, including Iran, signed the letter supporting the CCP's horrific treatment of Uyghurs and other Muslims in Xinjiang***



### Credits

Bitter Winter (29.07.2019) - <https://bit.ly/2Kuq0kr> - China continues its efforts at recruiting fellow travelers into its Axis of Shame of countries prepared to sign letters defending the indefensible and claiming that Xinjiang is a heaven of human rights. According to these letters, the dreaded transformation through education camps, where thousands are tortured, killed, or led to commit suicide are in fact "vocational schools."

The original Axis of Shame, a label Bitter Winter is proud both to have created and to see increasingly used by others, included 37 countries. The CCP has now announced that 13 more have signed, mentioning Iran, Iraq, Sri Lanka, Djibouti, and Palestine. Indeed, that Iran, another egregious violator of religious liberty, was missing among the original 37, was somewhat surprising.

Most countries sign, but realize that what they are doing is not honorable. They are ashamed to be part of the Axis of Shame. They ask the CCP not to make their names public.

Others, among the original signatories, support the CCP with statements and interviews. Some belong to the category of involuntary humor. An "expert" working for Saudi Arabia claimed that, before the enlightened activities of the CCP happily opened their minds, Muslims in Xinjiang were "close-minded." Perhaps nobody informed the Saudis that the CCP uses "de-saudization" as a synonym of "de-radicalization," claiming that the resurgence of Muslim pride in China is due to the evil influence of Saudi Arabia. Or can we expect that CCP experts will be invited to Saudi Arabia to "open the mind" of local Muslims?

More involuntary comic relief was offered by statements from the Venezuelan and Cuban embassies in Beijing. The Cubans said that their government is opposed to any efforts

aimed at "regime changes" in China and elsewhere. One may vaguely suspect that by "elsewhere" they mean Cuba.

Venezuela stated that "China's leadership in human rights is indisputable." This is literally true in Venezuela. Those who would "dispute" that all is well in China, a staunch ally of the Maduro regime-or in Venezuela, for that matter-would go to jail.

What the CCP believes it can achieve by putting together such a shameful circus of human rights violators is unclear. Perhaps, once again, these news are mostly used for domestic consumption in China.

Update July 30: Some media have now published a list, which seems authentic, of the 50 countries part of the Axis of Shame. One European country, Serbia, has unfortunately joined it.



1	ئالجزىيە	Algeria	阿尔及利亚
2	ئانگولا	Angola	安哥拉
3	بېلارۇسىيە	Belarus	白俄罗斯
4	بۇركىنا فاسو	Burkina Faso	布基纳法索
5	بۇرۇندى	Burundi	布隆迪
6	كومورو	Comoros	科摩罗
7	كونگو	Congo	刚果
8	كۇبا	Cuba	古巴
9	شىمالىي كورىيە	North Korea	朝鲜
10	كونگو دېموكراتىك جۇمھۇرىيىتى	DR Congo	刚果民主共和国
11	ئېرىترىيا	Eritrea	厄立特里亚
12	گانبون	Gabon	加蓬
13	رولس	Laos	老挝
14	مىيما	Myanmar	缅甸
15	فېلىپپىن	Philippines	菲律宾
16	نىگېرىيە	Nigeria	尼日利亚
17	رۇسىيە	Russia	俄罗斯
18	سومالى	Somalia	索马索
19	جەنۇبىي سۇدان	South Sudan	南苏丹
20	سۇرىيە	Syria	叙利亚
21	تاجىكىستان	Tajikistan	塔吉克斯坦
22	ۋېنېزۇئېلا	Venezuela	委内瑞拉
23	زىمبابۋى	Zimbabwe	津巴布韦
24	سەئۇدى ئەرەبىستان	Saudi Arabia	沙特阿拉伯
25	پاكىستان	Pakistan	巴基斯坦
26	مىسىر	Egypt	埃及
27	توگو	Togo	多哥
28	كامبودزا	Cambodia	柬埔寨
29	ئومان	Oman	阿曼
30	قاتار	Qatar	卡塔尔
31	ئەرەب بىرلەشمە خەلىپىلىكى	UAE	阿联酋
32	بەھرەين	Bahrain	巴林
33	سۇدان	Sudan	苏丹
34	تۈركمەنىستان	Turkmenistan	土库曼斯坦
35	كۇۋەيت	Kuwait	科威特
36	كامېرۇن	Cameroon	喀麦隆
37	بولىۋىيە	Bolivia	玻利维亚
38	باڭلادېش	Bangladesh	孟加拉国
39	ئىران	Iran	伊朗
40	ئىراق	Iraq	伊拉克
41	پەلەستىن	Palestine	巴勒斯坦
42	نېپال	Nepal	尼泊尔
43	موزامبىك	Mozambique	莫桑比克
44	سېرۋىيە	Serbia	塞尔维亚
45	ئوزبېكىستان	Uzbekistan	乌兹别克斯坦
46	زىمبىيە	Zambia	赞比亚
47	سىرلانكا	Sri Lanka	斯里兰卡
48	ئېكۋاتورىيەل گىنېيە	Equatorial Guinea	赤道几内亚
49	ئوگاندا	Uganda	乌干达
50	جىبۇتى	Djibouti	吉布提

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## China rebuked at UN over Uighur detention

***Over 20 countries urge China to halt detention but fears of potential backlash prevented a formal statement.***

Al Jazeera (10.07.2019) - <https://bit.ly/2NNDHzW> - More than 20 countries have called on China to halt its mass detention of ethnic minority Uighurs in the country's Xinjiang region in the first such joint move on the issue at the United Nations' Human Rights Council, according to diplomats and a letter seen by Reuters news agency.

UN experts and activists say at least one million Uighurs and other Muslims are being held in detention centres in the remote western region of the country.

China describes them as training centres, helping to stamp out "extremism" and give people new skills.

The unprecedented letter to the president of the forum, dated July 8, was signed by the ambassadors of 22 countries. Australia, Canada and Japan were among them, along with European countries including the United Kingdom, France, Germany and Switzerland, but not the United States, which quit the forum a year ago.

It fell short of a formal statement being read out at the Council or a resolution submitted for a vote, as sought by activists. This was due to governments' fears of a potential political and economic backlash from China, diplomats said.

"It is a first collective response on Xinjiang," a Western diplomat told Reuters on Wednesday. "The idea of a resolution was never on the cards."

Another envoy said: "It's a formal step because it will be published as an official document of the Council ... it is a signal."

### ***'Large-scale places of detention'***

The letter voices concern at reports of unlawful detention in "large-scale places of detention, as well as widespread surveillance and restrictions, particularly targeting Uighurs and other minorities in Xinjiang".

It pointedly cites China's obligations as a member of the 47-member state forum to maintain the highest standards.

"We call on China to uphold its national laws and international obligations and to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of religion or belief in Xinjiang and across China," the letter said.

"We also call on China to refrain from the arbitrary detention and restrictions on freedom of movement of Uighurs, and other Muslim and minority communities in Xinjiang."

The letter urges China to allow international independent experts, including UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet, "meaningful access" to Xinjiang.

Bachelet, former Chile president, has pushed China to grant the UN access to investigate reports of disappearances and arbitrary detentions, particularly Muslims of Xinjiang.

Last month, China's ambassador to the UN in Geneva said he hoped Bachelet would take up an invitation to visit. A UN spokesperson said at the time that the trip, including "full access to Xinjiang", was under discussion.

No Western delegation was willing to take the lead and expose itself as a "ringleader" through a joint statement or resolution, diplomats said. China's delegation is "hopping mad" at the move and is preparing its own letter, a diplomat said.

At the start of the three-week session, which ends on Friday, the Xinjiang vice governor responded to the international condemnation of the state-run detention camps by saying that they were vocational centres which had helped "save" people from "extremist" influences.

China had now effectively contained "terrorism" and "religious extremism" in Xinjiang, Vice Governor Erkin Tuniyaz told the Council in an appearance that was sharply criticised by the US.

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## **Ms. O again! She insults Islam, Uyghurs, Refugees... and Bitter Winter**

***Ms. O Myung-ok, the notorious Korean anti-cult and pro-CCP activist, attacks the June 20 conference organized by Bitter Winter and claims Islam "is not one of the world's major religions".***

By Massimo Introvigne

Bitter Winter (08.07.2019) - <https://bit.ly/2NH2Rjr> - Readers of Bitter Winter are familiar with Ms. O Myung-ok, the notorious Korean anti-cultist and pro-CCP activist. We even devoted a successful movie to her unsavory activities. They include publishing, illegally, the pictures and names of refugees of The Church of Almighty God living in Korea, co-operating with the CCP in false demonstrations against the same refugees, and publishing books in Korean to spread CCP propaganda against Falun Gong.

She was mentioned in the conference Bitter Winter co-organized in Seoul on June 20 as an egregious example of how bigotry and hate speech harm refugees, and society in general, in Korea.

She sent some friends to take pictures at the conference, and has now published a report on her Web site churchheresy.com (the name already tells it all, as it implies that she is "the Church" and all those who disagree with her represent "heresy.")

It is an extraordinary article, where Ms. O shows her true colors. Apart from insulting Bitter Winter for, allegedly, disseminating false information (she does not provide examples), Ms. O implies that the conference was co-organized by Falun Gong and offers a long tirade against this movement. In fact, Falun Gong was not among the co-organizers of the conference, there were no Falun Gong speakers, and certainly the doctrines of Falun Gong she criticizes at length were not discussed. The CCP, however, asks that Falun Gong be routinely attacked when discussing religions hostile to the CCP, and Ms. O routinely complies.

It is also very interesting to read that Ms. O., who repeats her shameful and unchristian attacks against The Church of Almighty God refugees in South Korea, asks that they should be dealt with in cooperation with the Chinese government. We told our readers all

along that Ms. O promotes cooperation with the Chinese government and the CCP, but it is nice to hear it confirmed from her own voice.

There is also the fantastic claim that “extremist” Uyghur Muslims participated in the conference, with the usual CCP claims of alleged Uyghur support for fundamentalism and terrorism. In fact, Ms. Nurgul Sawut of Campaign for Uyghurs spoke at the conference. Campaign for Uyghurs is a secular rather than a religious organization. Had Ms O studied at least some first basic facts about Islam, she would have understood that a woman appearing in public without a veil cannot be part of “fundamentalist” or “extremist” Islam.

All Ms. O has to say about Islam is that “it does not recognize the Holy Spirit,” and “distorts” the theology about the same Holy Spirit. Ms. O, whose credentials as an expert of comparative religion are unclear, ends up by offending Muslims in general and concluding that “it is reasonable to regard Islam as a heresy of Christianity rather than acknowledging it as one of the world’s three major religions.” Hate speech and bigotry, indeed.

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