

Table of contents

- ***House Church Under Attack in Guiyang***
- ***Special Bimonthly newsletter (16.03 -29.03.2021)***
- ***Special Bimonthly newsletter (01.03 -15.03.2021)***
- ***Special weekly FoRB newsletter (22-28.02.2021)***
- ***Special weekly FoRB newsletter (15-21.02.2021)***
- ***Enter the "Administrative Measures for Religious Clergy": Be Afraid, Be Very Afraid***
- ***Special weekly FoRB newsletter (08-15.02.2021)***
- ***Henan House Church pastor sentenced to five and a half years in prison***
- ***Church of Almighty God: Over 1000 members sentenced to a prison term for their faith***
- ***Special weekly FoRB newsletter (01-07.02.2021)***
- ***Special weekly FoRB newsletter (25-31.01.2021)***
- ***Special weekly FoRB newsletter (16-24.01.2021)***
- ***Poland top court overturns extradition of Chinese man***
- ***Special weekly FoRB newsletter (09-15.01.2021)***
- ***Polish Supreme Court set to test commitment to rule of law in extradition row***
- ***Special weekly FoRB newsletter (31.12.2020- 08.01.2021)***
- ***Call for Signatures: Letter in support of a Chinese citizen facing deportation***

House Church Under Attack in Guiyang

Guiyang Renai Reformed Church organized private meetings in a hotel room. After a police raid, three members and the elder were arrested.

By Qi Junzao

Bitter Winter (26.03.2021) - <https://bit.ly/202Ltqk> - Because of the CCP's increased surveillance and crackdown on house churches, many of them quietly organize their prayer meetings in hotel rooms. However, there is always the risk that the hotel personnel or others attracted by the monetary rewards paid to those who denounce illegal religious activities report them to the police.

This is what happened on March 16 in Guiyang, a prefecture-level city with a population of 4.7 million and the capital of the south-western Guizhou province. The Guiyang Renai Reformed Church organized a prayer meeting in room 1702 of the commercial building part of the Wenzhou Hotel complex, when the police raided the room and arrested several members of the congregation, accusing three local devotees, Chen Jianguo, Li Jinzhi and Li Lin, of having organized the illegal meeting, which was also attended by out-of-town Christians.

They were taken to Yan'an Middle Road Police Station. The church's elder, Zhang Chunlei, decided to go to the station and negotiate the release of the believers with the police. Instead, he was thrown to the ground by the officers and arrested himself.

Elder Zhang should remain in preliminary detention for 15 days, and we learned that the police are investigating who else participated in the "illegal" activities of the Guiyang Renai Reformed Church. Houses of devotees were raided, and computers and religious materials were confiscated.

The incident confirms that even meetings of quiet prayer in weekdays in a closed environment are regarded as crimes by the CCP police.

Special Bimonthly newsletter (16.03 -29.03.2021)

General

26.03.21 - House Church under attack in Guiyang

Guiyang Renai Reformed Church organized private meetings in a hotel room. After a police raid, three members and the elder were arrested.

[Continue reading...](#)

Tibetan buddhists

25.03.21 - Diluting Tibetan Buddhism to cancel an entire people

Bitter Winter's review of the new report by International Campaign for Tibet. Destroying religion is the CCP's preferred road to destroying Tibet's culture and soul.

[Continue reading...](#)

Uyghur Muslims

27.03.21 - Confirmed: CCP hackers target pro-Uyghur accounts on Facebook

A secret group known as Earth Empusa or Evil Eye is attacking the accounts of those exposing repression in Xinjiang.

[Continue reading...](#)

The Church of Almighty God

19.03.21 - New tortures target Church of Almighty God members

Women and men are sentenced merely for being active in the church, and tortured and humiliated during their detention. Some suffer permanent harm.

[Continue reading...](#)

15.03.21 - Christian mistreated, tormented for refusing to give up belief

In July 2020, Li Huizhen (pseudonym), a Christian of The Church of Almighty God (CAG), was finally got out of prison after she completed her 3-year sentence term for her belief due to the CCP cruel persecution.

[Continue reading...](#)

Falun Gong

29.03.21 - 77-year-old Woman Sentenced to Four Years for Her Faith

After one and a half years of detention, Ms. Wang Xuezhen, 77, lost the ability to walk on her own due to the abuses in custody. She is now facing a dire situation after being sentenced to four years in prison on March 17, 2021, for upholding her faith in Falun Gong.

[Continue reading...](#)

29.03.21 - Shandong man sentenced to seven years for his faith

A Dongying City, Shandong Province, man secretly sentenced to seven years for practicing Falun Gong was transferred to the Shandong Province Prison on March 9, 2021, without his family's knowledge

[Continue reading...](#)

24.03.21 - Falun Gong: Police cracks down on "Nine True Words" meditation

Suggesting meditation to help dealing with COVID-19 is regarded as "use of a xie jiao" and punished with heavy prison terms.

[Continue reading...](#)

Catholics

25.03.21 - Yining (Xinjiang): 'Thanks to you, the church has not been destroyed. But Catholics cannot use it'

Thanks to the pressure exerted by AsiaNews, the church of the Sacred Heart was not demolished. Tensions in the country over the seizure of land. The faithful had already removed the furnishings and decorations. But the building cannot be used because water, electricity and other services have been cut off by the government.

[Continue reading...](#)

22.03.21 - Vatican should speak up on China, scholar says

A Swedish scholar who studies China has called for the Vatican to speak up about human rights abuses by the Chinese government, noting that “dialogue on equal terms is not what is happening.”

[Continue reading...](#)

19.03.21 - Has the Vatican lost its voice in China?

2020 ended on a sad note for China–Vatican relations. News emerged on 30 December that two nuns from the unofficial Vatican office in Hong Kong were detained for three weeks in Hebei in May 2020. They were not allowed to return to Hong Kong and likely remain under house arrest.

[Continue reading...](#)

Special Bimonthly newsletter (01.03 -15.03.2021)

General

05.03.21 - New Report Highlights Severe Lack of Religious Freedom in China

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

[Continue reading...](#)

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

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

[Continue reading...](#)

Uyghur Muslims

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

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

[Continue reading...](#)

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

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

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

[Continue reading...](#)

13.03.21 - "I was a teacher in a concentration camp": Women and the Uyghur genocide

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

[Continue reading...](#)

The Church of Almighty God

02.03.21 - Heavier sentences for Church of Almighty God members

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

[Continue reading...](#)

15.03.21 - Christian mistreated, tormented for refusing to give up belief

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

[Continue reading...](#)

Falun Gong

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

A 54-year-old man died two months after he was imprisoned for his faith in Falun Gong. Mr. Yue Caiyun, a native of Yucheng County, Henan Province, was arrested in Hangzhou City, Zhejiang Province, where he had been living the past few years, on August 21,

2020. The Hangzhou police accused him of mailing informational materials about Falun Gong and held him at the Red Cross Detention Center in Xiaoshan District.

[Continue reading...](#)

15.03.21 - Guangdong women sentenced to two years for reading Falun Gong teachings

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

[Continue reading...](#)

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

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

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

[Continue reading...](#)

Catholics

14.03.21 - Cardinal Bo calls for week of prayer for China Church

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

[Continue reading...](#)

Special weekly FoRB newsletter (22-28.02.2021)

Tibetan Buddhists

25.02.21 - Women routinely raped in Tibetan reeducation camps too

Just like Muslim women in Xinjiang, lay Buddhist girls and nuns are also submitted to systematic rape in Tibet's transformation through education camps.

[Continue reading...](#)

Uyghur Muslims

26.02.21 - UN rights chief says abuses in Xinjiang must be 'independently assessed'

The United Nations lead official for human rights called on Friday for a full and independent investigation of human rights abuses in northwest China's Xinjiang region, where reports say over a million Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities have been held in a vast network of internment camps since 2017.

[Continue reading...](#)

23.02.21 - Canada calls it a genocide

The vote in Ottawa's House of Commons is a slap in the face of the CCP, and a sign of hope for those persecuted in Xinjiang.

[Continue reading...](#)

22.02.21 - Support Hursen Hesen, another persecuted Uyghur intellectual

A filmmaker and actor from Xinjiang committed two capital sins: he was successful, and maintained his Uyghur identity. He has been sentenced to 15 years in jail.

[Continue reading...](#)

Falun Gong

28.02.21 - Once imprisoned for five years, a 69-year-old man sentenced again for his faith

Having served five years in prison, Mr. Duan Yifa, a Jimusi City, Heilongjiang Province resident, was secretly sentenced again for his faith in Falun Gong, a mind-body practice that has been persecuted by the Chinese communist regime since 1999.

[Continue reading...](#)

28.02.21 - Married couple in their 70s sentenced to prison for their shared faith

A married couple in Dongying City, Shandong Province were both sentenced to three years and three months for their faith in Falun Gong, a mind-body practice that has been persecuted by the Chinese communist regime since 1999.

[Continue reading...](#)

Catholics

22.02.21 - Church in China: 2021 dominated by the 100th anniversary of the Chinese Communist Party

This year's work program for Catholics has been drawn up by bishops and the Patriotic Association. Deepen the history of the Party, the Long March, Socialism, aligning with the leadership of Xi Jinping. A Theological Forum on Sinicization is also planned. More than a "pastoral" program, it is a political program in which the "independent and autonomous Church" is exalted.

[Continue reading...](#)

Special weekly FoRB newsletter (15-21.02.2021)

Tibetan Buddhists

16.02.21 - When the Dalai Lama dies, his reincarnation will be a religious crisis. Here's what could happen

A decade ago, the Dalai Lama set himself a significant deadline. The best-known living Buddhist figure in the world said that when he turned 90 years old, he would decide whether he should be reincarnated -- potentially ending a role that has been key to Tibetan Buddhism for more than 600 years, but in recent decades has become a political lightning rod in China.

[Continue reading...](#)

16.02.21 - Gatherings banned in Tibetan areas of China during Lunar New Year

Authorities in Tibetan areas of China are restricting travel and public gatherings during the Lunar New Year period, called Losar in Tibetan, with punishments threatened for those violating the bans, Tibetan sources say.

[Continue reading...](#)

Uyghur Muslims

18.02.21 - Faith leaders condemn Uyghur persecution

Faith leaders across Ireland have condemned the persecution of Uyghurs and other Muslims in China's Xinjiang province in a statement in which they also express solidarity with Tibetan Buddhists, Falun Gong practitioners and Christians in China who, they warn, are facing "the worst crackdown on freedom of religion or belief since the Cultural Revolution".

[Continue reading...](#)

18.02.21 - Two Uyghur students dead, four injured in fire at forced labor scheme dorm

Two Uyghur high school students who were sent to pick cotton as part of a forced labor scheme in northwest China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) died last autumn in a dormitory fire, according to official sources in the region, where forced labor practices have sparked an increasing global outcry.

[Continue reading...](#)

17.02.21 - US President Biden warns China of 'repercussions' for rights abuses in Xinjiang

China will face "repercussions" if it continues to perpetrate human rights abuses against its people, U.S. President Joe Biden said Tuesday, including Uyghurs in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR), where Washington has said authorities are carrying out genocide and crimes against humanity.

[Continue reading...](#)

17.02.21 - Prominent religious leaders persecuted in Xinjiang

One CCP strategy to destroy Uyghur identity in Xinjiang is to identify and jail prominent figures of the Muslim religion.

[Continue reading...](#)

Falun Gong

21.02.21 - Having served 9.5 years and losing her son, 80-year-old woman sentenced again in the persecution of her faith

Having served two prison terms totaling 9.5 years, an 80-year-old woman was sentenced to another 3 years in October 2020 for her faith in Falun Gong. Ms. Zhao Yulan was recently taken to the Liaoning Province Women's Prison to serve time.

[Continue reading...](#)

21.02.21 - Widowed 79-year-old woman faces financial devastation after serving time for her faith

When Ms. Wang Fengying, a 79-year-old resident of Nanchang City, Jiangxi Province, went to withdraw some cash on February 1, 2021, she was surprised to discover 5,000 yuan missing from her account.

[Continue reading...](#)

21.02.21 - After a seven-year prison sentence, Guangdong woman's whereabouts still unknown

After a woman in Foshan City, Guangdong Province, was sentenced to seven years in prison for her faith in Falun Gong, her family is still being kept in the dark regarding her whereabouts.

[Continue reading...](#)

19.02.21 - A life in jail: Falun Gong practitioner arrested again, sentenced to 14 years

Ma Zhiwu, from Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, has been in prison for most of the last twenty years. He will remain there for the next decade and more.

[Continue reading...](#)

Catholics

19.02.21 - China betrays its deal with the Vatican

Beijing has quietly indicated that it will soon abrogate its “breakthrough” 2018 agreement with the Vatican, which was meant to settle a decades-long dispute over the appointment of bishops in China.

[Continue reading...](#)

The Church of Almighty God

16.02.21 - Church of Almighty God refugee cases discussed in new book

Massimo Introvigne and Rosita Šorytė explore while some asylum applications are still rejected, and what can be done about it.

[Continue reading...](#)

Enter the “Administrative Measures for Religious Clergy”: Be Afraid, Be Very Afraid

***Bitter Winter* offer the first English translation of a text converting the clergy in apparatchiks under a system of awards and penalties based on their loyalty to the CCP.**

by Massimo Introvigne

Bitter Winter (11.02.2021) - <https://bit.ly/3bj9qkV> - Here we are. Announced in November, and as usually published for collecting “comments” that never change anything substantial, the new [“Administrative Measures for Religious Clergy”](#) will come into force on May 1.

They create an Orwellian system of surveillance, and strengthen the already strict control on all clergy. The tool is a national data base of the authorized clergy, meaning clergy trained and recognized by the [five authorized religions](#). There is a complicated system to enter the data base, but those who are out of it and will claim to be clergy will commit a

crime. This includes pastors of the Protestant [house churches](#), [Catholic conscientious objectors](#) who reject the [Vatican-China deal of 2018](#) and refuse to join the [Chinese Patriotic Catholic Association](#), teachers and clergy at independent mosques and Buddhist and Taoist temples, Jewish rabbis (as Judaism is not one of the [five authorized religions](#)), and religious personnel of new religious movements. They will now be immediately identified: they will not have a clergy card, and will not be included in the national data base.

To be registered in the data base, it is not enough to be proficient in one of the authorized religions. The clergy should prove that they “support the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party and support the socialist system” (article 3: note that this article is repeatedly mentioned in the Measures as the key to the whole regulation), and cooperate in the fight against the [xie jiao](#) and other illegal or “extremist” religions (article 6E).

Things do not end when a clergy is registered in the data base. It is difficult to be registered, easy to lose the registration. As for being registered, a clergy will have special problems if s/he is part of the “high clergy” (provisions are stricter), particularly Tibetan Buddhist, or Roman Catholic. [Tibetan Buddhists](#) are reminded by article 15 that they should respect the principle that any reincarnation of a lama should be authorized by the [CCP](#) ([we discussed this bizarre system](#) in a previous article in *Bitter Winter*). In a slap of the face of the Vatican, Catholics are told by article 16 that bishops in China should be democratically elected through the [Chinese Patriotic Catholic Association](#), i.e., appointed by the [CCP](#), and consecrated through the Chinese Catholic Bishops Conference. There is no mention of the Vatican or the Pope, which in theory should appoint the bishops under the [Vatican-China deal of 2018](#), renewed in 2020. Also, the socialist principle that those of teach in a religious community should submit to the “religious teaching guidance” of the community rather than the other way round is proclaimed by Article 43.

Once registered, the clergy enters an Orwellian world whether loyalty to the [CCP](#) and love for the Party is assessed periodically, in a system similar to social credit. The clergy receives awards and punishments, and if the latter exceeds the former registration in the data base is lost and worse consequences are threatened.

Compliant clergy is thus transformed into apparatchiks of the [CCP](#), lured by rewards and terrorized by punishments. They will be called to “Sinicize” their religions and preach love for the [CCP](#) to their devotees. Not much will be left of genuine religion—which is precisely the aim of these and other previous measures.

The full translation of the Measures follows.

Administrative Measures for Religious Clergy

[State Administration of Religious Affairs](#) Order No. 15

These Measures for the Administration of Religious Clergy have been considered and adopted by the [State Administration of Religious Affairs](#) in accordance with the prescribed procedures on January 8, 2021, and are hereby promulgated and shall come into effect on May 1, 2021.

Chapter I General Provisions

Article I In order to regulate the management of religious clergy, and to protect the legitimate rights and interests of religious clergy, according to the "Regulations on Religious Affairs," the present measures are formulated.

Article II The religious clergy referred to in these measures, identified according to the definition of religious clergy according to law, can engage in religious teaching activities.

Article III Religious clergy should love the motherland, support the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party, support the socialist system, abide by the Constitution, laws, regulations, and rules, practice the core values of socialism, adhere to the principle of independent and self-administered religion in China, adhere to the direction of the [Sinicization](#) of religion in China, operate to maintain national unity, national unity, religious harmony, and social stability.

Article IV Religious affairs departments, in accordance with the administrative management of religious clergy, should protect the legitimate rights and interests of religious clergy, religious groups, religious institutions, and religious activities; train, manage religious clergy, and guide religious clergy to play an active role in promoting economic and social development.

Chapter II Rights and Obligations of Religious Clergy

Article V Religious clergy shall enjoy the following rights.

(A) to preside over religious activities, religious ceremonies.

(B) engage in the collation of religious texts, religious doctrine and regulations, and religious culture research.

(C) engage in and receive religious education and training.

(D) participate in the management of their religious groups, religious institutions, and religious activity sites, and hold corresponding positions in accordance with procedures.

(E) carry out public welfare and charitable activities.

(F) participate in social security and enjoy related rights.

(G) other rights provided by laws, regulations, and rules.

Article VI Religious clergy shall fulfill the following obligations:

(A) to safeguard the national interest and the public interest, within the scope of the laws, regulations, and rules in carrying out their activities.

(B) follow the instruction of the religious affairs departments and other relevant departments in accordance with the law.

(C) abide by the rules and regulations established for religious groups, and accept the management of the religious groups, religious institutions, and religious activity sites where they are located.

(D) serve the citizens of the faith and guide them to be patriotic and law-abiding.

(E) maintain the normal order of religious activities, resist illegal religious activities and religious extremist ideology, and resist infiltration by foreign forces using religion.

(F) maintain and promote harmony between different religions, within the same religion, and between believing and non-believing citizens.

(G) follow all other obligations under the laws, regulations, and rules.

Article VII Religious clergy should focus on improving their own quality, improve cultural and moral literacy, research doctrine and regulations always trying to favor social harmony, progress of the times, and healthy and civilized contents, and also through their sermons, should play a role in promoting the [Sinicization](#) of religion in China.

Article VIII Religious clergy, when publishing religious information on the Internet, should comply with the relevant provisions of the national Internet information regulations.

Article IX Religious clergy income should be obtained in accordance with the laws, regulations, rules, and policies, as well as the provisions of the rules and regulations of the different religious groups.

Religious clergy shall distinguish between personal property and the property of religious groups, religious institutions, religious activity sites, shall not misappropriate, appropriate, destroy, or unauthorizedly dispose of the legitimate property of religious groups, religious institutions, religious activity sites.

Religious clergy shall pay taxes in accordance with the law, and respect the laws for tax returns.

Article X In religious groups, religious institutions, religious activities, the activities of the clergy in charge or engaged in financial-related work should be in accordance with national financial, accounting, asset management regulations, and rules on financial management responsibilities.

Article XI When religious clergy from out of the country has religious contacts with Chinese clergy, this should be in accordance with the relevant state regulations and procedures.

Article XII Religious clergy shall not perform the following acts:

(A) endanger national security, public safety, promote, support, finance religious extremism, undermine national unity, split the country, support terrorist activities, or participate in related activities.

(B) interfere with the implementation of administrative, judicial, educational, and other state functions.

(C) Being dominated by foreign forces, accepting the appointment of teaching positions by foreign religious groups or institutions without authorization, and other acts that violate the principle of independence and self-administration of religion.

(D) violate relevant state regulations when accepting donations from within and outside the country.

(E) affect the normal productive activities and life of the citizens.

(F) organize, host, or participate in unauthorized religious activities held outside the authorized places of religious activities.

(G) use public charity activities to preach, preach in schools and other educational institutions other than religious institutions, and engage in other violations of state regulations for preaching.

(H) make commercial propaganda in the name of religion.

(I) other violations of laws, regulations, and rules.

Chapter III Qualifications of Religious Clergy

Article XIII Whether religious clergy is qualified should be identified by authorized religious groups, and reported to the Religious Affairs Department for recording purposes.

National religious groups shall train the religious clergy of the religion and determine the training method and the title attributed to religious clergy, determine the conditions and procedures, etc. The conditions shall include the content of Article III of these measures. National religious groups should develop religious clergy identification methods and report them to the [State Administration of Religious Affairs](#) for recording purposes.

Religious groups shall identify religious clergy in accordance with the rules of the national religious groups for identifying religious clergy.

Article XIV Religious groups shall identify religious clergy within twenty days from the date, fill out the religious clergy filing form, reported to the religious affairs department recording purposes, and submit a copy of the file of the proposed religious clergy for recording purposes with a copy of each clergy's resident ID card.

National religious groups identify religious clergy, and report to the [State Administration of Religious Affairs](#) for recording purposes; religious groups in provinces, autonomous regions, municipalities directly under the Central Government, identify the local religious clergy, and report to the provincial people's government religious affairs departments for recording purposes; religious groups in municipalities (prefectures, states, leagues) identify the local religious clergy, and report to the municipal people's government religious affairs departments for recording purposes; religious groups in counties (cities, districts, banners) identify the local religious clergy, and report to the [county](#) people's government religious affairs departments for recording purposes.

The forms developed by the [State Administration of Religious Affairs](#) should be used for registering clergy for recording purposes.

Article XV Tibetan Buddhism's succession of living Buddhas should be regulated in accordance with the "Regulations on Religious Affairs," the "Tibetan Buddhism Reincarnation Management Measures," and other relevant provisions.

Article XVI Catholic bishops are approved and consecrated by the Chinese Catholic Bishops' Conference. The Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association and the Chinese Catholic Bishops' Conference shall, within twenty days after the consecration of the bishop, fill out a Catholic bishop reporting form and report it to the [State Administration of Religious Affairs](#) for the record, and submit the following materials.

- (a) A copy of the bishop's household register and a copy of his resident identity card.
- (b) A statement issued by the Catholic community of the [province](#), [autonomous region](#), or [municipality](#) directly under the Central Government on the democratic election of the bishop.
- (c) a letter of approval from the Chinese Catholic Bishops' Conference.
- (d) the certificate of consecration of the bishop signed by the consecrating bishop.

The Catholic bishops registration form shall be the one supplied by the [State Administration of Religious Affairs](#).

Article XVII Religious affairs departments should, within twenty working days from the date of receipt of the religious groups' recording form submitted for the record, send a written response. Should the departments fail to respond, the form will be deemed to have been registered.

Article XVIII In the following circumstances, registration of religious clergy shall be refused:

- (A) when not in accordance with the method of identification developed by the national religious groups to identify clergy.
- (B) when the filing materials submitted are not true.

Article XIX The religious affair departments will assign to each registered clergy a record number. Record numbers will use a twelve-digit code, including six administrative codes, a number identifying the religion, and five running numbers.

Article XX Religious groups shall issue a religious clergy certificate to the religious clergy to complete the record, and shall not charge a fee.

The religious clergy certificate is applicable nationwide. Religious groups and religious affairs departments shall not duplicate the identification or filing of religious clergy.

For each religious clergy certificate printed by the national religious groups, the certificate shall contain the record number and expiration date and other content. Religious clergy should renew the certificate in a timely manner before the expiration.

Article XXI In each of the following circumstance, the certificate of registration will be cancelled, and the cancellation will be officially announced:

(A) by the religious affairs department, in accordance with the law indicating the circumstances in which to cancel the qualification of religious clergy.

(B) by the religious community, in accordance with the relevant provisions of this religion to cancel the qualification of religious clergy

(C) due to voluntary renunciation, death. or other reasons for the loss of religious clergy qualifications.

Chapter IV Religious Activities of the High Clergy

Article XXII The religious activities of the high clergy referred to in these measures, refers to the religious activities of those entrusted with the duty of presiding over religious affairs of religious clergy.

National religious groups shall specify the religious activities of the high clergy, the specific scope of religious activities of the high clergy, the conditions of service and procedures, etc. The conditions of service should include the content of Article 3 of these measures. These conditions of service should be reported to the [State Administration of Religious Affairs](#) for recording purposes.

Article XXIII The religious clergy who will be appointed to the main teaching positions and the leadership of religious activities, in accordance with the principles established by the national religious groups about the main teaching positions and the leadership of religious activities, should be appointed within ten days after the creation of a new religious site or to fill out a vacancy in the main teaching positions and the leadership of religious activities, and reported to the religious affairs department for recording purposes, by submitting the following materials:

(A) a CV of the proposed incumbent.

(B) a copy of the proposed incumbent's family register, a copy of his/her resident ID card and a copy of the religious clergy certificate.

When the proposed is expected to leave previous teaching positions or religious activities, s/he should also submit documents proving the cancellation of the previous teaching or religious position.

Religious activities of the high clergy should be recorded through the filing form provided by the [State Administration of Religious Affairs](#).

Article XXIV The religious affairs department shall, within twenty working days from the date of receipt of the high clergy application submitted for the record, send a written response. Should it fail to respond, the recording procedure will be deemed to have been completed.

Article XXV In the following circumstances, application to register somebody as part of the high clergy will be refused:

(A) the person to be appointed is not acceptable, in accordance with the rules of the national religious groups or the religious site whether the person should serve.

(B) the proposed incumbent leaves his/her previous position and has not completed the corresponding cancellation procedure.

(C) the filing materials submitted are not true.

Article XXVI After the completion of the filing procedures for high clergy, those so designated can have an appointment ceremony and be inaugurated in their duties.

Article XXVII The high clergy will remain in their position for a term of three to five years. After the expiration of the term, a possible continuation in the office should be in accordance with the provisions of Article 23 of these Measures.

Article XXVIII When the high clergy leaves the position, a cancellation procedure should be initiated and follow the prescribed procedures, as follows:

(A) a statement by the organization managing the position confirming that a decision has been taken for the high clergy to leave the position.

(B) indicate the place where the religious community issued a written opinion.

When the high clergy leaves a position as leader of a place of worship or the head of the financial management agency, those in charge of the place of worship should also submit a report including a financial review at the time of the high clergy's departure.

Article XXIX In the following circumstances, registration as high clergy will be cancelled:

(A) the management of the relevant organization is not in accordance with the rules and procedures of the national religious groups about organization, worship, education, etc.

(B) there is no, or no longer, consent from the religious community.

(C) the religious clergy who left a position was the clergy in charge of the place of worship, or the head of the financial management agency, and the community did not submit a report on the financial review at the departure.

Article XXX High clergy can generally only serve in the main teaching position in one site. If necessary, exceptions can be granted.

Part-time leading religious activities and main teaching positions will be authorized in a [county](#) (city, [district](#), flag) if the local religious groups agree. This situation will be reported to the [county](#) people's government religious affairs department. The [county](#) people's government religious affairs department will report to the provincial people's government religious affairs department for recording purposes. In cross-provincial entities, autonomous regions, municipalities directly under the Central Government, the religious affairs department of the provincial people's government where the proposed part-time religious activity site will happen should be informed.

Article XXXI The religious clergy serving in the main teaching positions in religious activities should be dismissed in the following circumstance, with a public announcement:

(A) the loss of religious clergy qualifications.

(B) violation of laws, regulations, rules, and regulations of religious groups, resulting in the loss of the main teaching position in religious activity sites.

(C) more than one year without performing the duties of the main teaching in the religious activity sites, or loss of the ability to perform the duties of the main teaching.

Chapter V Supervision and Management

Article XXXII The religious affairs departments shall supervise the duties of the religious clergy, and the religious activities of the high clergy, and perform in general the guidance and supervision of religious groups, religious institutions, religious activities, to strengthen the management of religious clergy.

Article XXXIII The religious affairs departments shall, in accordance with the principle of management of the service, strengthen the information management of religious clergy.

The [State Administration of Religious Affairs](#) shall establish a database of religious clergy, the local people's government departments of religious affairs should provide and update the basic information of religious clergy, including awards and punishments, cancellation of records, and other information.

Article XXXIV The religious clergy across provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities directly under the Central Government who engage in religious teaching activities, should be agreed by the religious groups in the provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the Central Government when they arrive and depart from there, and reported to the provincial people's government religious affairs departments in both places for recording purposes. Cross-provincial, autonomous regions, municipalities directly under the Central Government should keep records of those who engage in religious activities for more than one year, and the two provincial people's governments religious affairs departments of the localities from where and to where the clergy moves should update the religious clergy database for the relevant information changes. The management responsibilities of the religious clergy will be transferred to the corresponding religious affairs departments and religious groups in the place of relocation.

Religious clergy across counties, municipal administrative regions can only engage in religious teaching activities under the management of the provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities directly under the Central Government, in accordance with the actual situation and the relevant provisions.

Article XXXV Religious groups should develop religious clergy training program, strengthen the political education of religious clergy, the education on the rule of law, cultural education, religious education, improve the overall quality of religious clergy, and the overall quality of the religious clergy team.

National religious groups and provinces, autonomous regions, municipalities directly under the Central Government religious groups shall develop rules and regulations for religious clergy who want to study abroad.

Article XXXVI Religious groups shall regulate the management of religious clergy certificate, shall not violate the issuance of certificates, shall not profit from the issuance of certificates.

Article XXXVII Religious groups shall, in accordance with the Constitution, laws, regulations, rules, and policies and the actual work needs, within the scope of their mandate, establish and improve the management of religious clergy rules and regulations, develop a religious clergy code of conduct, which should include an improved mechanism of rewards and punishments for religious clergy, provisions for being coopted and expelled, and in case of violation of laws, regulations, rules and regulations, provisions for the religious clergy to be punished accordingly.

Article XXXVIII Religious groups should develop a religious clergy assessment system, as an important basis for appointment, rewards, and punishments.

Article XXXIX Religious groups shall establish religious personnel files, and improve the information sharing mechanism concerning religious groups, religious institutions, religious activities, and religious personnel, and regularly report changes in religious personnel information to the religious affairs departments.

Religious colleges and universities should report to the appropriate institution of the religious community in a timely manner the files of the religious staff of the institution.

Religious activity sites should be reported to the religious community institutions and religious affairs departments in the location of the religious site.

Article XL Religious institutions should adhere to the correct direction, improve the quality of education, train high-quality religious clergy.

Article XLI Entrance to religious places of worship should be regulated through strict gatekeeping, verification of identity, and registration.

Religious sites shall not exceed the capacity and financial ability of the site to receive religious clergy.

Article XLII Religious groups, religious institutions, religious sites should establish and improve the groups, institutions, places of religious clergy management system, strengthen the supervision and management of religious clergy engaged in religious activities, control domestic and foreign donations.

Article XLIII The high clergy serving in the main teaching positions in religious sites should perform religious affairs management responsibilities, accept the religious community's teaching guidance, submit to the management of religious activities in the management organization, accept the supervision of the religious clergy and religious citizens in the place of religious activities.

Article XLIV The religious affairs departments and religious groups, religious institutions, religious activities that receive reports that the religious clergy violate laws, regulations, rules, or regulations of religious groups, shall investigate and verify, according to the relevant law and regulations.

Article XLV When religious clergy believe that religious groups, religious institutions, religious activities and their members violate their legitimate rights and interests, they can report to the religious affairs departments. Religious affairs departments shall investigate and verify, and shall deal with it according to law.

Chapter VI Legal Liability

Article XLVI The public officials managing religious clergy guilty of abuse of power, negligence, or favoritism, should be submitted to disciplinary action and, if their behavior constitutes a crime, be held criminally responsible.

Article XLVII The religious groups, religious institutions, institutions regulating religious activities caught in one of the following acts, and asked to correct them by the religious affair departments, should be punished if they fail to perform the correction of:

(A) a failure to establish a sound system for the management of religious clergy.

(B) a failure to manage religious clergy in accordance with the provisions of these Measures.

(C) a failure to identify or approve religious clergy in accordance with these provisions.

(D) when teachers for religious activity sites are not selected in accordance with the provisions regulating the teaching positions in the religious activity sites.

(E) when religious groups do not act in accordance with the provisions of these Measures for recording the religious clergy, or religious activity sites do not operate in accordance with the provisions of these measures for recording the high clergy teaching at religious activity sites.

(F) failure to issue certificates of religious clergy in accordance with the provisions, or making a profit by issuing certificates.

(G) infringement of the legitimate rights and interests of religious clergy.

(H) other violations of the relevant provisions of these Measures.

Article XLVIII The religious clergy who violate the relevant provisions of these Measures shall be punished in accordance with the "Regulations on Religious Affairs," Article 73, and other relevant provisions.

Article XLIX Those not satisfied with the religious affairs department's administrative actions can apply for administrative reconsideration; those not satisfied with an administrative reconsideration of a decision can file an administrative lawsuit in accordance with law.

Chapter VII Administrative Rules

Article L If the [county](#) (city, [district](#), flag) cannot manage the relevant religious groups, the corresponding responsibilities under these measures will pass to the upper level ([prefecture](#), state, [league](#)) that will manage the religious group.

If the city ([prefecture](#), state, [league](#)) cannot manage the relevant religious groups, the corresponding duties will pass to the provinces, autonomous regions, municipalities directly under the Central Government.

If the provinces, autonomous regions, municipalities directly under the Central Government cannot manage the relevant religious groups, the corresponding duties will pass to the national religious groups.

Article LI These Measures shall be interpreted by the [State Administration of Religious Affairs](#).

Article LII These Measures shall come into force on May 1, 2021. The [State Administration of Religious Affairs](#) measures of 2006 for registering religious clergy and religious places of worship shall be deemed to be no longer in force.

Special weekly FoRB newsletter (08-15.02.2021)

General

11.02.21 - Enter the "administrative measures for religious clergy": be afraid, be very afraid

Bitter Winter offer the first English translation of a text converting the clergy in apparatchiks under a system of awards and penalties based on their loyalty to the CCP.

[Continue reading...](#)

10.02.21 - The 'Big Brother' of religions: Beijing's new database

It will contain all information on religious personnel, including the punishments received and the revocation of their ministry. A document on the management of clergy, monks, priests, bishops, who above all have the obligation to "support the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party, support the socialist system", "resist illegal religious activities and religious extremism and resist infiltration of foreign forces that use religion".

[Continue reading...](#)

09.02.21 - Rape in Xinjiang camps: male inmates are victims too

Encouraged by the women who pierced the veil of silence, men are telling tales of how they were sexually abused in the transformation through education camps.

[Continue reading...](#)

Protestants

08.02.21 - Henan House Church pastor sentenced to five and a half years in prison

Trying to save his church's cross from destruction and refusing to use services to spread "patriotic" propaganda were regarded as serious crimes.

[Continue reading...](#)

Uyghur Muslims

11.02.21 - Protecting the Uyghurs isn't just the right thing to do. It's also good politics

In a parting shot at Beijing, the outgoing Trump administration formally declared that the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) repression of Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang constitutes a genocide.

[Continue reading...](#)

11.01.21 - Uyghur group defends detainee database after Xinjiang officials allege 'fake archive'

An organization compiling information on Uyghurs detained in China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) has defended its findings after officials in the region accused it of spreading lies, saying forcing witness testimonies and making unsubstantiated claims will not undermine its work.

[Continue reading...](#)

10.02.21 - Ankara deporting Uyghur dissidents to China

Erdoğan appears to have traded them for millions of doses of the Chinese COVID-19 vaccine. Protests are taking place in front of the Chinese embassy in Ankara. The ratification of an extradition treaty with China faces an uphill battle. Turkish opposition parties are on the attack against the "sultan".

[Continue reading...](#)

Falun Gong

12.02.21 - Five year jail Penalties for Falun Gong practitioners in Liaoning, Jiangxi

The CCP continues its campaign to identify members of the banned group. When caught, they go to jail.

[Continue reading...](#)

12.02.21 - 75-year-old man sentenced to four years for his faith

A 75-year-old man in Linxia County, Gansu Province was sentenced to four years and fined 3,000 yuan in late December 2020 for his faith in Falun Gong. He is now appealing the case with the Intermediate Court of Linxia Hui Autonomous Prefecture.

[Continue reading...](#)

Others

13.02.20 - CCP Cracks Down on Association of Disciples in Tianjin

Although reduced in strength, the Christian new religious movement is still active in China—and still persecuted.

[Continue reading...](#)

Henan House Church pastor sentenced to five and a half years in prison

Trying to save his church's cross from destruction and refusing to use services to spread "patriotic" propaganda were regarded as serious crimes.

by Daniela Bovolenta

Bitter Winter (08.02.2021)- <https://bit.ly/3cUe37f> - Li Juncai is the pastor of the Yuan Yang [County House Church](#) in Xinxiang, Henan [Province](#). He resisted the crackdown on Christians in his [province](#), and opposed an order that the cross of his church should be demolished.

He also refused the [CCP's](#) request to change the slogan "Love God and Love Others" into "Love the Country and Love Religion," and to build a stand within the church where a national flag will be placed.

On February 20, 2019, Pastor Lin's church was raided, and he was arrested together with three co-workers. With Lin out of the picture, personnel from the local religion bureau, public security, and the city administration finally managed to demolish the cross, a few days after the pastor's arrest.

Shortly after one month from the raid, the three co-workers were released on bail. Pastor Li, however, remained in [jail](#) and was indicted by the Yuan Yang [County](#) Prosecutor's Office for "misappropriation of an office, obstruction of official duties, and destructions of accounts." All [house church](#) pastors are not legitimate clergy under Chinese law, and certainly Li had "obstructed" the efforts to destroy his church's cross. Alleged irregularities with the community's account are often thrown in for good measure when [house church](#) pastors are prosecuted.

His case was remanded twice from the Prosecutor's Office to the [Public Security Bureau](#) for additional investigation, which is normally a clue that evidence for trumped-up charges is difficult to find.

In January 2021, after almost two years of pre-trial detention, Pastor Li, who was in [jail](#), and his three co-workers, who were free on bail, finally had their day in court. The other three defendants escaped with suspended sentences, but Pastor Li was found guilty of all three charges and sentenced to five years and six months in prison.

He was sent to Yuan Yang [County Detention Center](#) in Xinxiang City, where, considering the pre-trial detention, he should remain until August 20, 2024, as the decision indicated.

Photo : Pastor Li Juncai. From Twitter (Weiquanwang).

Church of Almighty God: Over 1000 members sentenced to a prison term for their faith

HRWF (05.02.2021) - In 2020, at least 7055 members of The Church of Almighty God (CAG) were arrested in China, 1098 of them were sentenced to a prison term, and 21 lost their lives under torture, according to [the 2020 Annual Report](#) of the Church.

Jiang Yanghua, a Christian from Xinjiang, was given a 15-year sentence for “convening” gatherings. Three Christians who were minors at the time of their arrests, were sentenced to prison terms: three years to two of them and three and a half years for the other one.

At least 35,752 Christians were victims of various forms of police harassment, according to the CAG.

The report details the ongoing destruction of religious venues and crosses by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) during the pandemic and reveals a number of confidential documents. It also lists a series of crackdowns resulting in mass arrests.

In February 2020, a police operation was carried out in Sichuan Province although many cities and towns were under a severe lockdown. At least 142 CAG Christians were arrested.

On 16-17 May, over 100 CAG Christians were arrested in Linfen City, Shanxi Province.

On 11 November, in a single day, at least 120 CAG Christians were arrested in Zibo City, Shandong Province.

On 3 December, no less than 200 Christians were arrested in Zhejiang Province. A number of them had been under police surveillance for nearly a year.

While in custody, they were subjected to various forms of torture such as sleep deprivation, electric shocks, being suspended from handcuffs, having their fingers stabbed with toothpicks, and having their nipples put in iron clamps.

At least 21 Christians died in 2020 as a result of torture and other forms of abuse.

Qin Shiqin, a CAG Christian from Shandong Province, passed away after being held in a police station for 10 days.

Additionally, the CCP’s oppression of The Church of Almighty God continued to intensify. In September, the Central Political and Legal Affairs Commission issued a confidential document calling for a three-year “all-out war” against The Church of Almighty God. The Church was identified as “the most prominent potential threat” to its rule, its “utter annihilation” was put on the CCP’s agenda as a priority and efforts are to be intensified to thwart the CAG’s growth abroad. After the release of the document, the number of

arrests climbed steadily to reach 1525 for the sole month of November alone across the country.

The CCP also extended its oppression beyond China's borders. A Christian living abroad who appeared in CAG films became a target of CCP's persecution while his relatives in China were subjected to harassment and one of them died in the hands of the police.

The CCP also established a big data platform for the surveillance of CAG's members, using a variety of illegal practices such as inciting anti-CAG public hostility, applying guilt by association and misusing the social credit system. The CCP did not hesitate either to use blackmail: recanting their faith or depriving them and their relatives of their right to employment, education, basic living allowances, travel, and more.

The Church of Almighty God, a new religious movement, was established in 1991. Due to its rapid growth and its refusal to accept government control, it has been perceived as a threat by the CCP. It is currently among the religious groups facing the most severe persecution by the CCP. At least 420,000 of its members have suffered arrests from 2011 until now.

This report has been compiled by the CAG on the basis of over 40,000 documented cases of CCP's persecution and confidential documents released by CCP officials. It provides a valuable resource made up of solid data and evidence that can be useful for researchers and defenders of religious freedom in China. It is available at

<https://en.godfootsteps.org/persecution/annual-report-2020.html>

Several thousands of CAG members fled to Europe for safety. They urgently need to be recognized as political refugees.

For more information about The Church of Almighty God by scholars in religious studies, see

https://www.cesnur.org/cag_page.htm

<https://cesnur.net/category/church-of-almighty-god/>

For more information about the CAG, see their website [here](#).

<https://en.godfootsteps.org/news.html>

Special weekly FoRB newsletter (01-07.02.2021)

Protestants

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

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

[Continue reading...](#)

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

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

[Continue reading...](#)

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

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

[Continue reading...](#)

Uyghur Muslims

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

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

[Continue reading...](#)

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

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

[Continue reading...](#)

03.02.21 - Systematic rape in Xinjiang camps

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

[Continue reading...](#)

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

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

[Continue reading...](#)

Tibetan Buddhists

03.02.21 - Biden Administration promises continued US support for Tibet

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

[Continue reading...](#)

05.02.21 - Chinese officials engaged in 'takeover' of Tibetan Buddhist monastery: Human Rights Watch

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

[Continue reading...](#)

02.21 - Tibetan Buddhism: Religious Freedom in China

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

[Continue reading...](#)

Falun Gong

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

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

[Continue reading...](#)

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

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

[Continue reading...](#)

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

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

[Continue reading...](#)

Church of Almighty God

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

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

[Continue reading...](#)

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

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

[Continue reading...](#)

Special weekly FoRB newsletter (25-31.01.2021)

News from Bitter Winter

26.01.21 - Villager fined \$ 24,693 for celebrating Christmas

In Lushan county, Henan, one Niu Guobao organized a meeting to pray and sing hymns. Now, he has to pay a fine of 160,000 yuan.

[Continue reading...](#)

Other sources

31.01.21 - Seven Sichuan residents sentenced to prison, families in distress

Six Falun Gong practitioners in Xichang City, Sichuan Province and one of their spouses were sentenced by the Xichang City Court on December 9, 2020. They are appealing the verdicts to the Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture Intermediate Court.

[Continue reading...](#)

31.01.21 - 75-year-old woman sentenced to prison for her faith

Having previously served a four-year term for her faith in Falun Gong, a 75-year-old woman in Meishan City, Sichuan Province was sentenced to ten months on December 30, 2020.

[Continue reading...](#)

29.01.21 - Uyghurs losing circumcision traditions under China's Xinjiang policies

Authorities in northwest China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) are severely restricting the Islamic tradition of circumcision, either by delinking its religious significance or banning it outright, according to officials.

[Continue reading...](#)

29.01.21 - The genocide amendment: Why is the UK government dragging its feet?

On 7 December 2020, the House of Lords debated the Trade Bill that defines the UK's post-Brexit trade relationships and engaged with the question of what should happen if the trading partner stands accused of committing genocide.

[Continue reading...](#)

29.01.21 - Follow-up: Ms. Wang Jing, imprisoned and tortured for years, now safe in USA

The backstory of Ms. Wang Jing began with the murder of her second oldest sister on November 13, 1993. As noted in [ChinaAid's Post on January 27](#): "After suffering years of torture in a Chinese Communist Party (CCP) prison for human and religious rights defense work, Ms. Wang Jing arrived safely in the USA on December 31, 2020."

[Continue reading...](#)

28.01.21 - Family concerned: Imprisoned seven years, Pastor Zhang Shaojie transferred to begin "concentrated education"

On January 8, prison officials escorted Pastor Zhang Shaojie* to Zhengzhou City, Henan Province, to carry out the five remaining years of his 12-year sentence. Previously held at the Xinxiang, Henan Province facility, Pastor Zhang will spend his first two months in the new prison in "concentrated education."

[Continue reading...](#)

27.01.21. Ms. Wang Jing, imprisoned and tortured for years, now safe in USA

After suffering years of torture in a Chinese Communist Party (CCP) prison for human and religious rights defense work, Ms. Wang Jing* arrived safely in the USA on December 31, 2020. The State Department cooperated with *ChinaAid* to facilitate her rescue from China.

[Continue reading...](#)

25.01.21 - Travel restrictions announced at Tibetan monastery in Gansu ahead of major religious festival

Authorities in northwestern China's Gansu province are imposing restrictions on travel to and from an important Tibetan monastery ahead of a major annual religious festival, requiring the wearing of masks by those attending and forbidding entry even to private vehicles, Tibetan sources say.

[Continue reading...](#)

25.01.21 - Persecution of The Church of Almighty God: From bad to worse

They call it epidemic prevention. In the Chinese province of Hebei, special teams go door to door, and inspect apartments and houses, ostensibly to make sure that anti-COVID measures are implemented.

[Continue reading...](#)

Special weekly FoRB newsletter (16-24.01.2021)

News from Bitter Winter

21.01.21 - Persecution of The Church of Almighty God: From bad to worse

The British Conservative Party Human Rights Commission report called again the attention on a brutal campaign of repression, made worse by COVID-19.

[Continue reading...](#)

20.01.21 - Genocide in Xinjiang: The Word is no longer taboo

The U.S. officially adopted the designation, and in the UK an amendment to prevent trade with genocidal states was narrowly defeated.

[Continue reading...](#)

15.01.21 - "The Chief Witness": Alexandra Cavellius tells the story of Sayragul Sauytbay

Soon in English, the German best seller gives voice to a woman whose testimony about the transformation through education camps in Xinjiang cannot be impeached.

[Continue reading...](#)

Other sources

22.01.21 - Once imprisoned for 14 years, Beijing man gets another 5 years for practicing Falun Gong

A Beijing resident was recently sentenced to five years and fined 10,000 yuan for his faith in Falun Gong, a spiritual discipline that has been persecuted by the Chinese communist regime since 1999.

[Continue reading...](#)

22.01.21 - Two Hebei women sentenced to prison for distributing Falun Gong information

While people around the world celebrated the arrival of 2021, two Baoding City, Hebei Province residents were sentenced to prison on the last day of 2020 for their faith in Falun Gong, a spiritual and meditation practice that has been persecuted by the Chinese communist regime since 1999.

[Continue reading...](#)

20.01.21 - Hebei, religious activities blocked: 'they spread Covid' (even if unproven)

Vice-Premier Sun Chunlan issues order, after a visit to the province. Online posts against religions and Catholics are multiplying: their "development" endangers the "socialist system". Up until yesterday, over 800 positive cases have been recorded in Hebei, of which 771 in Shijiazhuang.

[Continue reading...](#)

20.01.21 - CCP authorities sentence house church Pastor Li Juncai to five-and-a-half years in prison plus heavily fine him

Recently, Chinese Communist Party (CCP) authorities sentenced Yuanyang County Central House Church Pastor Li Juncai to five-and-a half years in prison plus ordered him to pay a fine of 50,000 Chinese Yuan (7701 USD).

[Continue reading...](#)

19.01.21 - US Declares China's policies toward Uyghurs amount to 'genocide' and 'crimes against humanity'

China's repression of Uyghurs and other mostly Muslim ethnic minorities in its northwestern Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR), including its use of internment camps and forced sterilizations, amounts to "genocide" and "crimes against humanity," the U.S. State Department said Tuesday.

[Continue reading...](#)

15.01.21 - Christian Qin Shiqin dies from 10-day interrogation by torture after arrested for religious belief

Qin Shiqin, female, born in 1969, was a resident of Yuanhou community in Xifuzhen sub-district of Chengyang district of Qingdao city in the eastern province of Shandong. She joined [The Church of Almighty God \(CAG\)](#) in 2002.

[Continue reading...](#)

Poland top court overturns extradition of Chinese man

AFP (16.01.2021) - <https://bit.ly/2LXIyh8> - The Polish Supreme Court on Friday quashed a lower court's green light for the extradition of a businessman to China for alleged fraud, a charge he has denied, saying that he is being targeted for supporting Falun Gong.

Polish authorities took Chinese-born Swedish citizen Li Zihui, now 53, into custody in 2019 on an international warrant issued by China for alleged non-payment in a business deal, Krzysztof Kitajgrodzki, his Polish lawyer, told reporters.

Following the Supreme Court ruling, the case would return to a lower appellate court for review.

Kitajgrodzki told reporters that it was still not a given that his client would avoid extradition.

"It's certainly a good decision at this stage, but we still can't call it a success," he said, adding that the Supreme Court has required that the lower court ask China to explain the nature of the sentence his client faces.

He said that Li was unlikely to get a fair trial in China and could be sentenced to life in prison or even death due to his membership of Falun Gong, a religious group that has been banned by Chinese authorities.

Kitajgrodzki has said that his client is also being targeted for quitting the Chinese Communist Party.

The charges leveled by China stem from a 2011-2012 business deal, the lawyer said.

He also said that it was about this time that Li, whose family made bed linens, moved to Sweden and subsequently gained citizenship there.

The Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs on a Wednesday said in a statement to parliament that it had been “actively working” on the case and voiced concerns, saying that “human rights violations in China are extensive and appear to be on the rise.”

Regardless of any court ruling on the matter, under Polish law the minister of justice has the final say on extradition requests.

Kitajgrodzki said his client has already filed a complaint against the Chinese legal move with the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

Special weekly FoRB newsletter (09-15.01.2021)

News from Bitter Winter

14.01.21 - Chinese spies tried to create false “Uyghur terrorists” in Afghanistan

Ten Chinese agents were arrested and quietly expelled after trying to establish a false branch of the defunct East Turkestan Islamic Movement.

[Continue reading...](#)

13.01.21 - Akida’s story: The desperate cry of a Uyghur woman

“Dear world, please help!” The heartrending plea of a daughter who has been searching in vain for her mother, folklorist Rahile Dawut, for the past three years.

[Continue reading...](#)

12.01.21 - British MPs, Jewish leaders ask Twitter to block Chinese embassies’ accounts

They argue that CCP “wolf warrior” diplomats are “not less violent and active in spreading fake news than Trump.”

[Continue reading...](#)

11.01.21 - China tries to disrupt Tibetan parliamentary elections

Tibetans abroad vote to elect the members of the Central Tibetan Administration. The CCP mobilizes its spies, and asks friendly governments to harass voters.

[Continue reading...](#)

Other sources

14.01.21 - Once imprisoned for fifteen years, Heilongjiang man arrested again

Having spent 15 years in detention during the past 21 years, a Hegang City, Heilongjiang Province resident was arrested again in a [police sweep](#) for his faith in Falun Gong in mid-December 2020.

[Continue reading...](#)

14.01.21 - Uyghurs in Turkey face an uncertain future as Ankara considers the fate of its extradition agreement with Beijing.

The Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress ratified the extradition agreement signed in 2017 with Turkey on December 26, 2020.

[Continue reading...](#)

14.01.21 - 71-year-old woman sentenced to one year for putting up Falun Gong materials

A Panzihua City, Sichuan Province resident was quickly sentenced to one year after she was arrested in July 2020 after being reported for putting up information about Falun Gong.

[Continue reading...](#)

14.01.21 - Christian Bian Bingling & two sons pursued for their belief, husband sentenced 4 years in prison

Bian Bingling, female, born in 1967, from Weishan county under the jurisdiction of Jining city in the eastern province of Shandong, is a Christian of The Church of Almighty God (CAG). In 2012, she was listed by the police as wanted, and had no choice but to go on the run. The police repeatedly visited her home to arrest her but failed every time.

[Continue reading...](#)

13.01.21 - US Coordinator For Tibetan Issues Speaks With Dalai Lama in a Virtual Meeting

The U.S. Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues spoke on Wednesday with the Dalai Lama in a virtual meeting, telling him that Washington will continue to urge Chinese authorities to meet with the exiled spiritual leader or his envoys to find ways to protect the region's culture and religion.

[Continue reading...](#)

12.01.21 - Addendum for: CCP authorities sentence house church Pastor Li Juncai to five years in prison plus heavily fine him for refusing demolition of church cross

On January 11, *ChinaAid* secured a copy of the last page of verdicts for Pastor Li Juncai and three other Christians, Wu Raoyun, Ban Yun, and Ma Yanfang, arrested the same day [February 20, 2019]. *ChinaAid* has not yet confirmed details regarding the detainments of Xiao Guangang, and Meng Guozhen.

[Continue reading...](#)

11.01.21 - CCP authorities sentence house church Pastor Li Juncai to five years in prison plus heavily fine him for refusing demolition of church cross

Recently, Chinese Communist Party (CCP) authorities sentenced Yuanyang County Central House Church Pastor Li Juncai to five years in prison plus ordered him to pay a fine of 210,000 Chinese Yuan (32,423.42 USD). For objecting to the CCP's forcible cross removal and refusing to change a church proclamation "Love God and people" to

"Love the country..." authorities accused Pastor Li of 1) embezzlement, 2) obstructing government administration and 3) destruction of accounting records.

Continue reading...

09.01.21 - Beijing authorities use the pandemic to shut down all 155 religious venues, promise to stop illegal gatherings

The decision was taken despite the fact that religious activities have had "zero infections". Strict measures and continuous controls have led many priests to close their churches at Christmas. On social media, Catholics are accused of spreading the virus, a charge rejected by the Patriotic Catholic Association. The authorities put a stop to "illegal activities" by underground communities.

Continue reading...

08.01.21 - Dozens of Chinese officials raid house church, detain pastor and 5 members

Local authorities in China's Taiyuan city raided the house church of An Yankui, the preacher of Xuncheng Church during a Bible study. International Christian Concern (ICC) reported.

Continue reading...

Polish Supreme Court set to test commitment to rule of law in extradition row

Safeguard Defenders (11.01.2021) - <https://bit.ly/2LjQCZX> - Unbeknownst to all but a few [link in Polish], Poland has stood as the battleground between Sweden and China in an unfolding extradition case for nearly two years. China seeks former Chinese citizen, now Swedish citizen, Li Zhihui, a Falun Gong adherent, returned to China to stand trial on charges of economic crimes.

The case is set to stand as a precedent on how European countries respond to the severe deterioration of China's already flawed criminal justice system, and to test whether long-standing ignorance to massive changes in China across Europe can be overcome.

Sweden has protested, albeit meekly, via a brief 1.5-page letter that misses all the key points.

In dramatic fashion, the Polish prosecutor's office has switched from supporting, to objecting, and again supporting, the extradition. The Supreme Court is set to take a final decision in less than a week.

On January 15, the Polish Supreme Court will likely seal the fate of Li Zhihui, who left China in 2012 to settle down in Sweden with his Falun Gong-member wife [now divorced]. In 2016, Li became a Swedish citizen, and renounced his Chinese citizenship. Since leaving China, Li, a wealthy businessman, has supported the Falun Gong movement financially in Europe.

Until early January 2021, no Polish, Swedish nor international media has covered this remarkable tale, and the process has been unknown to all but a few

Chinese authorities filed a red notice with Interpol on him in 2017, when Interpol was chaired by Chinese Communist Party member Meng Hongwei – who later dramatically disappeared while visiting China. Li would only become aware of this red notice on March 17, 2019, while transiting at Warsaw’s Chopin Airport, en route from Sweden to Bulgaria, and detained by Polish police.

Since his initial detention, the Polish judicial process to test whether he can be extradited has taken numerous and remarkable turns, but it now appears likely that the Supreme Court will uphold the decision taken September 25, 2020, which would see him extradited to China – unless the Minister of Justice intervenes.

Documents reviewed by Safeguard Defenders show that the Polish prosecutor’s office seems to be unaware of the situation of the legal system in China, and vaguely worded promises from the Chinese embassy in Warsaw – which has no authority to issue any guarantees about a forthcoming judicial process - has been enough to allay fears of torture and unlikelihood a fair trial in China. In the same communication, the Chinese government has also levied additional accusations and threats against Li, opening up for at least two additional charges -- belonging to an evil cult, and spreading rumours, which the prosecutor’s office has ignored or simply not realized. Neither of these two accusations and possible basis for prosecution constitutes a crime in Poland or Sweden.

New information shows that Li is but one of three people currently being sought for extradition from Poland by China, and the Supreme Court’s decision, just like the one in Sweden in 2019, could not only affect all three of them, but all cases of extraditions from countries bound by the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) to China in the future.

This analysis will not look into Li’s adherence to Falun Gong, or whether he is right or wrong that China initially sought him for his Falun Gong activities in China, but rather look at the astounding legal process ongoing in Poland. Li himself is clear, “In the event of my extradition, my fate will be sealed” ... “if Poland surrenders me to China, I will die”. It is also beyond doubt that he has provided significant support to Falun Gong in Europe since his relocation to Sweden. However, as to his activities in China before leaving little is known.

Chinese claims against Li

The only evidence of China seeking Li’s extradition is a provisional arrest request. Polish courts have not received any documentation from the Chinese court system about the investigation against him or anything showing his current status in that investigation. Neither court nor prosecutor has seen fit to ask, taking the Chinese embassy’s word instead.

Li, born December 14, 1967 in Nantong, Jiangsu, was targeted in an investigation launched July 8, 2014 – several years after he left China in November 2012. Since Li left, he has never returned, neither before nor after this investigation was launched. It is not known if Li has even been aware that such an investigation has been ongoing.

Along with a man named Zhang Cong – already sentenced - Li is accused of defrauding a business beginning in November 2011. On November 19, 2014, the prosecutor approved Li’s arrest. Three years later, on November 8, 2017, a red notice was issued via Interpol.

Initial extradition detention and hearing

LI was apprehended by Chopin Airport police on March 17, 2019, due to the red Interpol notice. This red notice had been ignored for a year and a half 00 no other European country had taken any step to detain him during his travels – indicating that his notice was deemed to be political and therefore should not be enforced. Why Polish authorities thought differently remains unknown. Shortly after his detention, after having notified the Chinese authorities, a request for his extradition was filed with Poland.

During the prolonged legal drama, which has seen the prosecutor's office switch sides, Li, now 53, has been kept in 12 sq. metre cell in a detention facility in Warsaw's Białołęka district for some 20 months.

The first hearing, at Warsaw district court, was in August 2019, and concluded on September 25. Judge Dariusz Łubowski deemed that Li could be extradited and that the defence – led by Krzysztof Kitajgrodzki – could not prove that his Falun Gong membership was the reason for the investigation in China against him.

During this period, the Swedish Foreign Ministry filed a letter to its Polish counterpart stating that Li could face the death penalty if returned to China and requested that he not be extradited. The court noted that the crime Li stands accused of, fraud (article 224), does not carry the death penalty, and that Li's alleged associate in this crime [Zhang Cong] had already been sentenced, to 10 years and 6 months in prison, for this crime. An appeal against the court's decision was filed.

Prosecutor switches side during appeal

While waiting for a hearing at the appellate court, the prosecutor, Anna Adamiak, on December 13 the same year [2019], switched side in a very rare instance and requested that the court deny the extradition request. The prosecutor argued that the change was because it had become clear that there would be no control over the legal process in China, nor about what stage of the judicial process Li's case was at in China. They also stated that the suspect's human rights cannot be guaranteed if returned to China.

The prosecutor emphasized that Poland would have to count on China's "goodwill to cooperate", and at the same time they emphasized that there was a "justified fear" and a "high degree of probability" that the release of the defendant [to China] "will not guarantee that his rights and freedoms will be preserved".

The court of appeal in Warsaw overturned the decision of the court of first instance and ordered the case to be re-examined by the district [lower] court again.

At the same time, the judgment from Sweden's Supreme Court about the extradition of Qiao Jianjun in 2019, also sought for economic crimes, was being translated into Polish. The defence had already filed this important verdict to support its position, but apparently it had not been translated into Polish and therefore not been used as basis for the court of first instance's initial decision.

China gets prosecutor to switch sides again

Before the new hearing that had been ordered, the court sent 11 questions to the consular section of the Chinese embassy in Warsaw [This is the same embassy at the centre of the north European refugee espionage story covered by Safeguard Defenders earlier]. The embassy responded to these questions on March 6, 2020.

Safeguard Defenders reviewed the answers provided to these 11 questions.

The answer from the Chinese embassy contains strongly worded and threatening language, and the embassy's response indicates that Li stands the risk of being charged with additional crimes, including for being a member of Falun Gong (article 300). The letter claims Falun Gong "is anti-human, anti-social and anti-scientific. It creates destructive rebel groups". They also stated that "information about the persecution of Falun Gong members was 'deceptive propaganda.'"

The letter also stated that "He [Li] is creating rumours (...) [and] the goal is to cheat, beg for sympathy and support." He is, due to the Chinese government's claim that he is spreading rumours, also at risk of prosecution under the new article 291 (1), and possibly also under article 105."

Considering the recent campaign by Chinese authorities against 'rumour spreading' one would imagine that this language from the embassy would raise alarm bells, but instead the prosecutor was seemingly convinced to about turn around and support the extradition again.

Despite having no legal mandate, as an embassy, or for that matter a representative of the Foreign Ministry, the letter claimed it could promise access to Li while he was in pre-trial detention, permission for consular staff to attend the trial, and visitation rights if he was sentenced to jail.

The prosecutor's office in Poland entirely missed the new threats made against Li, and took the above promises by the embassy at face value. The embassy has no legal right to make such guarantees because it is the police who decide who can or cannot visit a suspect and it is the court that decides who can or cannot attend a trial. In addition, the promises were worded vaguely – saying only that visitation could be organized, not that it would or that it was mandated to do so, and it also only stated that it would consider consular visitation in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations – again not a guarantee that visitation would be permitted. Even if these were worded as a guarantee, without supporting documents from relevant Chinese judicial authorities, they would have no standing.

The prosecutor seemed unaware that such promises are regularly broken. Even high profile cases, such as fellow EU citizen Gui Minhai, was sentenced at a secret trial where Swedish consular access was denied, and where the Swedish government was not even informed. There is also the continued violation of the Canada-China consular access treaty, which is supposed to guarantee monthly visits to suspects in detention. Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor has now been in custody 25 months, and should in accordance with this treaty have been given 25 consular visits each; in reality, only two such visits each has been allowed. Violations of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations are so common that they are to be expected, and foreign officials are regularly denied access to their citizens in China.

EU, after the 22nd bilateral summit 2020, stressed the issue of the "continued arbitrary detention of Swedish citizen Gui Minhai and two Canadian citizens – Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor", and "raise[d] its concerns on the deteriorating human rights situation" and on "restrictions on fundamental freedoms". The EU parliament voted mid-2020 for the EU to take China to the International Court of Justice over its violations of yet another treaty, the international agreement between the UK and China about Hong Kong.

The only clarity the Polish prosecutor seemingly needed to change its mind was that Chinese law does not provide for the death penalty for the accused crime, article 224, as pointed out by the embassy.

However, as the Swedish Supreme Court noticed in its verdict, such claims has been made by China before, and then violated – that is, promises have been made that a person will not face the death penalty, and then such penalty has been issued anyway.

To raise further doubts, Li's supposed 'associate', Zhang Cong, according to the provisional arrest request which Safeguard Defenders have reviewed, was sentenced back in 2016 to 10 years and 6 months in prison according to the same charge. Article 224 specifies imprisonment of not more than three years, unless severe, in which case it can be up to 10 years. Only in remarkable situations can someone be sentenced to more than 10 years.

The total amount that Li, Zhang ("and [unspecified] others") are accused of defrauding is about 7 million RMB, less than 1 million EURO. How many others are involved was not stated, nor their names, but at least four people would be involved in accordance with the information from the Chinese side. Why was his associate sentenced to such an extremely long sentence for what is a very small amount of supposed fraud – 7 million CNY for four (or more people). This should raise real doubts as to whether fraud is the real reason for China wanting Li extradited.

Re-trial

Before the new hearing, the prosecutor's office switched teams to one led by Alina Janczarska. For the new hearing, the prosecutor stated that Poland may, if it wants to, according to the Chinese side, receive information about the time of the trial, judgment, and place of its execution. China also declared that it could organize the participation of consular representatives at court hearings and visits to the place of Li's detention. As we argued above, the prosecutor badly misinterpreted these promises.

Prosecutor Marcin Saduś from the Regional Prosecutor's Office in Warsaw said that these promises plus China's response to their 11 questions were the basis for the prosecution to revert to the original decision to support the extradition. He said:

"I would like to point out that the position of the prosecutor's office on the withdrawal of support for extradition was justified. However, from that moment on, the court obtained a declaration from the Chinese side, which changed our perception of this case. At the moment when the state applying for the extradition of the detained declares its full readiness to cooperate, there are no grounds for blocking the extradition."

After re-examining the case, the court, chaired by Judge Katarzyna Stasiów, decided that China's willingness to cooperate meant that the extradition should go ahead. Following an appeal, the appellate court, chaired by Judge Ewa Jethon, upheld the decision in August 2020. The court stated there were no grounds for opposing the extradition.

During the re-trial, the verdict from the Swedish Supreme Court was been entered into evidence. It seemingly did not make any difference to the court that evidence presented proving promises from the Chinese side were so vague as to be meaningless and that it showed that such promises have been made and then broken before.

The court also ignored two key considerations -- namely torture and the right to a fair trial, both used extensively by other courts around the world to stop extraditions, and which are legally mandatory for Poland to consider, as they are cornerstones of the European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR) (articles 3 and 6).

The latest report on the issue of torture (and also partly on the right to a fair trial) in China, by the United Nations Committee Against Torture, blasts China's extensive use of torture, its lack of protections against it, the use of coerced confessions. It also brings up

the issue of control of the judiciary by organs of the Chinese Communist Party. This report represents the latest report, by the highest organ in the world on the issue, yet has seemingly not been brought to the attention of the court. As Poland and China both are countries that have ratified the Convention Against Torture, it should bear full weight in any consideration.

China's conviction rate in 2019 was, according to data from China's Supreme Court and Supreme Procuratorate, over 99.96%.

Upcoming Supreme Court hearing

An appeal to the Supreme Court was filed on grounds of article 604 of Poland's criminal procedure law, which prohibits the surrender of detainees to countries where freedoms and rights may be violated. The Supreme Court is scheduled to hold its hearing on January 15. Defender Krzysztof Kitajgrodzki remains Li's lawyer.

Despite the re-trial having taken the Swedish verdict into consideration -- or at least it was translated into Polish for consideration -- the court has so far only cleared -- possibly -- one of three main hurdles for Li's extradition under the ECHR, which is legally binding for Poland, namely the prohibition of the use of, the death penalty. The right to a fair trial and the prohibition of torture remains to be adequately addressed.

Torture is most often used during pre-trial detention, while a suspect is being investigated. On the basis of extensive data, Li will most likely face torture (article 1) and maltreatment (article 16) -- violating the Convention Against Torture, which Poland is legally bound to uphold, as well as the ECHR.

The prosecutor has not had to answer why confessions are so rampant and that almost all trials take place with a focus on, or use exclusively of, such confessions -- a practice that ties the use of torture, and the absence of any right to a fair trial, nor the 99.96% conviction rate.

An in-depth review of EU-China judicial cooperation and relations summarized the issue neatly, stating "The separation of powers only takes place in terms of organisational structure but not in terms of functions since the legislative process also remains under the control of the Communist Party of China."

In addition, the role of the Chinese Communist Party's 'Political and Legal Affairs Commissions', a party organ that controls police, prosecutor and courts at every level, from top to bottom, has seemingly been brought up or taken into consideration when assessing the very idea of an independent legal system to handle Li's case should he be extradited.

Nor has the possibility of Li being forced to 'confess' on national TV before any actual trial been brought up. This should also be a key issue with the sentence to death of a man accused of economic crimes just last week, Lai Xiaomin, who, was first in custody of the CCDI/NSC, and then, long before his trial, was paraded on national TV confession to all allegations. Safeguard Defenders have released extensive documentation and reports on this practice, and filed it for review by UN organs.

The Supreme Court will also have to consider the threats made against Li in the Chinese embassy's response earlier, which the court has so far has failed to address. In addition, if the investigation into economic crimes against him was not at first due to his Falun Gong activities -- which remain unknown -- there is now such an ample amount of evidence to show that he will suffer both torture and maltreatment due his Falun Gong

activities after he left China, and for having it brought up in the judicial process between China and Poland.

Should the Supreme Court fail to address these issues, it will not only fail in its duty but place the fate of Li in the hands of the Polish Minister of Justice, who has final say in the issue. A spokesman for the Minister of Justice recently stated that "We are aware that China is not a fully democratic country", which shows clearly that the Ministry is either hopelessly ignorant or that they are intentionally turning a blind eye to the reality in China.

Unlike many of its counterparts, the Polish Foreign Ministry has not, it said in response to questions from Safeguard Defenders, released any country report on China, nor any statements as related to the Chinese judiciary, thus giving very little guidance for Polish courts to understand the situation of the criminal justice system in China.

The Ministry of Justice and the International Cooperation Office of the National Prosecutor's Office admitted that the Polish side did not monitor the conditions under which persons were transferred to the People's Republic of China under extradition. And even if promises of access were to be given in detail, with legal basis, and which would allow Poland impromptu access without warning, it is unlikely Poland would have the resources to actually carry out such any supervision.

Final consideration

Li, a businessman, was also a member of the Communist Youth League (CYL). His membership in the CYL, which Li claims he renounced in 2013, opens him up to being handed over to the National Supervision Commission (NSC) (also called Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) when used on party members), which has jurisdiction over all party members, state functionaries, but also any economic crimes committed by anyone if it relates to the State, State-owned entities, or the Party.

The NSC is not, according to Chinese law, a judicial organ, but has mandate to carry out 'investigations', and may during those place suspects into secret custody for up to half a year in the liuzhi system. A report on the system was filed by Safeguard Defenders with the UN late 2019. A letter of allegations from the UN to the Chinese government has gone unanswered ever since.

Such incommunicado detentions, at secret locations, where foreign governments (if concerning foreigners) are not made aware of their whereabouts, nor are their families, constitute enforced or involuntary disappearances according to several statements by UN organs.

Likewise, all placements into Liuzhi must be in solitary confinement, which due to being done during investigation, and for prolonged periods, constitute both torture and maltreatment according to UN statements.

The establishment of the NSC, and it taking over a significant part of investigations into economic crimes which was before handled by the judiciary (prosecutor's office), has added another layer of complexity to any extraditions to China. As it is not part of the judicial system, should the person be taken over and investigated by the NSC, which is standard for economic crimes such as these, extraditions are no longer possible, as extraditions are intended to be from one judicial system and process to another. Handling a party member back to China for investigation by the NSC/CCDI is the equivalent of sending someone back for investigation by a political party's internal police.

China has made no guarantee that Li's case will not be handled by the NSC, nor could they, as only the NSC has mandate to make that decision, not the judicial system, so should such a promise be made, even if from the Prosecutor's office (let alone the Chinese embassy) it would not be legally binding.

**

The learning curve for the Polish judicial system for handling this, and forthcoming extradition requests, is indeed steep, as it was in Sweden and is still across Europe, where courts and prosecutors, for understandable reasons, are almost entirely unaware of the functioning of China's judicial system. Considering the expansion of extradition requests, and other forms of judicial- and police cooperation, it is very urgently needed.

Special weekly FoRB newsletter (31.12.2020-08.01.2021)

The best news from Bitter Winter

01.01.21 - Dr. Gulshan Abbas sentenced to 20 years in jail

The world has understood. Through this absurd decision, the CCP is punishing her sister Rushan, for her brave campaign on behalf of the persecuted Uyghurs.

[Continue reading...](#)

02.01.21 - A great gift idea for the New Year: the CCP anti-Xie-Jiao calendar

Say good-bye to 2020 and welcome 2021 with something reminding you every day that the persecution of banned religions should be supported—or else.

[Continue reading...](#)

04.01.21 - Trade deals and Human Rights: The scramble for high moral ground in dealing with China

The battle lines are drawn. Europe ignores human rights concerns and finalizes "the trade deals of all trade deals with China," US and UK try to resist.

[Continue reading...](#)

06.01.21 - Church of Almighty God members "deprogrammed" in jail

Under CCP's "transformation" program, CAG members are abused and tortured, until they sign the "three statements," promising to give up their belief.

[Continue reading...](#)

07.01.21 - Panchen Lama: Tibetans forced to worship the false one at gunpoint

Gyaltzen Norbu toured Tibet this year and talked to captive audiences, compelled to listen to him by the CCP security.

[Continue reading...](#)

Other sources

31.12.20 - Bishop Andrew Han Jingtao, a 'giant of culture and faith' of the underground Church, dies

A great scholar, he spent 27 years in a forced labour camp, and later taught at a university. He was also appreciated by prison authorities. Upon becoming bishop in 1982, he divided his time between academic and pastoral work.

[Continue reading...](#)

31.12.20 - PSB officers raid home Bible study; arrest Xuncheng Reformed Church Pastor An Yankui and five other Christians

At 10:45 pm on December 30, after Public Security Bureau (PSB) officers raided the home Bible study of Pastor An Yankui, minister of Xuncheng Reformed Church in Taiyuan, Shanxi Province, Ms. Yao Congya, Pastor An's wife posted an urgent prayer request.

[Continue reading...](#)

04.01.21 - Chinese Communist Party officials continue to detain two nuns who work in Hong Kong under house arrest in Hebei Province

Although Chinese Communist Party (CCP) officials arrested two nuns visiting their home in Hebei Province in May, this information did not become public until December 30.

[Continue reading...](#)

Call for Signatures: Letter in support of a Chinese citizen facing deportation

Dear Participant to the FoRB Roundtable Brussels-EU,

Dr Aaron Rhodes, President of FOREF Europe is circulating a letter in support of Baolige Wurina, a Chinese Citizen living in Sweden, who faces deportation.

From Dr Aaron Rhodes:

As you know, China continues what Human Rights Watch has called "the worst human rights crackdown in the post-Tiananmen period. If Wurina is deported to China, he is

almost certain to face incarceration and torture, and Sweden will have violated the European Convention on Human Rights.

Baolige fled to Sweden ten years ago from the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region of China (IMAR), after facing persecution from Chinese authorities for his rights activism. Since arriving in Sweden, Swedish authorities have refused to grant him asylum and ordered his deportation. Baolige and his wife, together with their two children, are waiting now for the Migration Court of Appeal—the last instance to decide on asylum cases in Sweden—to decide whether he will be granted Swedish protection. If the court decides on deportation, the family will be split apart. While Baolige will be sent to China, his wife, who is Mongolian, will be sent to Mongolia with their children.

Swedish authorities claim that Baolige is unable to prove that Chinese authorities constitute a threat towards him personally, even though Baolige has continued his rights activism in Sweden. He has participated in protests against China in front of the Chinese embassy, where he says embassy staff photographed the protesters. Swedish authorities have rejected the claim as "speculation," even though China is known for its surveillance and targeting of citizens who have fled the country.

CALL FOR SIGNATURES

- View and read the original letter with 4 original signatures
- Please let us know if your organization would like to sign on or if you will sign as an individual (with title and organization for identification purposes only), or both, by writing to contact@forbroundtable.org.
- The deadline for signatures is the close of business on Monday, February 8, 2021

To inform your decision:

Statement of the EU Delegation in China on International Human Rights Day

"The EU... continues to be gravely concerned about the serious deterioration of the human rights situation in Xinjiang, Tibet and Inner Mongolia [our emphasis]. In addition to reports on continued large-scale extra-judicial detentions, severe and systemic restrictions on freedom of expression and association, and on freedom of religion or belief, there are growing concerns about the alleged use of forced labour, forced family separations and forced sterilization."

Source: <https://www.swedenabroad.se/en/embassies/china-beijing/current/news/statement-of-the-eu-delegation-in-china-on-international-human-rights-day/>

Activists face imprisonment and police stations in schools

Following the massive civil disobedience movement in Chinese-occupied Southern Mongolia sparked by the Chinese Central Government's renewed attack on the Mongolian language, the authorities' crackdown has intensified. An estimated 8,000–10,000 Southern Mongolians have been placed under some form of police custody since late August.

Source: https://www.smhric.org/news_683.htm

Source of the call: Freedom of Religion or Belief Roundtable, Brussels-EU