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## **Catholic Bishop Joseph Zhang Weizhu: still detained despite reported Vatican intervention**

***The bishop of Xinxiang, in Henan province, refuses to join the Patriotic Catholic Church and was arrested in a spectacular raid in 2021.***

*By Wu Xiuying*

Bitter Winter (11.05.2022) - <https://bit.ly/3Leq5Go> - Readers of Bitter Winter may remember that [in 2021 we reported](#) about a raid conducted by more than 100 public security officers on May 21. The police stormed a disaffected factory in Henan province, where Bishop Joseph Zhang Weizhu of the Xinxiang diocese had organized an independent seminary for fellow conscientious objectors.

Conscientious objectors are Catholics who reject the suggestion by the Holy See, following the Vatican-China deal of 2018, that they join the Patriotic Catholic Church, believing that for reasons of conscience they cannot be part of a church controlled by the CCP. The Vatican has clarified that it does not encourage such conscientious objection, yet regards the objectors as Catholics in good standing who should be treated "with respect."

The May 21, 2021, raid was reminiscent of actions taken against group labeled as "xie jiao" or "cults," only it targeted a Roman Catholic seminary. Bishop Joseph Zhang Weizhu, ten (or more) priests, and ten seminarians were arrested. Three seminarians managed to escape, but they were also arrested later.

The seminarians were sent back home and kept under surveillance. The ten priests were taken to Legal Education Centers, and have reportedly all been released.

At the time of our article in 2021, the whereabouts of Bishop Joseph Zhang Weizhu were unknown.

Bitter Winter has now learned from a reliable source that the Vatican asked the Chinese government to release Bishop Zhang, but has been told that the prelate committed serious crimes and should remain in detention.

Catholic devotees in Xinxiang told Bitter Winter that they are concerned about the situation and the health of the bishop. He suffers from cancer, and when he was arrested he had just gone through a surgery.

*Photo: Bishop Joseph Zhang Weizhu. From Weibo.*

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## **Special bimonthly FoRB newsletter (16-30.04.2022)**

### **General**

#### **29.04.2022 - Censorship on online religious contents continues to tighten up**

As the Administrative Measures for Internet Religious Information Services came into force on March 1, Christianity-related websites, WeChat accounts, and group chats have seen severe censorship.

[Continue reading...](#)

#### **22.04.2022 - Sympathy for the Devil: The anti-cult federation FECRIS, China, and Russia. 2. The Chinese and Russian anti-cult models**

China and Russia have different definitions of "cults," based on different historical traditions—both hostile to religious liberty.

by Luigi Berzano (University of Torino, Italy), Boris Falikov (Moscow State University for the Humanities, Moscow, Russia), Willy Fautré (Human Rights Without Frontiers, Brussels, Belgium), Liudmyla Filipovich (Department of Religious Studies, Institute of Philosophy of the National Academy of Sciences, Kiev, Ukraine), Massimo Introvigne (Center for Studies on New Religions, Torino, Italy), and Bernadette Rigal-Cellard (University Bordeaux-Montaigne, Bordeaux, France).

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## **19.04.2022 - Chinese government seeks to manage religious organizations' finances in new measures**

Recently, China State Administration for Religious Affairs released the Measures for the Administration of Financial Affairs of Religious Premises (hereafter referred to as "measures"). These measures were jointly drafted by the State Administration for Religious Affairs and Ministry of Finance, effective starting June 1, 2022.

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### **Catholics**

## **26.04.2022 - Catholic bishops and priests have forcibly disappeared across China**

Ahead of this year's Easter, the Chinese regime has launched a new crackdown on the "unofficial" (underground) church recognized by the Vatican but not by Beijing.

According to Asia News, on April 7, the Chinese authorities in Zhejiang forced Bishop Shao Zhumin of the Diocese of Wenzhou (Zhejiang) to board a plane. Local believers were concerned because they did not know where Bishop Shao was taken. The police also seized his mobile phone, and it was suspected that the government wanted to prevent him from participating in Holy Week activities, especially the Holy Chrism Mass.

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### **Protestants**

## **29.04.2022 - Xiamen pastor summoned for hearing**

On April 26, Xiamen City Jimei District People's Court issued a summons to Yang Xibo, the minister of Xiamen Xunsiding Church. The notice required that Minister Yang Xibo should attend his hearing for his penalty and administrative reconsideration on May 10.

On July 29, 2021, Xiamen City Siming District Bureau of Ethnic and Religious Affairs issued a fine to Yang Xibo and his wife—Wang Xiaofei—of 200,000 yuan (~31,200 USD) on a charge of organizing illegal gatherings.

[Continue reading...](#)

## **26.04.2022 - Pilgrim's Progress: My two years of exile**

The 60 Christians of the Shenzhen Holy Reformed, also known as the Mayflower Church, continue to wait for updates regarding their legal status in Jeju. Until then, they regularly send updates to ChinaAid, recounting stories of their transition to South Korean life and the new freedom they have found.

This latest update from Sheng Ti He recounts the culture shock and adjustments many of the members faced for two years.

[Continue reading...](#)

## **20.04.2022 - Police use COVID to harass Christians after baptism**

The day before Easter, Christians of Shenzhen Trinity Harvest Gospel Church drove for two hours to another city to baptize six believers on the beach. Local police harassed them afterward, however. The six believers completed several months of baptism classes, and nineteen co-workers of Shenzhen Trinity Harvest Gospel Church took turns to fast and pray for ten days for the baptism. Police harassment against Trinity Harvest has become

commonplace after the incident regarding the church's five-year anniversary last September.

[Continue reading...](#)

## Buddhists

### **25.04.2022 - Tibet's new College admission rules: no university for Dalai Lama supporters**

CCP propaganda continuously tells the world that, thanks to China, Tibet now has a regular university systems, which did not exist under the "backward" Dalai Lama administration. Of course, the university system evolved in the last decades, but the same happened in many Asian countries that were not invaded by their neighbors and are not oppressed by the totalitarian rule of a Communist Party.

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## Falun Gong

### **26.04.2022 - Families of Falun Gong practitioners forced to help persecute their own family**

Both Falun Gong practitioners and their families became victims in China's Zero-out Campaign. Authorities have gone after every local practitioner and ordered them to renounce their faith since 2020.

Not only did the officials arrest and torture the practitioners, they deceived and threatened their

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### **20.04.2022 - Tan Qiucheng: Falun Gong practitioner tortured after spending a life in jail**

Bitter Winter has received reports that Tan Qiucheng, a 44-year-old Falun Gong practitioner who is detained in the Jail no. 2 of Jilin Province in Jilin City, Jilin, is being tortured in prison. Relatives are concerned about his health conditions. Reportedly, Tan has been forced to sit on a "tiger bench," and guards first poured water on him, then shocked him with electric batons.

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### **20.04.2022 - Married Couple Given Heavy Prison Terms for Their Faith**

A married couple in Xi'an City, Shaanxi Province were sentenced to heavy terms in late December 2021 for their faith in Falun Gong, a mind-body practice that has been persecuted by the Chinese communist regime since 1999.

Mr. Wang Pingchuan, 47, and Ms. Zhao Shujuan, 42, were reported on May 25, 2020 for putting up stickers about Falun Gong at a bus station. Over 50 police officers arrested them

on June 5 and confiscated their Falun Gong books, Falun Gong informational materials, DVDs, DVD burner, computer, printer, copy paper, flash-drive, laminator, motorcycle, bike, 10,000 yuan in cash and unknown amount of cash printed with short messages about Falun Gong, as a way to raise awareness about the persecution given strict censorship in China.

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## **Special bimonthly FoRB newsletter (01-15.04.2022)**

### **General**

#### **13.04.2022 - Anti-Pornography rules: In China, religion can be pornography too**

Last month, the Office of the National Working Group for Cracking Down on Pornography and Illegal Activities released a memorandum on its planned activities for 2022. The Office has an interesting story. In 1989, the Office of the National Leading Group for Cleaning and Rectifying Books, Newspapers, and Periodicals, i.e., the office for Chinese censorship, was established. Already at that time, it was explained that there was a problem with clandestine pornography, and fighting it was a main task of the office.

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#### **05.04.2022 - Xie Jiao and unauthorized religion in China: Two reports note growing persecution**

Bitter Winter was founded in 2018 to inform about violations of religious liberty in China, and when we are quoted in official or authoritative reports we have a feeling that our mission is accomplished. We are also grateful to those who read and quote us. The annual report of the bipartisan and bicameral U.S. Congressional-Executive Commission on China, released on March 31, is a well-crafted and comprehensive summary of what it calls “the horrors the Chinese government and Communist Party perpetrate against the Chinese people.”

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Protestants**

#### **13.04.2022 - ChinaAid greets concentration camp survivor to USA**

Over the weekend, China Aid Association welcomed Obulbek Turdaqun and his family, Christians originally from Kyrgyzstan to the United States where they have been granted humanitarian parole status.

Turdaqun is a former detainee in the Chinese Communist Party’s concentration camp system in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. He was detained in 2018 and held for 10 months in a labor camp. Alongside 22 other prisoners, he experienced both psychological and physical torture including forced medical procedures.

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## **06.04.2022 - Taiyuan Zion Reformed Church raided— seven Christians questioned**

During Sunday service on April 3, local authorities raided Zion Reformed Church. Police took away seven Christians, including Yao Congya—Minister An Yankui's wife, Guo Juan—Zhang Chenghao's wife, Wang Yingjie, Wang Ying, and others in the name of the COVID-19 prevention.

They all were handcuffed and transported to the detention room. All seven Christians refused to sign the pledge, "No Longer Attend Zion Church". Originally, police intended to give them 15-day administrative detentions and a fine of 500 yuan, but the administrative detention cannot be enforced due to the pandemic.

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## **Buddhists**

### **06.04.2022 - Tibetan self-immolations: An old man, a singer—and a woman is in jail for talking about the incidents**

One of the saddest facets of the tragedy of Tibet is the self-immolation of monks and lay Buddhists who set themselves on fire to call the attention of the world to the persecution of Tibetans by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). Self-immolations gather **increasing attention in the West**, but nobody has precise statistics about them. One of the reasons is the CCP's strategy of censoring news. The CCP now claims information about self-immolations is part of "state secrets." Divulging state secrets is a serious crime.

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## **Falun Gong**

### **15.04.2022 - After 19 years in prison, Hubei Man given three more years for his faith**

Mr. Li Guangqing, a native of Yingcheng City, Hubei Province, was sentenced to 18 years for robbery in 1979 when he was 24 years old. He escaped three times and saw his term extended by 11 years. Though his fourth escape, which took place in 1989, was successful, he lived every day in fear and couldn't go home to reunite with his family.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **13.03.2022 - 69-year-old woman taken to brainwashing center for practicing Falun Gong**

A 69-year-old Chongqing woman was doing Falun Gong exercises at home on the morning of March 9, 2022, when the police broke in and arrested her. After being held at the local police station for three days, she was taken to a local brainwashing center on March 15 and detained incommunicado.

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## **08.04.2022 - Hunan Woman endured horrific torture during four-year term for practicing Falun Gong**

While serving a four-year prison sentence for practicing Falun Gong, Ms. Xiao Yongkang was deprived of sleep, starved and subjected to constant beatings. Several inmates once poured urine over her head and wiped a used sanitary napkin across her mouth.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Others**

## **15.04.2022 - Bigu: The CCP against Taoist grain-free diets and fasting**

Some campaigns catch Chinese by surprise. In this month of April, we have seen CCP media, including the official Central Committee organ *People's Daily*, publishing all of a sudden strong-worded attacks on bigu fasting. Some of these media have described bigu as "as dangerous as Falun Gong," and this language normally announces police action.

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## **Special bimonthly FoRB newsletter (16-31.03.2022)**

### **Protestants**

## **30.03.2022 - All Christians five from Taiyuan Zion Reformed Church released**

On March 27, Zhang Ligong and Wang Runyun of Taiyuan Zion Reformed Church were released from prison. Now, all five Christians initially charged with "illegally crossing the national border" have been released.

Family members and Christians from Zion Reformed picked them up at the detention center. They were full of peace and joy. Wang Runyun held his son in one hand and his daughter in the other. He posted on social media, "Dear family, we are back home safely. Thank you for your prayers. I am very grateful!"

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## **28.03.2022 - Chen Wensheng released from 15 day detention**

Two days ago, street evangelist Chen Wensheng was released after serving seven-day administrative detention and eight days in a drug rehab center. Neither Chen Wensheng nor his family received any legal notice about his detention.

Chen Wensheng was enormously grateful that he was detained due to preaching the gospel, believing that it is a rare opportunity God had for Chen to spread the gospel in detention and the rehab center.

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### **24.03.2022- New directives on sinicization of religion: "Love the Party, love socialism"**

Pastors of the **Three-Self Church** have been requested to study new directives on the **Sinicization** of religion, signed by Wang Zuo'an, who is deputy minister of the **United Front Work Department** of the Central Committee of the **CCP** and the director of the **State Administration of Religious Affairs** (which should be replaced by "something else," according to a 2018 announcement, but for the time being is still in place).

[Continue reading...](#)

### **22.03.2022 - Chen Wensheng arrested again: From drug addict to preacher—to jail**

On March 5, 2022, Chen Wensheng was arrested by the Hengyang police while preaching on the streets of Wenshan Zhuang and Miao Autonomous Prefecture in Hunan. It is not the first time Chen, a popular character among Chinese house church Christians, is arrested.

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## **Buddhists**

### **28.03.2022 - News of a revered Tibetan Lama's demise emerged amid China's rigorous information lockdown**

News of the passing of a venerated Tibetan lama, who has spent years in a Chinese prison, emerged recently amid Chinese authorities' heightened information lockdown campaign. The authorities reportedly restricted a number of devotees from attending the funeral and paying respects to the deceased by posting images and videos on social networking sites, a reliable source reported.

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## **Falun Gong**

### **28.03.2022 - Nurse fired from her job while serving seven years for her faith**

Shortly after a nurse was taken to prison to serve a seven-year term for her faith in Falun Gong, she was fired by the hospital where she worked.

Ms. Liu Xiaohong, 53, of Dalian City, Liaoning Province, was arrested on November 24, 2020, in a police sweep. The Political and Legal Affairs Committee gave the orders for the police to arrest the practitioners on their list.

[Continue reading...](#)

**22.03.2022 - After twelve years of incarceration, Liaoning Woman, nearly 70, imprisoned again for upholding her faith**

A Chaoyang City, Liaoning Province resident was recently taken to the Shenyang Women's Prison to serve a two-year term for practicing Falun Gong, a mind-body discipline that has been persecuted by the Chinese communist regime since 1999.

Ms. Liu Xiufen was arrested around July 2021, shortly after she was released from serving five years for suing former head of the communist regime for ordering the persecution. Details about her recent sentencing remain to be investigated.

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**19.03.2022 - Wife and husband die one year apart in the persecution of their shared faith**

Less than one year after Ms. Guan Fengxia passed away due to years of harassment for practicing Falun Gong, her husband, Mr. Dai Zhidong, also died, one month following his last arrest for his shared faith.

Ms. Guan, of Daqing City, Heilongjiang Province, took up Falun Gong in 1995. After witnessing how she changed into a much better person, Mr. Dai also began to practice Falun Gong a year later and was delighted to see many of his ailments disappear without medical treatment.

[Continue reading...](#)

**18.03.2022 - Denied family visitation for nearly two years, woman transferred to prison to serve time for her faith**

A Tangshan City, Hebei Province resident who has been denied family visitation since her arrest nearly two years ago was transferred to a local prison on February 18, 2022 to serve a three-year term for practicing Falun Gong.

Ms. Xiao Huijun was arrested together with her husband in a police sweep on June 18, 2020. While her husband, who doesn't practice Falun Gong, was released on the same day, Ms. Xiao was kept in custody and taken to the Tangshan No.1 Detention Center a few days later.

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## **Special bimonthly FoRB newsletter (01-15.03.2022)**

### **General**

**02.03.2022 - Atheism in China: How the Communist Party "proves" that God does not exist.**

Notwithstanding almost uniformly negative and often humorous reactions on social media, Professor Li Shen and his book "The Principles of Scientific Atheism" continue to be heavily promoted in China through a major campaign to divulge Marxist atheistic principles. As Bitter Winter mentioned in a previous article, this campaign will continue because it does not come from the private initiative of some propagandists of atheism but follows instructions coming directly from Xi Jinping and the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party.

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## Protestants

### **14.03.2022 - Wife of activist under house arrest for trying to visit husband**

Xu Jincui, the wife of human rights activist Xing Wangli from Xinyang, Henan province, was forcibly placed under house arrest by local government officials. Authorities warned Xu Jincui not to contact human rights lawyer Jiang Tianyong, also a native of Xinyang.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **11.03.2022 - Follow up: Christian activist taken away by police for voicing concerns over chained woman case**

ChinaAid sources report that Li Yu, a Christian human rights activist in Zaozhuang, Shandong province, was threatened by Zaozhuang national security officers and held under designated residential surveillance for over 10 days. Li Yu followed the Xuzhou chained woman case and called on the Chinese government to investigate the incident. While under surveillance, she could access her cell phone and contact friends. However, her friends could not get hold of her three days ago. It is possible that she has been illegally detained, and her cell phone was confiscated.

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### **10.03.2022 - Pilgrims Progress: "Longing for my brother"**

Two young members of the Mayflower Church sent letters to a fellow believer in mainland China, Joshua Wang.

Yesterday was Joshua Wang's 15th birthday. Joshua is the son of Pastor Wang Yi of Early Rain Covenant Church who currently serves a nine-year sentence. Wang Yi's family has been subject to 24-hour surveillance. Joshua previously attended a Christian school, but now authorities escort him to public school every day.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **08.03.2022 - Christian activist disappeared after raising concerns over "chained woman" case**

Li Yu, a Christian human rights activist, was taken away by Zaozhuang police for investigating the Xuzhou chained woman case. Li called on the government to hold a formal investigation, but she forcibly disappeared over 10 days ago.

Li Yu left a voice message to a friend of her before being disappeared, saying, "Police came by yesterday, asking Zhao Zhongxiang who is responsible for monitoring me to contact me."

[Continue reading...](#)

## Church of Almighty God

### **09.03.2022 - Church of Almighty God persecution continues to increase**

The Church of Almighty God (CAG), a Chinese Christian new religious movement, is the most persecuted religious organization in China. From 2019, when a report covered the year 2018, the CAG has published yearly reports offering statistical details of the persecution. They show how, year after year, the implacable machine of the CCP repression made the persecution worse.

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## Buddhists

### **13.03.2022 - Go Sherab Gyatso: Prominent Tibetan monk tortured in jail**

Human rights activists are denouncing on social media that a well-known Tibetan monk's health is seriously deteriorating as a result of torture he is subjected to in Lhasa's Qushui Prison.

Go Sherab Gyatso is a monk born on September 9, 1976, in Khashi village, Ngawa Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture, an autonomous prefecture in Sichuan province that has a majority of Tibetan inhabitants. It is also known as the world capital of self-immolation by Tibetans who set themselves on fire to protest CCP oppression.

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### **04.03.2022 - China bans New Year religious gatherings in Tibetan capital Lhasa**

Chinese authorities have banned major religious activities in monasteries in and near Tibet's regional capital Lhasa during the Lunar New Year, citing COVID-19 concerns. But critics call the move a further encroachment by China on Tibetan religion and national culture.

[Continue reading...](#)

## Falun Gong

### **13.03.2022 - 78-year-old woman forced to live away from home, pension suspended**

Since September 2021, officials of Political and Legal Affairs Committee in Guangshun Town, Chongqing, began to harass Ms. Gao Xingfang almost daily and ordered the 78-year-old woman to renounce her faith in Falun Gong, a spiritual discipline that has been persecuted by the Chinese communist regime since 1999.

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### **10.03.2022 - Previously incarcerated for 9 years, former teacher sentenced again to 5.5 years**

A Beijing resident was sentenced to 5.5 years and fined 11,000 yuan on February 21, 2022, for her faith in Falun Gong, a spiritual discipline that has been persecuted by the Chinese communist regime since 1999.

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### **07.03.2022 - 27-year-old man jailed for his faith, beaten and denied family visitation**

A 27-year-old man in Shenyang City, Liaoning Province was ordered to serve 5.5 years for telling people how Falun Gong cured his depression. Mr. Song Yucen has been subjected to strict management and denied family visitation after he was taken to the Dalian City Prison on August 15, 2021.

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## Other religions

### **14.03.2022 - Huangtian Jiao: Taoist popular sect under persecution**

From November 2021, Zhejiang authorities are cracking down on temples of a Taoist syncretic sect that dates back to the 16th century, and goes as it is common in China under various names, including Huangtian Jiao and Huang Jijiao. Temples have been raided and closed, and devotees detained. The campaign of repression is still in progress. Media call the devotees simply "Taoist," although theirs is an old syncretic order with Taoist, Buddhist, and Confucian elements.

[Continue reading...](#)

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## **Church of Almighty God persecution continues to increase**

***The "2021 Annual Report on the Chinese Communist Government's Persecution of The Church of Almighty God" is rich in statistics— and every number hides a tragedy.***

By Massimo Introvigne

Bitter Winter (09.03.2022) - <https://bit.ly/3wb6brZ> - [The Church of Almighty God](#) (CAG), a Chinese Christian [new religious movement](#), [is the most persecuted religious organization in China](#). From 2019, when [a report covered the year 2018](#), the CAG has published yearly reports offering statistical details of the persecution. They show how, year after year, the implacable machine of the [CCP](#) repression made the persecution worse.

A [report on the year 2021](#) has now been published. Not even the CAG can keep track of all the cases in China, and statistics are necessarily incomplete. As far as the CAG knows, in 2021, there were at least 68,456 of its members who were directly persecuted by the Chinese authorities, an increase of 25,649 from 2020. A minimum of 11,156 suffered arrest, with a 58% increase from 2020. Of those arrested, 6,125 were subjected to torture or heavy psychological pressures, and 1,452 were given prison sentences. Of those sentenced, 632 received sentences of three years or more, 72 received sentences of seven years or more, and seven were given sentences of 10 years or more (Jia Panpan, for example was sentenced to 13 years).

At least 9 CAG members were persecuted to death. Additionally, at least 57,300 were subjected to various forms of harassment, including according to the report "being forced to write guarantees to relinquish their faith; being photographed, recorded, and surveilled without their consent; collection of their biological data such as fingerprints, blood samples, and hair; being cut off from basic social security; they and their family members being stripped of their right to employment." At least RMB 250 million (approximately USD \$39 million) in assets were appropriated from [The Church of Almighty God](#) and its members by the Chinese authorities in 2021.

Overall, and again the statistics are not complete, in in the period between 2011 and the end of 2021, more than 420,000 CAG devotees were arrested by the Chinese authorities, and "the documented number of believers who have died as a result of persecution since the Church's establishment has reached 216." Information on 3,636 CAG members detained in 2021 has been published by the Association for the Defense of [Human Rights](#) and Religious Freedom (ADHRRF) [in its database of prisoners of conscience](#).

A skeptic may object that these figures come from [The Church of Almighty God](#) itself: how can we be sure that they are accurate? We at Bitter Winter regularly receive information from China about members of the CAG (and of many other religions, of course) who are detained, formally arrested, and sentenced. Until June 2021, the Chinese government's [China Judgements Online](#), which is the largest legal data base in the world although it does not include all decisions rendered in China, had published hundreds of decisions sentencing CAG members to jail terms. With my colleagues James T. Richardson and Rosita Šorytė, I was able to publish in 2019 [a study of hundreds of cases](#) of sentenced CAG members. We did not use for that study any information coming from the CAG or other independent sources, and only relied on China Judgements Online, an official Chinese website.

Unfortunately, in June 2021 the Chinese authorities realized that [human rights](#) activists and scholars abroad, including us at Bitter Winter, were using China Judgements Online to [document human rights](#) violations in China. All of a sudden [thousands of decisions disappeared](#), and a new restrictive policy about what is uploaded was adopted. However, before what netizens in China nicknamed "the great purge" of China Judgements Online, the decisions against CAG members published there clearly showed a trend consistent with CAG's own yearly reports.

We also read carefully Chinese governmental media, particularly those who specialize in covering the fight against the "[xie jiao](#)" (religious movements banned as "heterodox teachings") and find, if not every day, certainly every week news about dozens and sometimes hundreds of CAG members who have been arrested. Indeed, the Chinese media periodically announce that the CAG has been eradicated through massive police operations, only to report later that for some mysterious reasons it has reappeared again. Although the CAG itself acknowledges that precise statistics are difficult to compile, we believe that these reports, which do not come from the CAG but from [CCP](#)-related sources, confirm that their numbers are generally believable.

Both the CAG report and what the [CCP](#) itself publishes are in agreement on the fact that in September 2020 the Chinese authorities launched [a three-year "all-out war" against the CAG](#), a "final solution" aimed at wiping it out from China. This led, as the table we reproduce shows, to large operations in several provinces where thousands were arrested. For the largest waves of arrests, the CAG report offers references to external sources that covered them. They happened in 30 provinces, [municipalities](#) and autonomous regions. Note that due to the situation prevailing in [Xinjiang](#), data about this [autonomous region](#) are missing, but we know the CAG has been active there too.

The saddest part of the report details how in 2021 nine CAG members, and possibly more, died as a result of the persecution. On March 4, 2021, a female CAG member from Chongqing died in jail, where she had been since 2014. The conditions of her body indicated that she had likely died during torture. In March, a female CAG member from Henan died in jail as a consequence of not having received medical treatment for her health problems. On April 5, 2021, another female CAG member, from Tianjin, died after having been kept in jail since 2018 despite a deteriorating heart condition that would have suggested proper care elsewhere.

On August 15, and November 7 and 18, 2021, two other male members, one from Hubei and another from Sichuan, and a female one from Sichuan also died while detained as a result of torture and abuse. Qin Dafu (1963–2021) died in jail on June 23, 2021. He never received the medical treatment he needed after having been abused.

Liu Zhilin (1951–2021) hanged himself on September 11, 2021, after having been arrested for his CAG faith. He was told that, unless he would cooperate with the authorities and denounce other CAG members, the [CCP](#) would make impossible for him to earn a living and provide for his family, and his children would be excluded from the possibility of enrolling in a university. Thorn between the pressure from the [CCP](#) and his own family, Liu decided to commit suicide.

The report is full at each page of stories about CAG members who were hunted, mistreated by the police, arrested, abused, tortured, and makes for sober reading. While the attention of the world is focused on horrible [human rights](#) abuses in Ukraine, we should not forget that in China arbitrary arrests, tortures, and even homicides of those the [CCP](#) dehumanizes as followers of "[xie jiao](#)," first and foremost the CAG devotees, are a daily routine.

There is a risk, as many observers of China have noted, that media and politicians in the democratic world succumb to what has been called "persecution fatigue." When persecution becomes routine, week after week and year after year, it disappears from the news because "every new case sounds just like the previous one," and media are afraid that their readers will lose interest.

Yet, we should not forget that behind every case and every number in a statistic are real persons, who suffer in their bodies and their souls and are victims of what can only be defined as crimes against humanity. They are victims, but at the same time they are more than victims. The story of the CAG in China is one of extraordinary resilience. It seems that, the more the CAG is persecuted, the more it is able not only to resist but to find new believers prepared to risk their life to affirm their faith. The [CCP](#) can torture their bodies, but cannot enslave their souls.

Photos: *Numbers of CAG Christians Arrested, 2019-2021 - Bitter Winter*

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## Special bimonthly FoRB newsletter (16-28.02.2022)

### Protestants

#### **23.02.2022 - Early Rain Church member recounts 'evil' persecution in China, dramatic escape to US**

Ren Ruiting will forever remember Dec. 9, 2018, as one of the most terrifying and life-altering days in her life.

She had just attended a rehearsal for the upcoming Christmas event at Early Rain Covenant Church in Chengdu, China, and decided to go to dinner. Suddenly, her phone began buzzing — and the messages were unnerving.

[Continue reading...](#)

#### **23.02.2022 - Pastor arrested in Ningxia Hui autonomous region**

Ningxia Hui **Autonomous Region** (NHAR) is a remote area in Northwest China. It takes its name from the Hui, Chinese-speaking citizens of China who are traditionally Muslims by religion and are considered as members of an "ethnic" minority. Today **Hui Muslims** are roughly one third of the NHAR population. There is a small Christian minority, which includes less than 2% of the population.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **23.02.2022 - Early Rain member's online message blocked**

On February 18, a Christian of Early Rain Covenant Church responded to a public call for input on the webpage of *People's Daily Online*, titled "Listen to the People's Suggestions: My Message to the National People's Congress in 2022" leaving a message to Zhao Kezhi, the minister of Ministry of Public Security. She earnestly wrote the message to Minister Zhao, but *People's Daily* immediately rejected her message. Their programmed response said, "Your submission did not go through, and the message you input includes forbidden words." Later she posted her message on WeChat Discovery, but it was deleted shortly afterward.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **22.02.2022 - Panshi church raided and preacher arrested**

On February 19, Mrs. Hao Ying published a prayer request letter and asked fellow Christians to pray for Panshi church, her imprisoned husband Geng Zejun, and other 5 Christians released on bail including herself.

Panshi church is a house church in Huinong District, Shizuishan. The church was raided during its Sunday service on December 5, 2021. The preacher Geng Zejun was administratively detained for 15 days. Later he was released and summoned again. His arrest has been formally approved. The other five Christians were administratively detained for 10 days beforehand and released on bail. They are Hao Ying, Luo Shiping, Ye Ningfang, Zhu Junying, and Wang Sufang.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **21.02.2022 - China: Court jails christian pastor for eight years**

A district court in central China has sentenced a female Christian pastor to eight years in prison for refusing to join Three-Self Church, a state-controlled body regulating Protestant churches. Echeng District Court in Ezhou in Hubei province sentenced Hao Zhiwei, 51, pastor of a house church in Ezhou, on charges of fraud on Feb. 11, China Aid reported on Feb. 15.

[Continue reading...](#)

## **Church of Almighty God**

### **18.02.2022 - Christian arrested for his belief, deprived of sleep for 11 days**

Wang Xinhui (pseudonym), male, born in 1991, is a Christian of The Church of Almighty God (CAG) in the central province of Henan. On November 20, 2021, he was arrested by the CCP police for his belief in Almighty God. In order to extort the information on the CAG from him, the police subjected him to the tortures of "exhausting an eagle," freezing, and other methods.

During the interrogation, to force Wang to give up the information, the police ordered him to stay in a squatting position, and they would give kicks to his legs if he could not keep the position well.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **16.02.2022 - Christian imprisoned, tortured for her belief**

Li Xiaoyang (pseudonym), female, born in 1976, is a Christian of The Church of Almighty God (CAG) in the southeastern province of Jiangxi. In September 2021, Li was released from prison after completing her service. She recounted her miserable story in which she was arrested and tortured in prison for her belief in Almighty God.

[Continue reading...](#)

## **Buddhists**

### **18.02.2022 - China warns Tibetan monks ahead of March anniversaries**

A top Chinese official in Tibet visited monasteries in and near the Tibetan capital Lhasa this week to warn monks against behavior considered disloyal to the ruling Chinese Communist Party, state media sources said.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **17.02.2022 - Monks in Drago severely ill after six years of torture**

Arrested after the 2012 Drago protests, three monks were subjected to forced labour and denied adequate food  
Tibet Watch has learned that three senior monks from Drago Monastery are still severely ill after their release from prison four years ago. The three monks, Tsewang Namgyal, Tengya, and another monk whose identity is kept confidential for security reasons, served six-year prison sentences from 2012 until their release in January 2018.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **16.02.2022 - Chinese surveillance unit operating inside Tibetan Buddhist monastery**

A Chinese police surveillance unit is operating, apparently for the first time, inside a Buddhist monastery as part of a renewed crackdown on Tibetan Buddhist religious institutions, a Tibetan with knowledge of the situation said.

[Continue reading...](#)

## **Falun Gong**

### **27.02.2022 - 179 practitioners wrongly sentenced during Wu Zhe's tenure as Dalian City's chief prosecutor**

From September 2016 to October 2021, when Wu Zhe served as the Deputy Prosecutor General of Dalian City Procuratorate in Liaoning Province, 179 local Falun Gong practitioners were unlawfully prosecuted and sentenced to prison. Of the 179 practitioners, 70 were sentenced to prison to four years or more. Three practitioners, Mr. Liu Xiyong, Ms. Zhong Shujuan and Mr. Zheng Dezai, died as a result of the persecution.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **21.02.2022 "Canaries in a cold war": A film on torture, rape, organ harvesting, and more**

About James H. White's compelling documentary "Canaries in a Cold War" which features the persecution of Falun Gong practitioners as a wake up call to the world.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **18.02.2022 - 66-year-old woman in critical condition after holding hunger strike to protest arbitrary detention for her faith**

A 66-year-old Chifeng City, Inner Mongolia resident is in a coma after weeks of being on a hunger strike to protest her latest arrest on February 1, 2022 for practicing Falun Gong. The police refused to release her despite her critical condition.

[Continue reading...](#)

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## **Special bimonthly FoRB newsletter (01-15.02.2022)**

### **General**

#### **01.02.2022 - China's online religious restrictions to take effect after Beijing Olympics**

As the Winter Olympics in Beijing approach, China is set to impose new restrictions on online religious content that will essentially outlaw evangelistic Scripture just days after the games conclude, according to Christian persecution watchdog China Aid.

"If you promote Gospel spreading, John 3:16, or the Great Commission of Matthew 28," said China Aid Founder and President Bob Fu, "these are all regarded as conversion of state power, because you are essentially spreading messages for other persons to believe and to encourage others to share the Gospel."

[Continue reading...](#)

### **Catholics**

#### **12.02.2022 - Sounding the alarm on China, but is Rome listening?**

When I was [received into the Catholic Church](#) on Palm Sunday of 2013 in St Mary's Cathedral in Yangon, by my friend who went on to become Myanmar's first-ever Cardinal and subsequently President of the Federation of Asian Bishops Conferences, Cardinal Charles Bo, literally 11 days after the election of Pope Francis, [I did not come into the Church](#) in order to pick a fight with the Vatican.

[Continue reading...](#)

#### **07.02.2022 - Human rights activist: Diplomatic relations between Vatican and China would be 'totally unacceptable'**

A British human rights activist said on Sunday that it would be "totally unacceptable" for the Vatican to establish formal diplomatic relations with China.

Benedict Rogers suggested on Feb. 6 that the Vatican could be preparing to take the step after moving officials from posts in Taiwan and Hong Kong.

[Continue reading...](#)

## Protestants

### 15.02.2022 - House church pastor sentenced to eight years

Authorities arrested Mrs. Hao Zhiwei, the pastor of a house church in Ezhou because she refused to join the government-sanctioned Three-Self Church. On February 11, after more than two and half years' imprisonment, Echeng District Court sentenced her to 8 years under the charge of "fraud." Her lawyer Mr. Si Weijiang visited her in the prison, and she decided to appeal.

[Continue reading...](#)

### 14.02.2022 - Secret trial for Christian concluded, awaiting verdict

On February 11, Gao Heng, a Christian attending Guangzhou Bible Reformed Church and a suspect of "provoking trouble and picking quarrels", was tried secretly. No verdict was announced after the trial ended.

Gao Heng became a suspect of "provoking trouble and picking quarrels" for holding a sign reading "Pray for the country" at a subway station on June 4th. *ChinaAid* sources reported that only authorized attorneys, national security officers, the judge, and personnel attended the trial. Gao Heng's family, friends, and Christians of the church were not permitted to attend the trial.

[Continue reading...](#)

## Buddhists

### 15.02.2022 - Massive arrests of Tibetan Buddhists in Sichuan after statue protests

In December 2021, a megastatue of Buddha was destroyed in Luhuo (Drakgo). As protests continued, hundreds are being taken to re-education camps.

[Continue reading...](#)

### 11.02.2022 - China destroying Buddhism, identity of Tibetans: Ling Rinpoche

Tibetan Buddhist, Ling Rinpoché, identified as the reincarnation of the teacher of Dalai Lama, at a press conference in Sri Lanka, criticized China for destroying buddhism in order to destroy the identity of the Tibetans.

[Continue reading...](#)

### 04.02.2022 - Tibetan monks sent to labor camps for spreading news of Buddhist statue's destruction

Eleven Tibetans beaten and arrested by Chinese authorities in January for spreading news of the destruction of a 99-foot-tall Buddha statue and dozens of prayer wheels in southwestern China's Sichuan province have been sent to labor camps in the region, Tibetans with knowledge of the situation said Friday.

[Continue reading...](#)

## Falun Gong

### **13.02.2022 - Jiamusi City, Heilongjiang Province: 24 Falun Gong practitioners still detained for their faith**

Twenty-four (24) Falun Gong practitioners in Jiamusi City, Heilongjiang Province, continued to be held in detention for their faith as of December 2021, as confirmed by Minghui.org. Falun Gong, also known as Falun Dafa, is a mind-body practice that has been persecuted by the Chinese communist regime since 1999.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **11.02.2022 - Shandong Women's Prison Instigates Inmates to Torture Falun Gong Practitioners**

Guards at Shandong Province Women's Prison have instigated inmates to torture Falun Gong practitioners ever since the Chinese communist regime began to persecute this ancient spiritual and meditation discipline in 1999.

Xu Yumei, head of the prison's Division 11, Li Chunling, Wang Jianfang, and Dai Dabing are some of the guards who order inmates to brutally target practitioners.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **09.02.2022 - Zheng Xiangxing: From biker to Falun Gong prisoner of conscience**

In 2013, Falun Gong practitioners all over the world protested and collected signatures on behalf of Zheng Xiangxing, a co-religionist who had been disabled by the severe tortures he had to suffer in jail and subjected to two craniotomies. Their petitions were never answered, and since then Zheng's friends have wondered whether he is alive or dead.

[Continue reading...](#)

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## **Special bimonthly FoRB newsletter (16-30.01.2022)**

### General

### **21.01.2022 - State Administration for religious affairs in China explains new internet regulations**

To better answer the public's questions with regards to the latest measures promulgated to curb religious activities online, the State Administration for Religious Affairs (SARA) in

China recently published written responses on its website. ICC selected a few responses to indicate the scope of such measures.

[Continue reading...](#)

## Uyghurs

### **21.01.2022 - \$65 million to finance Uyghur genocide denial.**

The Newlines magazine investigation just refuses to go away. Shooting the messenger would not solve China's problem.

On January 18, [a shocking expose by Newlines magazine](#) revealed that an enormous amount of money is being channeled to those [CCP](#) sympathizers in the West who deny the Uyghur genocide and claim that [Uyghurs](#) and other Muslims in [Xinjiang](#) enjoy [religious liberty](#) and live a happy life.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **21.01.2022 - French Parliament recognizes the Uyghur genocide**

The United States, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Canada... And now, France. On January 20, 2022, the French National [Assembly](#) voted, with 169 "yes" and only one "no," a resolution stating that the [Assembly](#) "officially recognizes the violence perpetrated by the People's Republic of China against the [Uyghurs](#) as constituting crimes against humanity and genocide."

[Continue reading...](#)

### **21.01.2022 - Five women from Uyghur family sentenced to long prison terms in China's Xinjiang.**

A court in Xinjiang sentenced five Muslim Uyghur women from one family to lengthy jail terms for "illegal" religious activities, according to a copy of the 2019 verdict recently obtained by RFA.

[Continue reading...](#)

## Protestants

### **27.01.2022 - Early Rain member constantly harassed—forcibly removed from home**

On the afternoon of January 24, Brother Jia Xuewei of Early Rain Covenant Church in Chengdu went to his apartment with his landlord, a female Christian of his church, to pick up his personal possessions. He hasn't lived here for eight months. The door was vandalized, and the keyhole was sealed with glue. When he tried to open the door, the apartment management office staff called the police. Several police officers came from Jinjiang District. The landlord explained the situation to the officers, but they still

summoned Brother Jia Xuewei to the police station under the guise of “suspicion of picking quarrels and provoking trouble.”

[Continue reading...](#)

### **26.01.2022 - RFA: Chinese Christian group anxiously awaits asylum decision on South Korean island.**

The Jeju “Mayflower” Church fled China in 2019 to escape religious persecution. Pastor Pan Yongguang and his congregation applied for refugee status at multiple levels of the Korean government without success. *Radio Free Asia* published an article summarizing their story and provided some new details.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **17.01.2022 - Chinese Christian sued CCP official for various illegal practices**

Yesterday, Mrs. Guo Juan, wife of Taiyuan Xuncheng Reformed Church’s Zhang Chenghao, wrote in a public prayer request letter:

One week ago, I sued Mr. Hu, deputy team leader of Lüliang city national security agency. He is in charge of the case of my husband and Pastor An Yankui. Due to the stressful situation, I feel weak and scared. I pray for God’s help. But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream! (Amos 5:24).

[Continue reading...](#)

## **Church of Almighty God**

### **20.01.2022 - Christian dies during 4-Year detention for his Faith in God**

Chu Qingming (pseudonym), male, born in 1971, a resident of the eastern province of Shandong, was a Christian of The Church of Almighty God (CAG). He was arrested by the CCP police in December 2020 for his belief in Almighty God, and later was sentenced to 4 years in prison. He died during detention at the age of 50.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **20.01.2022 - Christian dies of illness from Mistreatment in Custody After Arrested for His Faith**

Hu Zhibin (pseudonym), male, born in 1953, was a Christian of The Church of Almighty God (CAG) in the central province of Hubei. In October 2018, Hu was arrested by the CCP police for his faith in Almighty God and was subjected to torture during interrogation. When he was held in the detention house, he was mistreated, and suffered illness without treatment, which caused his condition to be worsening. He died of illness on November 7, 2021 in prison.

[Continue reading...](#)

## Buddhists

### **18.01.2022 - Tenzin Delek Rinpoche: Statue removed, relatives arrested**

Fifteen years after the suspicious death in jail of the charismatic Buddhist monk from Kham, the CCP is still afraid of him.

How many in the West remember today the name of Tenzin Delek Rinpoche? Once, many in the world mobilized to save this famous Tibetan monk from execution. But this was 2002, twenty years ago. The **human rights** activists believed they had succeeded at least in persuading the **CCP** to convert the monk's death sentence into life imprisonment.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **24.01.2022 - Tibetan online religious groups banned in Qinghai**

Authorities in northwestern China's Qinghai province are banning Tibetan social media groups tied to religion, warning group members they will be investigated and jailed if they continue to use them, sources say.

[Continue reading...](#)

## Falun Gong

### **26.01.2022 - Liu Xiyong: A veteran Falun Gong prisoner's suspicious death in jail**

The 80-year-old man from Liaoning province had spent years in prison and was repeatedly tortured.

Liu Xiyong, an 80-year-old **Falun Gong** prisoner of conscience, died suspiciously in Dalian's No. 3 Prison, in Liaoning **province**, on December 29, 2021. His family and co-religionists believe he was persecuted to death.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **26.01.2022 - Guangdong woman sentenced to 4.5 years for talking to people about Falun Gong.**

A Jieyang City, Guangdong Province resident was sentenced to 4.5 years for her faith in Falun Gong in late 2020 and transferred to the Guangdong Province Women's Prison in November 2021.

Falun Gong, also known as Falun Dafa, is a spiritual discipline that has been persecuted by the Chinese communist regime since 1999.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **25.01.2022 - Eleven Falun Gong practitioners in Beijing sentenced to prison ahead of Winter Olympics**

Eleven Falun Gong practitioners were sentenced by the Dongcheng District Court in Beijing on January 14, 2022, after being arrested for sending photos of the empty city during the pandemic to overseas media. The sentencing came weeks before the 2022 Winter Olympics, set to be held in China from February 4 to 20.

[Continue reading...](#)

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## **Five women from Uyghur family sentenced to long prison terms in China's Xinjiang**

***A record of the verdict says the women were imprisoned for 'illegal' religious activities.***

By Shohret Hoshur

Radio Free Asia (21.01.2022) - <https://bit.ly/3nUQiAK> - A court in Xinjiang sentenced five Muslim Uyghur women from one family to lengthy jail terms for "illegal" religious activities, according to a copy of the 2019 verdict recently obtained by RFA.

The women — an elderly mother, her three daughters, and her daughter-in-law — received jail terms of between seven and 20 years, according to the document from the Korla (in Chinese, Kuerle) Municipal People's Court. Korla is the second-largest city in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region.

Halcham Pazil, Melikizat Memet, Patigul Memet, Zemire Memet and Bostan Ibrahim, were convicted of "disturbing public order and inciting ethnic hatred" for "hearing and providing a venue for illegal religious preaching," according to the document.

The eldest of the five Uyghur women, Halcham Pazil, is 78 years old, and the youngest, Bostan Ibrahim, is 33. Four of the women are housewives and one is a civil servant.

The verdict issued on April 2, 2019, indicates that the charges against them were brought by the Korla Municipal Procuratorate.

The verdict also mentions an imprisoned woman named Kadirye Memet, adding that her case would be dealt with separately.

Halchigul Memet, whom the document says led the women in religious discussions and is now living in exile, said Kadirye is a relative of the other five.

Chief Judge Shirali Memet, Judge Ahmetjan Kurban, Judge Ibadet Yasin and registrar Dilmurat Parhat signed the sentencing document. An official from the Korla Municipal Court declined to answer questions about the case.

"Why do you want to know about our judge? What government department are you calling from?" he asked.

The official told the RFA reporter that an officer from the local police department would contact him, but no one did. Another official confirmed that chief judge and other two judges who had signed the verdict were still working at the same court.

Halchigul Memet, mentioned in the verdict as having led the five women during the religious gatherings, told RFA she was related to the five imprisoned women.

"We were all relatives. I mean they were all direct relatives, and I was like a relative to them and them to me," she told RFA from Turkey.

The women followed traditional Uyghur customs and frequently visited each other to talk about their children and to practice their religion, Halchigul said.

"We used to go to each household regularly on weekly or biweekly basis," she said. "We would talk about how to improve our quality of life and help sharpen our religious knowledge.

"We never had any political or anti-government talks," she said. "We only talked about how to improve our well-being and our family's well-being and how to be traditionally good Muslims."

The prosecution and jailing of the five women for holding traditional religious gatherings is proof of the Chinese government's genocidal policies against Uyghurs, Halchigul said.

She said the other women arrested — Kadirye Memet — was also a member of the family of five women named in the verdict, she said.

Halchigul said that three other members of the same family — Mahmut and Musajan Memet, and Zohragul Hudaberdi, who married into the family — also had been sentenced to prison, bringing the total number of imprisoned relatives to nine.

"The Chinese government cracked down on this kind of simple gathering as a 'crime' against the country," Halchigul said. "They were seven siblings from this family, and all were detained and imprisoned, even the family's in-laws were imprisoned. It was devastating to the entire family."

*Translated by RFA's Uyghur Service. Written in English by Roseanne Gerin.*

*Photo : A Uyghur woman holds a placard as she demonstrates to ask for news of her relatives in northwestern China's Xinjiang region and to express concern about an extradition treaty between China and Turkey, near the Chinese consulate in Istanbul, Turkey, March 8, 2021 – AFP*

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## Special bimonthly FoRB newsletter (01-15.01.2022)

### General

#### **12.01.2022 - China's Public Security: To protect economy, crackdown on illegal religion**

Top police bureaucrat explains why to implement the program of the Central Economic Work Conference controlling religion is essential.

[Continue reading...](#)

#### **06.01.2022 - Government sets new restrictions on sharing religious information online amid ongoing violations**

Further strict regulations concerning the sharing of religious content online, due to take effect on 1 March 2022, were published by the Chinese government in December 2021, amid ongoing violations against religious communities over the Christmas and New Year period in China.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **03.01.2022 - Online religious services and activities led by foreigners to be banned in China**

The Chinese State Administration of Religious Affairs (SARA), along with the Ministries of Industry and Information Technology, of Public Security, and of State Security, recently announced new restrictive measures for Christian online activities.

The measures, which will affect churches, organisations and individuals, will come into force on 1 March 2022.

[Continue reading...](#)

## **Protestants**

### **11.01.2022 - Chen Yu: 7 year sentence for selling Christian books confirmed on appeal**

Western media and NGO had protested against the first-degree sentence in September 2020. The appellate judge confirmed Chen should remain in jail.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **07.01.2022 - New Year's resolutions for Chinese christians: Praise Xi and watch "Red" Movies**

The Three-Self Church 2022 flag-raising ceremony told believers they should do their part in supporting CCP propaganda.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **06.01.2022 - An Yankui and Zhang Chenghao of Taiyuan Xuncheng reformed church officially arrested**

The wife of An Yankui received a notice of arrest for Preacher An Yankui, sent out on December 28th by the Fenyang Public Security Bureau. The notice stated: Arrested approved by Fenyang City People's Procuratorate, Department 2 [2021] No. Z14, at 10:00 on December 28, 2021, our bureau executed the arrest of An Yankui on suspicion of illegally crossing the national border; he is currently detained at the Xiaoyi City Detention Center.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **03.01.2022 - China: Christians arrested for attending conference in Malaysia**

The detained pastors and laymen legally went to Kuala Lumpur to attend an event organized by well-known evangelist Tang Chongrong.

Tang Chongrong is a well-known Chinese overseas evangelist and missionary, and the founder of the Tang Chongrong International Mission. Tens of thousands have attended his rallies and seminars, and more have read his books.

[Continue reading...](#)

## **Buddhists**

### **14.01.2022 - Brothers detained in Eastern Tibet**

The arrests of Tenzin Norbu and Wangchen Nyima last August have only recently come to light

The detention of two monks in Garze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture last August has recently been revealed.

Tenzin Norbu and Wangchen Nyima, a pair of brothers from Neneng Monastery in Drago County, were arrested on 15 August 2021. They continue to be held in a detention centre in Tawu County.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **05.01.2022 - Restrictions on religious activities continue in Tibet**

Recently, as Bitter Winter reported, the Chinese authorities in Kham (a part of historical Tibet, now in Sichuan province) destroyed a 99-foot-tall Buddha statue and forty-five prayer wheels around it.

According to the sources cited by Dharamshala-based Tibet Watch, the demolition began on December 12, 2021. In China too, in the past few years, the Chinese authorities destroyed several Buddhist statues in Zhejiang, including a 92-foot statue of the Boddhisattva Guanyin in Taizhou.

[Continue reading...](#)

## **Falun Gong**

### **15.01.2022 - Falun Gong practitioners tortured at Yushu City Detention Center, at least two die**

Since the Chinese Communist Party began to persecute Falun Gong, a spiritual practice also known as Falun Dafa in 1999, at least two Falun Gong practitioners were tortured to death at Yushu City Detention Center in Jilin Province. Other practitioners were force-fed and restrained with a straitjacket as punishment when they went on hunger strike to protest the persecution. The following are a few examples of the persecution that Falun Gong practitioners suffered at Yushu City Detention Center.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **11.01.2022 - Elderly Couple arrested by Police who pretended to be healthcare workers to vaccinate them**

A woman in Linli County, Hunan Province won her lawsuit against the local social security bureau for arbitrarily suspending her pension, but the bureau has refused to reinstate her pension and even threatened to file a counter lawsuit to uphold their decision.

[Continue reading...](#)

### **09.01.2022 - Dalian woman dies in prison three years after being denied medical parole**

A 66-year-old woman in Dalian City, Liaoning Province suffered long-term torture and developed breast cancer while serving time for practicing Falun Gong. Ms. Zhong Shujuan died in Liaoning Women's Prison on December 24, 2021, three years after her request for medical parole was denied. Her body was cremated in the presence of the police, prosecutor and judge who were involved in her sentencing.

[Continue reading...](#)

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## **Chen Yu: 7-year sentence for selling Christian books confirmed on appeal**

*Western media and NGO had protested against the first-degree sentence in September 2020. The appellate judge confirmed Chen should remain in jail.*

By Zhong Jingguo

Bitter Winter (13.01.2022) - <https://bit.ly/3K8fbT1> - Several Western media and [NGOs reported](#) in 2020 that on September 27 Chen Yu, the head of the "Wheat Bookstore" in Taizhou, Zhejiang [province](#), had been charged with "illegal business operation" for selling Christian books, and sentenced to 7 years in prison and fined 200,000 yuan by Linhai City Court.

Family and co-religionists have now learned that the decision has been confirmed on appeal.

Chen Yu, who sometimes used the pseudonym Zhang Mai on social networks, was popular with Christians in Zhejiang and beyond. He had clients in Henan, Shandong, and other provinces. He had been left comparatively undisturbed until September 2019, when he was arrested.

At trial, the prosecutor claimed that he had sold more than 20,000 Bibles and Christian books, and that 12,684 books had been found at his premises and destroyed.

Reportedly, what enraged the police was that he sold thousand of books by Pastor Wang Yi, of Early Rain Covenant Church in Chengdu, who was [sentenced to nine years in jail](#) in 2019. Not coincidentally, it was when the trial against Pastor Wang Yi was being prepared that bookseller Chen Yu was arrested.

The prosecutor characterized Chen's bookselling operation as an "anti-Chinese conspiracy," because some of the Bibles and books he sold were printed in Taiwan and the United States, and claimed that Chen had more than 10,000 customers.

Chen remains an inmate in Linhai City [Detention Center](#), Zhejiang [Province](#).

*Photo : A Chinese-language Bible. From Wechat.*

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## Xi Jinping's sinicization, the new Cultural Revolution dear to Mao Zedong

**Contribution of Willy Fautré, director of *Human Rights Without Frontiers*, to the debate at the conference "Diplomatic Boycott of the Winter Olympics in China" held at the Press Club in Brussels on 4 January**

HRWF (05.01.2022) - On the eve of the Winter Olympic Games to be held in China, this conference and the protest demonstrations simultaneously held in Geneva, Berlin, Brussels and Antwerp are welcome to raise awareness about the egregious human rights violations for which China has been responsible for years and decades, especially under the rule of Xi Jinping.

Under the guise of **Sinicization**, Xi Jinping has reinforced the full control of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) over all sectors of society. This is what we would call **totalitarianism**.

### **What is sinicization?**

Sinicization is a word used at least since the 17<sup>th</sup> century that indicated the **assimilation of minorities in the Chinese empire** into Chinese culture and language.

The same term was adopted by Nationalist China to signify the effort **to replace the foreigners** who managed business, religions and civil society organizations by Chinese citizens.

The [CCP](#), however, gives a different meaning to the word "sinicization". **It is not sufficient that organizations operating in China, including religions and churches, have Chinese leaders.** In order to be accepted as "sinicized," they **should have leaders selected by the CCP** and operate within a framework of strategies and objectives indicated by the [CCP](#).

In Tibet and [Xinjiang](#), however, the [CCP](#) pursues a policy of "sinicization" in the traditional sense of the word, **trying to assimilate Uyghurs Muslims and Tibetan Buddhists into the Chinese Communist culture.**

On 3-4 December last, [Xi Jinping](#) personally presided on the first [National Conference on Work Related to Religious Affairs](#) that the [CCP](#) had held since 2016. He spoke at the Conference and asked for a more in-depth study of Karl Marx's texts on religion by all those involved in the management of religious activities in China. He also reiterated that **"Sinicization" of religion means its alignment with the CCP's principles, goals, and directions**, and lamented that the process he started with the 2016 conference is not advancing quickly enough.

In the name of "sinicization", millions of Uyghur Muslims are deprived of their freedom to be politically educated or reeducated in camps against their will, women are massively sterilized, hundreds of thousands of Han people are introduced in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region to make the Uyghur community a minority on its own historical lands and young Uyghur students are schooled in other regions far away from their cultural, linguistic and religious roots.

In the name of "sinicization", Tibetan Buddhists are also deprived of their culture, their traditions, their language, their religion and any access to their spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama. Their monasteries and numerous statues of Buddha have been and continue to be destroyed. The objective is to make Buddhism and any religion invisible in the public space.

"Sinicization" is a form of resurgence of the Cultural Revolution carried out by Mao Zedong from 1966 until his death in 1976 which devastated the then Chinese society. The common objective of Mao Zedong and Xi Jinping is **the reinforcement of Communism by eradicating the historical cultural and religious roots of their ethno-religious minorities and by purging the country of Western elements.** And Christianity is one of those "foreign agents" perceived by the CCP as a threat to its leadership.

### ***The sinicization of Christians***

As long as Christianity cannot disappear from China, its **churches are to be "sinicized," which means to "adapt to the socialist society" and to be placed under the authority of state organs controlled by the CCP, such as the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association and the Protestant Three-Self Patriotic Movement.**

Concretely, it is the CCP who **appoints the leaders and pastors of Protestant Churches.** Concerning the **Catholic Church**, it is the **Chinese government who proposes candidates to be appointed as bishops who are then to be confirmed by the Vatican.**

**Those who try to evade the Communist sinicization** and to operate outside this framework, in so-called house churches for example, are arrested and sentenced to heavy prison terms, as we regularly report in our newsletters. Examples:

- From October 14 to November 23 last year, the [CCP](#) authorities carried out a wanton crackdown against meetings of [Church of Almighty God](#) members in several cities and arrested **over two hundred** of them in 40 days.
- On 25 October last, a **Chinese Catholic bishop, Peter Shao Zhumin**, who had been arrested five times since 2016 for refusing to cut ties with the Vatican was taken away by authorities.

The official reason for his arrest and his whereabouts remain unknown but the real reason is his allegiance to the Vatican.

- In November last, **a Christian couple have each been sentenced to seven years in prison and a heavy fine** of RMB 250,000 (approximately £29,240) for allegedly "illegal business operations." In reality, the couple's registered printing company had produced **a large number of Christian books** before being seized by the local authorities.
- In a Protestant Three-Self Patriotic Church in northeast China's Liaoning Province, there is **a library to promote the education of believers.** Its shelves have been

filled with all kinds of secular books, including biographies of [Mao Zedong](#), Zhou Enlai, and other Chinese communist leaders, a series of books on the battles of World War II and the “red revolution.”

- In several parts of China, limitations and prohibitions are introduced for the celebration of **Christmas**, including in places of worship of the government-controlled Catholic and Protestant churches, in the framework of the implementation of directives on “[Sinicization](#)” of Christianity, which forbid “Western” celebrations. Hotels are also penalized for hosting Christmas events.

A previous panelist, Ben Rogers from Hong Kong Watch, has shown us how Beijing is currently putting an end to the “**One country, two systems**” status enjoyed by Hong Kong and replacing it by “One country one system”. The absorption of Christianity, Buddhism and Islam under the pretext of “sinicization” follows the same logic: to engulf religions into **Communism with so-called Chinese characteristics**, to neutralize them, to catch and to revel in their souls. The next target on the agenda of Xi Jinping is certainly Taiwan.

The diplomatic boycott of the Winter Olympic Games in China will show which countries, which heads of states, which political parties and which politicians are on the side of democracy and human rights or on the side of totalitarianism and join the Axis of Shame.