

RELIGIOUS SUPPRESSION IN CHINA:

THE LEGAL UNDERPINNINGS AND PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS
OF CHINA'S SYSTEMATIC REPRESSION OF RELIGION

ADDENDUM - INCIDENT TRACKER REPORT



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Title of incident:	All Religious Activities for Catholic Youth Prohibited			
Date of incident:	March 2019 – July 2019			
Types of incident:	<input type="checkbox"/> Sinicization	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Demolition/Closure of Churches	<input type="checkbox"/> Arrests/Disappearance of Christians	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Pressure
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Under Legal Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Others (please specify)		
Summary:	<p>In the name of separating religion from education, children do not have any contact with the faith of any religion, raised as obedient atheist followers of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). It is increasingly difficult after the 2018 Revised Religious Regulations. The Chinese Patriotic Catholic Association, the China-approved Catholic Church., is being forced to close their kindergartens due to the Religious Affairs Bureau clamping down. Even in state-run Three-Self churches, allowing children from entering into churches or any other religious event is prohibited.</p> <p>CCP's goal is to shut down all churches in China. Closing down kindergartens, a significant source of economic support, the churches struggle to find funding in other places. The government will not allow a school to be near a temple or a church. They are attempting to close off any chance of children being exposed to religion at all in Taiyuan, the capital of the northern province of Shanxi.</p> <p>Any Sunday school classes, bible studies, or youth clubs were all shut down. A youth club in Hubei shut down the same day it opened. A 14-day bible class offered by a state-run church was discovered and dismissed before it began. Not even China's state-approved churches have religious freedom.</p>			
Source:	<input type="checkbox"/> China Aid	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bitter Winter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Free Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> CCFR
	<input type="checkbox"/> Others (Please specify)			
Source link:	https://bitterwinter.org/all-religious-activities-for-catholic-youth-prohibited/			
Notes:				

Title of incident:	Chinese Court Upholds Pastor John Cao's Prison Sentence After Repeated Delays on Appeal Hearing			
Date of incident:	July 25, 2019			
Types of incident:	<input type="checkbox"/> Sinicization	<input type="checkbox"/> Demolition/Closure of Churches	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arrests/Disappearance of Christians	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Pressure
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Under Legal Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Others (Please specify)		
Summary:	<p>International Christian Concern (ICC) has learned that on July 25, a court in China's Yunnan province announced its decision to uphold Pastor John Cao's seven-year prison sentence, despite his appeal. Pastor Cao filed a motion for being wrongfully convicted for "organizing illegal border crossings" in 2018. However, the Chinese government has postponed his appeal hearing seven times. Many believe that due to his Christian faith he was unjustly targeted.</p> <p>In photos shared by China Aid, the court is heavily guarded by the police today. Only Cao's 83-year-old mother and his sister, along with their lawyer, were allowed to hear the verdict. The court's latest decision came after Pastor Cao's lawyers received a notice on July 12, stating that Cao's appeal would be handled via a "trial session on paper only," instead of an actual hearing.</p> <p>Pastor Cao dedicated himself to serving the impoverished people of Myanmar's self-governed Wa State, providing much-needed education and humanitarian aid to them before his 2017 arrest.</p> <p>Gina Goh, ICC's Regional Manager for Southeast Asia, said, "The unfair trial and trumped-up charges against Pastor John Cao once again demonstrate the disregard for the rule of law and religious freedom in China. Beijing's crackdown against Christianity should not be tolerated or ignored. The international community must continue speaking out for oppressed churches and Christians to stop their suffering."</p>			
Source:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> China Aid	<input type="checkbox"/> Bitter Winter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Free Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> CCFR
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Christian Concern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Father Francis Liu Twitter Account		
Source link:	https://www.persecution.org/2019/07/25/chinese-court-upholds-pastor-john-caos-prison-sentence/ https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/07/the-court-sustains-previous-sentence-of.html https://twitter.com/Francisliu/status/1154228246197616641			
Notes:				

Title of incident:	Three-Self Church Forced to Study Marxist Texts and Accept Atheism			
Date of incident:	August 18, 2019			
Types of incident:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sinicization	<input type="checkbox"/> Demolition/Closure of Churches	<input type="checkbox"/> Arrests/Disappearance of Christians	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Pressure
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Under Legal Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Others (Please specify)		
Summary:	<p>A Chinese Communist Party (CCP) approved state church in Yugan county, in the southeastern province of Jiangxi, received Marxist books titled “A Marxist Text for Peasants to Alleviate Poverty in Yugan County.” The Three-Self congregation was to take pictures of themselves holding the book, which had chapter titles saying God did not create the world, faith came from witchcraft, etc. The Marxist book tells members to be grateful to the CCP for a “happy life” despite having no autonomy or option to deny the Communist Party.</p> <p>Places of worship in China have suffered Sinicization in a steady increase ever since the “Four Requirements” campaign launched in 2018. The campaign requires all state-approved churches to raise the national flag, promote the Chinese Constitution, laws, regulations, core socialist values, and China’s traditional culture. Within the Marxist book, readers see Christian doctrine changed to promote President Xi Jinping and other propaganda.</p> <p>“Four requirements” is being enforced by the United Front Work Department (UFWD), which demands religious places to be transformed into a study and CCP political venue. A small pattern emerges with Three-Self churches. More and more churches will obey under duress CCP guidelines and become based on CCP’s ideology.</p>			
Source:	<input type="checkbox"/> China Aid	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bitter Winter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Free Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> CCFR
	<input type="checkbox"/> Others (Please specify)			
Source link:	https://bitterwinter.org/three-self-church-believers-indoctrinated-to-become-atheists/			
Notes:				

Title of incident:	Catholic Conscientious Objectors' Church Demolished			
Date of incident:	Series of incidents surrounding this event; August 2019 – November 2019			
Types of incident:	<input type="checkbox"/> Sinicization	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Demolition/Closure of Churches	<input type="checkbox"/> Arrests/Disappearance of Christians	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Pressure
	<input type="checkbox"/> Under Legal Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Others (Please specify)		
Summary:	<p>In August 2019, the United Front Work Department (UFWD) and the Ethnic and Religious Affairs Bureau in Fuzhou, organized a three-day training conference for the clergy of the region in hopes of influencing and transforming Catholic conscientious objectors. Catholic conscientious objectors are those who refuse to join the Chinese Patriotic Catholic Association (CPCA). Only five priests showed up, angering Chinese religious officials. In retaliation, 100 Catholic meeting venues in the archdiocese. The doors were locked, and the sites got shut down in the city of Fuqing.</p> <p>Later, in October 2019, Government officials announced that because of being an 'unlawful meeting venue,' it posted a demolition notice, and four surveillance cameras installed at each venue. Furthermore, officials burst into a Catholic site where more than 30 priests were meeting, and officials registered every person.</p> <p>CCP is systematically taking out the Catholic church in China, even with the Chinese Patriotic Catholic Association.</p>			
Source:	<input type="checkbox"/> China Aid	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bitter Winter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Free Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> CCFR
	<input type="checkbox"/> Others (Please specify)			
Source link:	https://bitterwinter.org/pressure-mounts-on-fuzhous-catholic-conscientious-objectors/			
Notes:				

Title of incident:	Crosses Removed from State-Run Churches			
Date of incident:	September, October 2019			
Types of incident:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sinicization	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Demolition/Closure of Churches	<input type="checkbox"/> Arrests/Disappearance of Christians	<input type="checkbox"/> Social Pressure
	<input type="checkbox"/> Under Legal Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Others (Please specify)		
Summary:	<p>September 9, 2019, the United Front Work Department (UFWD) forcefully removed a 7-meter-tall Jesus statue over the Church of Christ the King, a state-approved Catholic church in Lin Jia Zhuang village in Shandong, because it was “too high.” The central government claimed they could see it driving on the expressway. Along with the Jesus Blessing (arms wide) statue, two angels next to him got removed. A woman observing the demolition got caught taking pictures, authorities made her delete them.</p> <p>Furthermore, on September 29, the Lord’s Grace Church, a state-approved Three-Self church’s cross, was forcibly demolished. Government officials believed that offerings were “illegal fundraising” and sealed off. The next day, a Catholic church’s characters on the front of the building that said “Catholic Church” and “Jesus Loves You” were dismantled for being a “negative influence on the city’s image.”</p>			
Source:	<input type="checkbox"/> China Aid	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bitter Winter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Free Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> CCFR
	<input type="checkbox"/> Others (Please specify)			
Source link:	https://bitterwinter.org/crosses-removed-in-state-approved-churches/			
Notes:				

Title of incident:	Chinese Communist Party Replaced Ten Commandments with Xi Jinping's Quotes			
Date of incident:	September 14, 2019			
Types of incident:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sinicization	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Demolition/Closure of Churches	<input type="checkbox"/> Arrests/Disappearance of Christians	<input type="checkbox"/> Social Pressure
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Under Legal Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Others (Please specify)		
Summary:	<p>Even though a state-run Three-Self church in Henan, the Ten Commandments are stripped down from the church and replaced with quotes from Communist China leader Xi Jinping. It is happening for every Three-Self church. The quotes are from socialist promoting speeches that guard against Western ideology, calling it "extremist."</p> <p>Some Three-Self church members got shut down because they refused, while others were blacklisted. Meaning, their travels are restricted, schooling and future job opportunities are limited, and their overall ability to make an income in China will be at risk if they do not comply.</p> <p>By destroying Christian doctrine, it is another systematic way of eradicating the Church in China. The government's goal is to stop religious ideals from getting in the way of the Party. Part of the "Four Requirements" is to end religious couplets (poems, or biblical sayings), second is to dismantle crosses and replace it with the national flag and core socialist values. In China, social values are prosperity, democracy, civility, harmony, freedom, equality, justice, the rule of law, patriotism, dedication, integrity, and friendship. Third, to increase surveillance and to monitor religious activities. Finally, to replace Ten Commandments with the President's quotes.</p> <p>Although the face of Chinese socialism appears positive and morally right, China has not demonstrated it will follow any of these values if they go against the Chinese Communist Party's political agenda of Communism, according to Xi Jinping.</p>			
Source:	<input type="checkbox"/> China Aid	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bitter Winter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Free Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> CCFR
	<input type="checkbox"/> Others (Please specify)			
Source link:	https://bitterwinter.org/xi-jinpings-quotes-replace-the-ten-commandments/			
Notes:				

Title of incident:	Only Government-Supervised Worship Being Allowed			
Date of incident:	October – December 2019			
Types of incident:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sinicization	<input type="checkbox"/> Demolition/Closure of Churches	<input type="checkbox"/> Arrests/Disappearance of Christians	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Pressure
	<input type="checkbox"/> Under Legal Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Others (Please specify)		
Summary:	<p>In Zaozhuang, October 2019, Chinese officials stormed into a house church venue, obliterated the church door, and confiscated religious books. With this evidence, they told the pastor not to assemble; otherwise, he will face hefty fines and possibly detainment. The official said to him, “religious freedom can only be practiced with the government’s permission.” That directly contradicts China’s claim that they have religious freedom without oversight.</p> <p>House churches throughout China are constrained to stop gathering independently and to join a Three-Self state-approved church. From September to December 2019, over 15 house churches in Zaozhuang experienced such pressure where the congregation scattered. In November, police officers raided a venue and tore down religious paintings, stole furniture, and burned everything to the ground.</p>			
Source:	<input type="checkbox"/> China Aid	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bitter Winter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Free Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> CCFR
	<input type="checkbox"/> Others (Please specify)			
Source link:	https://bitterwinter.org/only-government-supervised-worship-is-allowed/			
Notes:				

Title of incident:	Official Religious Venues Punished for Slightest 'Mistakes'			
Date of incident:	November 8, 2019			
Types of incident:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sinicization	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Demolition/Closure of Churches	<input type="checkbox"/> Arrests/Disappearance of Christians	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Pressure
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Under Legal Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Others (Please specify)		
Summary:	<p>The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) closed down one of the official Three-Self churches in Liangmen village in Henan Province. Three-Self churches are state-run; they preach and worship only what the CCP allows. These churches show a perception that China has religious liberty. Bibles are not permitted unless published by an approved publisher.</p> <p>During an inspection, government officials found the color of the flag was 'substandard'; therefore, it was grounds for the CCP to close the church doors. Officials said the flag in front of the church was too big, and the church's regulations were in the 'wrong place.' CCP officials also found a hidden box of Bibles and hymn books by unapproved publishers. The church got shut down immediately.</p>			
Source:	<input type="checkbox"/> China Aid	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bitter Winter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Free Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> CCFR
	<input type="checkbox"/> Others (Please specify)			
Source link:	https://bitterwinter.org/official-religious-venues-punished-for-slightest-mistakes/			
Notes:	Buddhist temple persecution in same article, underneath Three-Self news.			

Title of incident:	House Churches Forced to Close; Forced to Choose Between Social Benefits and Faith			
Date of incident:	November 10, 2019; December 8, 2019			
Types of incident:	<input type="checkbox"/> Sinicization	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Demolition/Closure of Churches	<input type="checkbox"/> Arrests/Disappearance of Christians	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Pressure
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Under Legal Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Others (Please specify)		
Summary:	<p>On November 10, Chinese authorities shut down over 30 house church venues in the Zhejiang province. They were “unlicensed” venues that “met illegally” because they refused to join the state-approved Three-Self Church. The Ethnic and Religious Affairs Bureau issued notices for all of them, and 11 shut down before November ended.</p> <p>On November 17, four police officers raided the Great Praise Church in Weishi county. The officers took down the personal information of every church attendee, took two pastors, and forced them to sign statements that promised no church services or events would continue. November 21, a bulldozer and an excavator were organized by the town to demolish the church.</p> <p>Another church in the Henan province got shut down because members refused to stop attending religious church events when threatened to have their social benefits suspended. With no other place to go, churchgoers meet in a cold dark cave house.</p>			
Source:	<input type="checkbox"/> China Aid	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bitter Winter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Free Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> CCFR
	<input type="checkbox"/> Others (Please specify)			
Source link:	https://bitterwinter.org/house-churches-subjected-to-increasing-persecution/			
Notes:				

Title of incident:	China Eliminates Evidence of Religious Persecution			
Date of incident:	November 26, 2019			
Types of incident:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sinicization	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Demolition/Closure of Churches	<input type="checkbox"/> Arrests/Disappearance of Christians	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Pressure
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Under Legal Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Others (Please specify)		
Summary:	<p>On November 26, in Ji'an city, bordering the Hunan province, government officials took down the Virgin Mary with baby Jesus painting on the wall and replaced it with a picture of President Xi Jinping. In front of the church was a sign that said no minors were allowed in religious activities or attend any church events.</p> <p>The government also had propaganda everywhere, but when news caught onto the story, the officials took everything down, as well as the sign which said that no minors were allowed in religious activities or events. They took the signs of closure down because it smeared the Chinese Communist Party's public face and clearly showed a restriction of religious freedom. The church was eventually demolished, which was personally overseen by the United Front Work Department (UFWD), and only a statue of Mao Zedong remained. Mao Zedong was the founding father of the People's Republic of China and leader of the communist party until his death, due to a heart attack, in 1976.</p>			
Source:	<input type="checkbox"/> China Aid	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bitter Winter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Free Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> CCFR
	<input type="checkbox"/> Others (Please specify)			
Source link:	https://bitterwinter.org/chinas-handbook-on-concealing-religious-persecution/			
Notes:				

Title of incident:	Christians not Allowed to Hold Religious Funerals			
Date of incident:	December 1, 2019			
Types of incident:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sinicization	<input type="checkbox"/> Demolition/Closure of Churches	<input type="checkbox"/> Arrests/Disappearance of Christians	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Pressure
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Under Legal Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Others (Please specify)		
Summary:	<p>The Regulations on Centralized Funeral Arrangement came into effect on December 1, 2019, by the Wenzhou city's Pingyang county in the eastern province of Zhejiang. It rid the country of "bad funeral customs and established a scientific, civilized, and economical way of funerals." It bans any clerical people from overseeing funerals and does not allow more than ten family members to read scripture or sing hymns in a low voice.</p> <p>Other parts of the country are now adopting this policy. Religion is not to be at weddings, funerals, or other activities in their lives. This document is called the Management Measures for Village (or Community) and Township (or Town) Religious Work Assistants. Officials have also claimed that Christians are just disguising religious gatherings, which are forbidden, like funerals.</p> <p>If authorities hear about Christian rituals performed during a funeral, it is harshly disrupted or closed. Crosses are not even allowed on tombs, coffins, or anywhere that can be dedicated; Three-Self churches are also not allowed to have any religious rites either, says a church from Wuhan (the capital of the central province of Hubei).</p>			
Source:	<input type="checkbox"/> China Aid	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bitter Winter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Free Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> CCFR
	<input type="checkbox"/> Others (Please specify)			
Source link:	https://bitterwinter.org/christians-not-allowed-to-hold-religious-funerals/			
Notes:				

Title of incident:	Christians Forced to Sing Chinese National Anthem at Christmas Service; Praise Communist Party, not God			
Date of incident:	December 2-25, 2019			
Types of incident:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sinicization	<input type="checkbox"/> Demolition/Closure of Churches	<input type="checkbox"/> Arrests/Disappearance of Christians	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Pressure
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Under Legal Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Others (Please specify)		
Summary:	<p>In 2019, the Chinese Communist Party imposed strict bans on celebrating Christmas, the most widely celebrated Christian holiday. The holiday was part of the Western value system, and no Chinese Christmas merchandise was allowed to be distributed. A Three-Self Church in Ningling county, administered by Shangqiu city in Henan province, announced that on December 2, 2019, some churches were allowed to celebrate the holiday. However, the services became Sinicized in form and content. Christmas then became a trivial event, instead of a celebration of Jesus being born, there was no religious recognition whatsoever.</p> <p>On December 19, the United Front Work Department strictly observed another Three-Self church. They reluctantly sang the Chinese national anthem and the song "Without the Communist Party, there would be no China."</p> <p>On December 25, the same watchful religious supervisors made the Three-Self church choir members sing the Chinese national anthem. The banner above them reads, "Celebrate Christmas by singing the national anthem." If they do not sing the national song, the government will shut them down.</p>			
Source:	<input type="checkbox"/> China Aid	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bitter Winter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Free Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> CCFR
	<input type="checkbox"/> Others (Please specify)			
Source link:	https://bitterwinter.org/christmas-sinicized-to-praise-the-communist-party-not-god/			
Notes:				

Title of incident:	China Announces New Measures to Govern Religious Groups			
Date of incident:	December 30, 2019			
Types of incident:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sinicization	<input type="checkbox"/> Demolition/Closure of Churches	<input type="checkbox"/> Arrests/Disappearance of Christians	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Pressure
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Under Legal Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Others (Please specify)		
Summary:	<p>On December 30, China's state-run media Xinhua reports that as of February 1, 2020, new administrative measures will come into force for any religious groups operating in China. These new measures come two years after the 2018 revised Regulations on Religious Affairs. The "Administrative Measures for Religious Groups," which aims to regulate religious activities further, have been approved.</p> <p>The text of the measures consists of six chapters and 41 articles dealing with the organization, functions, offices, supervision, projects, and the economic administration of communities and groups at both a national and local level. AsiaNews reports that every aspect of the life of religious communities – from formation, gatherings to annual and daily projects – is subject to approval by the government's religious affairs department.</p> <p>In addition to widespread control of all community activities, the new measures require religious personnel to support, promote, and implement total submission to the Chinese Communist Party among all members of their communities.</p> <p>Beijing is known to demand the religious groups to submit to the CCP's control and help promote socialism ideology through their leadership and activities. With the latest measures in place, the government will use them as a legal tool to further tighten space for religious groups. Bitter Winter comments that, as happened for the revised regulations, much will depend on how the new provisions will be enforced, starting in two months. But clearly, the crackdown on religion continues, and the legal framework is going from bad to worse.</p>			
Source:	<input type="checkbox"/> China Aid	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bitter Winter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Free Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> CCFR
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Others (Please specify)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AsiaNews		
Source link:	https://www.persecution.org/2019/12/31/china-announces-new-measures-govern-religious-groups/			
Notes:	http://www.asianews.it/news-en/-New-administrative-measures-for-religious-groups-total-submission-to-the-Chinese-Communist-Party-%E2%80%8B-48919.html https://bitterwinter.org/chinas-new-measures-for-religious-groups-2019/			

Title of incident:	Eradication of Jiangxi Province's House Churches for not joining Three-Self Church			
Date of incident:	January 5, 2020			
Types of incident:	<input type="checkbox"/> Sinicization	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Demolition/Closure of Churches	<input type="checkbox"/> Arrests/Disappearance of Christians	<input type="checkbox"/> Social Pressure
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Under Legal Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Others (Please specify)		
Summary:	<p>On January 5, Chinese government officials forcefully went into a house church venue in Fuzhou's Nancheng county to close it down. They took photos of the believers who were present at the location and registered each person's personal information. The CCP accused the church pastor of holding religious meetings at home in violation of the <i>Regulations on Religious Affairs</i>.</p> <p>Police reportedly took the pastor to the Public Security Bureau for questioning where he was for five days for refusing to join the Three-Self Patriotic Movement.</p>			
Source:	<input type="checkbox"/> China Aid	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bitter Winter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Free Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> CCFR
	<input type="checkbox"/> Others (Please specify)			
Source link:	https://bitterwinter.org/eradication-of-jiangxi-provinces-house-churches/			
Notes:				

Title of incident:	Christians Imprisoned for Collecting Offering			
Date of incident:	January 8, 2020			
Types of incident:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sinicization	<input type="checkbox"/> Demolition/Closure of Churches	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arrests/Disappearance of Christians	<input type="checkbox"/> Social Pressure
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Under Legal Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Others (Please specify)		
Summary:	<p>According to the Bible, church sacraments, activities, traditions, and worship have been part of the Christian faith since the beginning of the world. Taking the offering, a form of prayer, and giving back to God, is not illegal funding, it is a donation. Although the government in China in the province of Hubei has imprisoned three Christian women for “collecting the offering.” One of the women, Pastor Hao Zhiwei, could face more than ten years in prison. The other two are Hong Ying and Wan Yuanxiang. All three have been charged with fraud, even though the offering is a Holy Sacrament even in the Church.</p> <p>Officials accused the church in Hubei of being illegal, its clergy of receiving unlawful funding, and violating the communist way of equal distribution. “Internal funding” threatens the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), and by cutting off free giving by donors, it severely affects the church’s way of supporting itself.</p>			
Source:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> China Aid	<input type="checkbox"/> Bitter Winter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Free Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> CCFR
	<input type="checkbox"/> Others (Please specify)			
Source link:	https://www.chinaaid.org/2020/01/christians-imprisoned-for-collecting.html			
Notes:				

Title of incident:	<p>闽东教区郭主教被驱逐出主教府，露宿街头；多位神父和老人家也无家可归。</p> <p>Bishop Guo of the Mindong Diocese was expelled from the bishop's house, sleeping on the streets; many priests and elderly people were also homeless.</p>			
Date of incident:	January 15, 2020			
Types of incident:	<input type="checkbox"/> Sinicization	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Demolition/Closure of Churches	<input type="checkbox"/> Arrests/Disappearance of Christians	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Pressure
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Under Legal Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Others (Please specify)		
Summary:	<p>Translation: Bishop Guo of the Mindong Diocese was expelled from the bishop's house, sleeping on the streets; many priests and elderly people were also homeless.</p> <p>Chinese authorities shut off power and water to five parishes, then closed them altogether, three of them being Fu'an, Saiqi, and Shuangfeng. Nursing homes run by nuns were closed; more than 30 older people relied on their care. Some were taken in by their family, although some were cast to the streets and remain homeless. According to the news source, China's Mindong Diocese (of Fujian), former bishop Guo Xijin, was deported and left the clergy of the Luojiang Catholic Church in Fu'an City, homeless.</p> <p>During January 15, the CCP cut off electricity, water, and power to expedite their removal. They also said the building the church was in had outdated permits and were also in violation of fire regulations and therefore had to be "stopped." In hopes that the church would join a state-approved church.</p> <p>The United Front and Religious Affairs Office are forcing priests to sign a document that tells the government they are leaving the 'independent' church to join the China-Vatican agreement church. For those who refuse, they are hunted down and expelled from their homes and places of worship.</p>			
Source:	<input type="checkbox"/> China Aid	<input type="checkbox"/> Bitter Winter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Free Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> CCFR
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AsiaNews.it			
Source link:	http://www.asianews.it/news-zh/%E9%97%BD%E4%B8%9C%E6%95%99%E5%8C%BA%E9%83%AD%E4%B8%BB%E6%95%99%E8%A2%AB%E9%A9%B1%E9%80%90%E5%87%BA%E4%B8%BB%E6%95%99%E5%BA%9C%EF%BC%8C%E9%9C%B2%E5%AE%BF%E8%A1%97%E5%A4%B4%EF%BC%9B%E5%A4%9A%E4%BD%8D%E7%A5%9E%E7%88%B6%E5%92%8C%E8%80%81%E4%BA%BA%E5%AE%B6%E4%B9%9F%E6%97%A0%E5%AE%B6%E5%8F%AF%E5%BD%92%EF%BC%88%E8%A7%86%E9%A2%91%EF%BC%89-49047.html			
Notes:				

Title of incident:	Hu Shigen Granted Medical Parole After Four Years in Prison			
Date of incident:	July 10, 2015 (First disappeared) January 8, 2016 (Detained) January 2019 (Medical parole)			
Types of incident:	<input type="checkbox"/> Sinicization	<input type="checkbox"/> Demolition/Closure of Churches	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arrests/Disappearance of Christians	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Pressure
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Under Legal Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Others (Please specify)		
Summary:	<p>Hu Shigen was born on November 14, 1955, in Jiangxi Province. He went to school in Beijing, the capital of China, and was a professor there. After seeing protests in favor of Democracy, Hu Shigen became involved with political activism and later founded the China Free Democratic Party and the China Free Labor Union.</p> <p>Because of Shigen's activism and human rights activities, he was arrested and charged in 2002 with organizing and leading an anti-CCP group and anti-CCP propaganda and incitement, and sentenced to 20 years in prison. The CCP released him four years early; during that time, the authorities tortured him. From 2011 to 2014, the police detained Hu Shigen briefly when he refused to stop his religious activities.</p> <p>On July 10, 2015, when China started to crack down further on human rights lawyers and activists, Hu Shigen disappeared without a word to his family for almost six months. Two days before, it would have been illegal for the prison to detain him any longer than six months. It is not uncommon for the detainee's family or friends to not hear from their loved ones during that time until they finally get a notice saying the government.</p> <p>Since Shigen had been arrested and sentenced to seven and a half years in August 2016, his family saw him for the first time two months later and immediately knew that he needed medical help. Shigen had suffered from kidney failure, high blood pressure, a heart attack, and a continued tight chest that caused him to need to sit up, among other health issues. As such, his family has begged the authorities to let him out to seek medical treatment.</p>			
Source:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> China Aid	<input type="checkbox"/> Bitter Winter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Free Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> CCFR
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> USCIRF			
Source link:	https://www.chinaaid.org/2020/01/officials-begin-church-elders-parole.html			
Notes:	https://www.uscirtf.gov/about-uscirtf/hu-shigen			

Title of incident:	China's Communist Party Imposes New Religious Restrictions			
Date of incident:	January 30, 2020			
Types of incident:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sinicization	<input type="checkbox"/> Demolition/Closure of Churches	<input type="checkbox"/> Arrests/Disappearance of Christians	<input type="checkbox"/> Social Pressure
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Under Legal Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Others (Please specify)		
Summary:	<p>The regulations China's Communist Party (CCP) is imposing on Christian churches consist of six chapters and 41 articles, starting February 1, 2020. The President of China, Xi Jinping, introduced putting more "Chinese characteristics" into religion, using the values of socialism. One main article that the Chinese religious organizations are implementing is Article 5, with religious organizations mandated to spread the principles and policies of the CCP. These principles and procedures include changing public education, forcing ideological and leadership supremacy over any religious activity.</p> <p>According to ChinaAid, "Authorities launched a five-year plan for reworking religion so that the Communist Party sits at its dictatorial head. Under this, officials throughout China have asked churches to fly the national flag while destroying religious imagery, such as crosses, or church buildings. In churches run by the state, the CCP command Christians to sing patriotic songs and listen to pro-Communist Party sermons."</p>			
Source:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> China Aid	<input type="checkbox"/> Bitter Winter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Free Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> CCFR
	<input type="checkbox"/> AsiaNews.it			
Source link:	https://www.chinaaid.org/2020/01/china-to-roll-out-new-religious.html			
Notes:				

Title of incident:	No Online Religious Activities Allowed Amid Coronavirus Outbreak			
Date of incident:	February 23 rd , 2020			
Types of incident:	<input type="checkbox"/> Sinicization	<input type="checkbox"/> Demolition/Closure of Churches	<input type="checkbox"/> Arrests/Disappearance of Christians	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Pressure
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Under Legal Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Others (Please specify)		
Summary:	<p>The coronavirus ripped through China from December 2019 to the present. Christians in China have been extremely creative in spreading the gospel despite being forced to quarantine themselves inside their homes. On February 23, the Two Chinese Christian Councils in the eastern province of Shandong issued a notice prohibiting any technological communication between church members.</p> <p>Church members have been meeting over phone calls and Skype. Chinese technology companies are shutting down churches' ability to meet together, disrupting, and closing contact with other churches. The Chinese Communist Party, since 2016, has been intentionally targeting online chat rooms and community groups online. Pastors are caring for the congregation in a new method that could combat the church closures because of the renewal of faith life with "online prayer rooms," "live broadcasting," etc.</p> <p>In September 2018, China's State Administration for Religious Affairs wrote regulation titled, Measures for the Management of Religious Information on the Internet. It says no religious activities will be allowed to live-stream or broadcast religious affairs, including prayer, worshipping, or baptism.</p>			
Source:	<input type="checkbox"/> China Aid	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bitter Winter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Free Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> CCFR
	<input type="checkbox"/> AsiaNews.it			
Source link:	https://bitterwinter.org/no-online-religious-activities-allowed-amid-coronavirus-outbreak/			
Notes:				

Title of incident:	Under False Pretenses: Authorities Check-up on Pregnant Christian, Offered to Take Her to Hospital			
Date of incident:	March 10, 2020			
Types of incident:	<input type="checkbox"/> Sinicization	<input type="checkbox"/> Demolition/Closure of Churches	<input type="checkbox"/> Arrests/Disappearance of Christians	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Pressure
	<input type="checkbox"/> Under Legal Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Others (Please specify)		
Summary:	<p>On March 10, in Chengdu, authorities claimed they were there to assist her, and her pregnancy falsely justified the visits after learning that an exam she had done revealed high blood pressure, and they wanted to take her to the hospital. The family refused the offer and responded with, "it should be our choice whether to go to the hospital."</p> <p>Lan Wei's family looked over the balcony and saw unidentified government men appear at their door and attempt to pry open her lock and break-in. The Lan family does not understand why the police are trying to impress their care on a Christian family, if not to separate them and perhaps take the wife away.</p>			
Source:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> China Aid	<input type="checkbox"/> Bitter Winter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Free Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> CCFR
	<input type="checkbox"/> AsiaNews.it			
Source link:	https://www.chinaaid.org/2020/03/authorities-check-up-on-pregnant.html			
Notes:				

Title of incident:	China's Suppression of Religion Not Erased Amid the Pandemic			
Date of incident:	March 13, 2020			
Types of incident:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sinicization	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Demolition/Closure of Churches	<input type="checkbox"/> Arrests/Disappearance of Christians	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Pressure
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Under Legal Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Others (Please specify)		
Summary:	<p>On February 18, 2020, the Ethnic and Religious Affairs Bureau (ERAB) of Anhui Province released a statement assigning specific activities to various government departments to crack down on "illegal evangelism" during the present coronavirus. The ERAB is also coordinating their actions with the United Front Work Department (UFD), especially in cyberspace and increasing campaigns to control religious groups.</p> <p>On March 13, the cross-removal drives were constant during the coronavirus epidemic, and two churches were forced by authorities to dismantle their crosses. The first church was a church in Woyang county, the second church in Huaishang district.</p> <p>The coronavirus was the cause of many church closures to help curb the pandemic, yet still, government officials inspected the homes of Christians, removing religious couplets or papers. In January, officials used loudspeakers to warn residents that the CCP would suspend their pensions if residents had these papers in their possession.</p> <p>Furthermore, bans on religious groups include not promoting their faith during disaster relief efforts in China. The Chinese Communist Party bans any religious information or symbol in charity donations or items.</p>			
Source:	<input type="checkbox"/> China Aid	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bitter Winter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Free Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> CCFR
	<input type="checkbox"/> AsiaNews.it			
Source link:	https://bitterwinter.org/chinas-suppression-of-religion-not-eased-amid-the-pandemic/			
Notes:				

Title of incident:	Escaping China to Keep Their Child			
Date of incident:	April, 2020			
Types of incident:	<input type="checkbox"/> Sinicization	<input type="checkbox"/> Demolition/Closure of Churches	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arrests/Disappearance of Christians	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Pressure
	<input type="checkbox"/> Under Legal Framework	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forced Fleeing		
Summary:	<p>Seven months after they fled to Taiwan to dodge the endless oppression against themselves and their church, Liao Qiang and his family seem to be adapting well to their new lives on the democratic island. But even though they are safe in Taiwan for the time being, memories from the traumatic experience in China still overshadow their lives. They were members of the heavily targeted church, Early Rain Covenant Church (ERCC), in Chengdu, China. On December 9, 2018, the police raided the well-known Sichuan house church and arrested more than 100 members before criminally charging many with multiple crimes. While most of them got out on bail, Pastor Wang Yi and elder Qin Derfu are currently incarcerated by the authorities on trumped-up charges.</p> <p>“The main reason for us to come to Taiwan is our adopted child. We are worried that he might be taken away by the gov-ernment,” Liao said, referring to his adopted son—a toddler abandoned by his parents due to a sarcoma on his arm. Because the government labeled ERCC as a “cult,” the police could easily claim their son.</p> <p>Ever since the 1209 crackdown on ERCC, Liao’s family has been placed under immense pressure by the CCP. The authorities asked them to stop attending ERCC, to distance themselves from Pastor Wang Yi, and send their older son to public school. Even though Liao sent his son to public school, the threats against them did not stop. The government even staged a 24/7 surveillance team outside of their residence. Each member of Liao’s family would have a designated team to follow them around wherever they went. If they were out of sight, the police would use GPS tracking on their cell phones to monitor them. The police would follow them and appear suddenly to instill fear.</p>			
Source:	<input type="checkbox"/> China Aid	<input type="checkbox"/> Bitter Winter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Free Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> CCFR
	<input type="checkbox"/> AsiaNews.it	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Christian Concern		
Source link:	https://www.persecution.org/2020/04/16/escaping-china/			
Notes:				

Title of incident:	Cross Removed from a Three-Self Church in Anhui			
Date of incident:	April 1, 2020			
Types of incident:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sinicization	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Demolition/Closure of Churches	<input type="checkbox"/> Arrests/Disappearance of Christians	<input type="checkbox"/> Social Pressure
	<input type="checkbox"/> Under Legal Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Others (Please specify)		
Summary:	<p>On April 1, local authorities came to a state-sanctioned church in Fuyang city, Anhui, and removed its cross. According to a video posted by Father Francis Liu from the Chinese Christian Fellowship of Righteousness, a crane truck was in front of a Three-self church.</p> <p>The person who recorded the video said, “They want to remove the church’s cross. We need to pray for this. May God have mercy on us!” A person who might be a church member kneeled before the iron gate to pray for the church. Although there was no video of the actual cross removal, it is safe to assume that the removal of the cross has taken place since the directive came from the local government. As a state-sanctioned church, it is unable to protest such action.</p> <p>Even amid the spread of Coronavirus, authorities in Anhui have not stopped persecuting Christian churches.</p>			
Source:	<input type="checkbox"/> China Aid	<input type="checkbox"/> Bitter Winter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Free Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> CCFR
	<input type="checkbox"/> AsiaNews.it	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Christian Concern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Father Franci Liu Twitter Account	
Source link:	https://www.persecution.org/2020/04/02/cross-removed-three-self-church-anhui/ https://twitter.com/Francisliu/status/1245191426654126081			
Notes:				

Title of incident:	ERCC Pastor Wang Yi Not Appealing Sentence			
Date of incident:	April, 2020			
Types of incident:	<input type="checkbox"/> Sinicization	<input type="checkbox"/> Demolition/Closure of Churches	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arrests/Disappearance of Christians	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Pressure
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Under Legal Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Others (Please specify)		
Summary:	<p>Early Rain Covenant Church Pastor Wang was taken into custody on Dec. 9, 2018, along with around 100 other members of his church. He received the charges of “illegal business operations” and “inciting subversion of state power.” Officials tried him in secret on Dec. 26, 2019, and sentenced him to nine years behind bars on Dec. 30. According to Chinese attorney Zhang Peihong, Wang does not plan to appeal his sentence.</p> <p>As part of his sentence, Pastor Wang will have about \$7,200 of his assets seized and be “stripped of political rights” for three years, according to a government statement.</p> <p>“This is a pure case of unjust religious persecution against a peaceful preacher of a Chinese reformed church,” Bob Fu, president of advocacy organization China Aid Association (CAA), said in a press statement. “This grave sentence demonstrates [President] Xi [Jinping]’s regime is determined to be the enemy of universal values and religious freedom. We call upon the international community to stand up to the Chinese Communist Party and hold this evil regime accountable.”</p>			
Source:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> China Aid	<input type="checkbox"/> Bitter Winter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Free Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> CCFR
	<input type="checkbox"/> AsiaNews.it	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Christian Concern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Morning Star News	
Source link:	https://www.chinaaid.org/2020/01/breaking-pastor-will-not-appeal-sentence.html https://www.chinaaid.org/2020/01/christian-leaders-launch-wang-yi.html			
Notes:	https://morningstarnews.org/2020/01/harsh-sentence-for-pastor-wang-signals-severe-crackdown-in-china-sources-say/			

Title of incident:	A Guangzhou Christian from House Church Denied Residence Permit			
Date of incident:	April 7, 2020			
Types of incident:	<input type="checkbox"/> Sinicization	<input type="checkbox"/> Demolition/Closure of Churches	<input type="checkbox"/> Arrests/Disappearance of Christians	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Pressure
	<input type="checkbox"/> Under Legal Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Others (Please specify)		
Summary:	<p>According to China Aid, an elder from a house church in China's southeastern Guangzhou city has been repeatedly harassed by the local authorities. Chen Chengwan is from Guangfu Church's Baihua campus in Taihe township. He was recently visited by the local government many times with the excuse of checking his credentials. When he tried to apply for his residence permit, he was denied despite his appeals.</p> <p>Within a week last week, Chen's home was visited twice by the local authorities. He said, "On April 7, around 3 pm, some people who claimed to be from the Taihe township rental management center came to my house. First, they knocked on my door very hard, saying that as rental management staff, they needed to check on residents. I told them I was occupied and could not receive them, yet they continued to knock and get our landlord to come."</p> <p>These people seemed very impatient and demanded him to open the door immediately. "I told them my kid had an online class, and it's convenient for me to open the door. They then asked me to come out by myself. I told them it's not convenient. They finally left," he added. To him, it was odd that these people only targeted his family, not others.</p> <p>Also, he went to the rental management center last December to renew his Guangdong province residence permit. Yet, they refused to issue a renewal saying he had a record of petitioning against the government, so his name had been blacklisted. Since Chen is not a permanent resident of Guangzhou, he needs to renew his residence permit each year. However, he is often denied by the government thanks to his house church membership.</p>			
Source:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> China Aid	<input type="checkbox"/> Bitter Winter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Free Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> CCFR
	<input type="checkbox"/> AsiaNews.it	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Christian Concern		
Source link:	https://www.persecution.org/2020/04/13/guangzhou-christian-house-church-denied-residence-permit/			
Notes:	https://www.chinaaid.net/2020/04/blog-post_11.html			

Title of incident:	Three-Self Church Pastor Pledges Allegiance to the Party			
Date of incident:	April 8, 2020			
Types of incident:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sinicization	<input type="checkbox"/> Demolition/Closure of Churches	<input type="checkbox"/> Arrests/Disappearance of Christians	<input type="checkbox"/> Social Pressure
	<input type="checkbox"/> Under Legal Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Others (Please specify)		
Summary:	<p>Apostles Church, situated in China’s coastal city of Suzhou, recently appointed Rev. Rui Tingting as the senior associate pastor. She accepted the appointment, meaning she would be the successor to the oldest church in the Jiangsu province, the first protestant church from 1879 by missionaries.</p> <p>According to the Suzhou Christian Council and Three-Self Patriotic Movement (CC&TSPM), they held the first-ever Chinese national flag-raising ceremony in Shishan Church on October 1, 2018. This new campaign introduced traditional Chinese culture into churches in China, meaning national flags in place of religious symbols, core socialist values, over any Christian theology from the Bible.</p> <p>As shared by China Christian Daily, the two Chinese national flags on the podium displayed before Rev. Rui shows her responsibility to society and allegiance to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) over God. With her hand on the Bible, she promised she would follow the CCP’s core socialist values, comply with the three-self principles, and also to fulfill her pastoral responsibilities to the Apostles Church.</p> <p>In recent years, Beijing has reinforced the party ideology on Three-Self churches, making sure the leadership is adherents of CCP’s values. Many churches have been asked by the CCP to display flags, slogans, or even portraits of Chinese President Xi Jinping inside their buildings to show their allegiance. Leaders of these churches have to be “politically correct” for them to be selected by the CC&TSPM.</p>			
Source:	<input type="checkbox"/> China Aid	<input type="checkbox"/> Bitter Winter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Free Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> CCFR
	<input type="checkbox"/> AsiaNews.it	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Christian Concern		
Source link:				
Notes:	http://chinachristiandaily.com/news/category/2020-04-10/red-flags-before-an-oath-taker-for-being-appointed-associate-senior-pastor- 8989 https://twitter.com/Frfrancisliu/status/1250423051621036035/photo/1			

Title of incident:	China's Xunsiding Church Continues to be Monitored			
Date of incident:	April 9, 2020			
Types of incident:	<input type="checkbox"/> Sinicization	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Demolition/Closure of Churches	<input type="checkbox"/> Arrests/Disappearance of Christians	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Pressure
	<input type="checkbox"/> Under Legal Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Others (Please specify)		
Summary:	<p>Although it is true that due to the COVID-19 epidemic, the Chinese government seems to relax its surveillance of house churches due to a change of focus, many churches, especially well-known ones, continue to experience persecution from the authorities. Xunsiding Church, an influential house church in the coastal city of Xiamen in Fujian Province, was forcibly shut down last May and has not seen its church without guards for one day since its beginning virus outbreak in January. Pastor of the church, Yang Xibo, shared on his Facebook that while his friends were able to visit them before, authorities blocked them at the entrance on April 9. When asked about the reason, none from the guards, residential committee, or the police was able to answer. The head of the religious bureau told Yang that it's "action from the government."</p> <p>"This is the countenance of Chinese officials! Officials at various levels have all gotten the plague of 'evil of banality.' I don't know when the Lord's judgment arrives, who can hide from the wrath of the Lamb? May God have mercy on this country. I hope this is the darkness before the dawn," Yang sighed. He asked Christians to remember the house churches experiencing persecution during this epidemic and the Christians who remain incarcerated.</p>			
Source:	<input type="checkbox"/> China Aid	<input type="checkbox"/> Bitter Winter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Free Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> CCFR
	<input type="checkbox"/> AsiaNews.it	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Christian Concern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Facebook	
Source link:	https://www.persecution.org/2020/04/10/chinas-xunsiding-church-continues-monitored-despite-covid-19/			
Notes:	https://www.facebook.com/people/%E6%9D%A8%E5%B8%8C%E4%BC%AF/166362676 <u>1</u>			

Title of incident:	Chinese Pastor Charged with Subversion of State Power 湖南慈利县一教会牧师涉嫌“煽动颠覆国家政权罪”罪被批捕			
Date of incident:	April 10, 2020			
Types of incident:	<input type="checkbox"/> Sinicization	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Demolition/Closure of Churches	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arrests/Disappearance of Christians	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Pressure
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Under Legal Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Others (Please specify)		
Summary:	<p>International Christian Concern (ICC) has learned that a house church pastor in China’s Hunan province was arrested on April 2, after being criminally detained since March 14 for “inciting subversion of state power.”</p> <p>On April 11, Bethel Church sent out an urgent prayer request for its pastor, Zhao Huaiguo, asking for public prayers for its pastor, who was arrested by police on subversion charges on April 2. Zhao, the founder of Bethel Church in Cili county, has served at his church for 13 years, cultivating many leaders among the several hundred members. The church refused to join the state-vetted Three-Self church and was banned last year by the government.</p> <p>On April 10, 2019, nearly 50 people from the local authorities raided Bethel Church, damaging church property and confiscating Bibles, a piano, and hymn books. Pastor Zhao and other members were questioned and warned. A Bethel Church member told China Aid that from March to December 2019, the public security police have repeatedly harassed the church.</p> <p>Gina Goh, ICC’s Regional Manager for Southeast Asia, said, “For the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) to slap the charge of ‘inciting subversion of state power’ on Pastor Zhao, typically used against human rights lawyers and activists, it shows how the regime is fearful of anybody who is disobedient to the CCP. The laws in China now have become tools for the government to silence and weaken its citizens’ influence, even in a religious setting. The lack of the rule of law in China should gravely concern the international community.”</p>			
Source:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> China Aid	<input type="checkbox"/> Bitter Winter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Free Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> CCFR
	<input type="checkbox"/> AsiaNews.it	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Christian Concern		
Source link:	https://www.persecution.org/2020/04/14/chinese-pastor-charged-subversion-state-power/			
Notes:	https://www.chinaaid.net/2020/04/blog-post_72.html			

Title of incident:	Church Facilities in Shanxi Forcibly Demolished on Easter			
Date of incident:	April 12, 2020			
Types of incident:	<input type="checkbox"/> Sinicization	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Demolition/Closure of Churches	<input type="checkbox"/> Arrests/Disappearance of Christians	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Pressure
	<input type="checkbox"/> Under Legal Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Others (Please specify)		
Summary:	<p>On Easter, the exterior stairs and the fireman’s elevator of a church in Northern Shanxi Province were forcibly taken down by local authorities for “urban renewal.” According to China Christian Daily, the demolition work already began on Good Friday as Jincheng Chengqu Church had suspended on-site gatherings since the Coronavirus outbreak late January, according to a local source. The “extra” space cleared from the church would be used for the transformation of the waterway, while the church building would still be retained.</p> <p>The local authorities had informed the church about the plan earlier, yet never clearly communicated with the church nor reached an agreement. They relaunched their church facilities demolition work on Friday. And despite a member keeping watch of the church’s attempt to stop the work, the demolition continued.</p> <p>On Easter, a scraper completed the demolition while the pastoral staff stood watching and unable to stop them. Over the weekend, calls were made to the mayor to complain but went unanswered. Jincheng Chengqu Church is part of the state-sanctioned Three-Self Patriotic Movement church. It often hosts ordination of pastors or major Christian celebrations instituted by the government. In 2010, the church was capable of seating capacity of more than 1,000. It was initially founded in 1887 by Stanley Smith, a British missionary from the Cambridge Seven.</p>			
Source:	<input type="checkbox"/> China Aid	<input type="checkbox"/> Bitter Winter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Free Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> CCFR
	<input type="checkbox"/> AsiaNews.it	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Christian Concern		
Source link:	https://www.persecution.org/2020/04/16/church-facilities-shanxi-forcibly-demolished-easter/			
Notes:				

Title of incident:	Sichuan Church Members Detained During Easter Service			
Date of incident:	April 12, 2020			
Types of incident:	<input type="checkbox"/> Sinicization	<input type="checkbox"/> Demolition/Closure of Churches	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arrests/Disappearance of Christians	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Pressure
	<input type="checkbox"/> Under Legal Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Others (Please specify)		
Summary:	<p>International Christian Concern (ICC) has learned that during an online worship session in China to celebrate Easter on April 12, several key members of the heavily persecuted Early Rain Covenant Church (ERCC) were taken from their homes. The Sichuan house church was not able to gather in person since the government clamped down on the church on December 9, 2018, and arrested their pastor and other leaders.</p> <p>This Easter, the church was conducting an online worship session, when suddenly six leaders were taken from their homes by the Public Security Bureau. A member of ERCC told ICC, "At that time, I was also in the Zoom call, but there was a long period where I did not hear a thing. I thought it's the network connection issue at first, but I soon heard a quarrel erupt. Our coworker Wang Jun was questioning some people, [saying], 'Who are you to do this [to us]?' " She added that, in addition to Wang, other leaders such as Guo Haigang, Wu Wuqing, Jia Xuewei, Zhang Jianqing, and Zhang Xudong were also taken away by authorities. One member's home had its electricity cut off, while others received phone calls that "police [were] coming to visit them soon."</p> <p>The six briefly detained Christians have since been released from prison, and their electricity was restored in the afternoon. It is not uncommon for the local authorities to take additional measures against ERCC during major Christian celebrations or anniversary events. However, the latest detention also occurred after church member Chen Yan decided to file a lawsuit against the authorities for unlawful harassment and surveillance against her and her husband Xiao Luobiao for more than a year. Last week, she detailed her experience with the security officials and her intention to sue in a series of blog posts published online.</p>			
Source:	<input type="checkbox"/> China Aid	<input type="checkbox"/> Bitter Winter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Free Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> CCFR
	<input type="checkbox"/> AsiaNews.it	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Christian Concern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Twitter	
Source link:	https://www.persecution.org/2020/04/13/sichuan-church-members-detained-easter-service/			
Notes:	https://twitter.com/Tudou522525/status/1249312297832480771?s=20			

Title of incident:	Three-Self Church Demolished on Easter			
Date of incident:	April 12, 2020			
Types of incident:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sinicization	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Demolition/Closure of Churches	<input type="checkbox"/> Arrests/Disappearance of Christians	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Pressure
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Under Legal Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Other		
Summary:	<p>On March 10, around 200 government and police officers were led by officials from the Religious Affairs Bureau to demolish a Three-Self church by the city of Shangqiu in Henan Province. The police officers kicked open the gate to the church, and forcefully removed a church member who was guarding the doors.</p> <p>Eyewitness accounts state that when the 70-year-old man who ran the church asked why the CCP demolished the church, officers fractured two ribs. If anyone challenges the CCP, they will kill them.</p> <p>On April 12, another Three-Self church was destroyed because the government deemed it 'illegal.' The Donghu Church was in Xining, the capital of Qinghai. Any religious symbol, including traditional Chinese couplets, was torn down. Government officials stated that they were against state policy.</p>			
Source:	<input type="checkbox"/> China Aid	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bitter Winter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Free Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> CCFR
	<input type="checkbox"/> AsiaNews.it	<input type="checkbox"/> International Christian Concern		
Source link:	https://bitterwinter.org/three-self-churches-continue-to-be-destroyed-amid-the-pandemic/			
Notes:				

Title of incident:	Public Church Activities Suspended for Another Month in China			
Date of incident:	April 26, 2020			
Types of incident:	<input type="checkbox"/> Sinicization	<input type="checkbox"/> Demolition/Closure of Churches	<input type="checkbox"/> Arrests/Disappearance of Christians	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Pressure
	<input type="checkbox"/> Under Legal Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Other		
Summary:	<p>As China gradually resumes business to return the virus-stricken country to a healthy life, all public church activities in China, including Marian pilgrimages, have been suspended for another month, according to the two bodies that run the state-sanctioned Catholic Church.</p> <p>On April 26, the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association and its bishops' forum, the Bishops' Conference of the Catholic Church in China, jointly announced the further delay to activities, intending to reduce gatherings as part of measures to battle Coronavirus. Throughout May, no church activities or traditional Marian pilgrimages should take place. All dioceses and parishes were told by the CCP to suspend all pilgrimage programs, which typically happen in May. The government is also delaying opening seminaries and religious institutes with training functions.</p> <p>UCA News reports that some Catholics suspect the communist regime is using the pandemic to suppress religion as the move comes amid administrative claims of dissipating COVID-19. A Catholic in Beijing, Li Xue, questioned the decision to cancel pilgrimages. She told UCANews that several tourist attractions have not only reopened but also engaged in various promotions. "These tourist places are more crowded and concentrated than the pilgrim centers," she said. "The government has a bit too much control over religion. The authorities are using the epidemic as an excuse to curtail religious freedom, and that's the scary part."</p>			
Source:	<input type="checkbox"/> China Aid	<input type="checkbox"/> Bitter Winter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Free Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> CCFR
	<input type="checkbox"/> AsiaNews.it	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Christian Concern		
Source link:	https://www.persecution.org/2020/05/04/public-church-activities-suspended-another-month-china/			
Notes:				

Title of incident:	Police Continue to Interrupt Early Rain Covenant Church's Online Worship			
Date of incident:	April 26, 30, 2020			
Types of incident:	<input type="checkbox"/> Sinicization	<input type="checkbox"/> Demolition/Closure of Churches	<input type="checkbox"/> Arrests/Disappearance of Christians	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Pressure
	<input type="checkbox"/> Under Legal Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Other		
Summary:	<p>After harassing some members from the Chengdu Early Rain Covenant Church (ERCC) two weeks ago, on April 26, many ERCC leaders were summoned by government authorities to the police office before their Sunday worship.</p> <p>An unnamed member told China Aid this shows that ERCC's activities are still closely monitored by the authorities, as the police intentionally led the leaders away before the service started. Although once they arrived at the police officers, they did not have to be questioned and could freely move within certain areas, the authorities summoned the leaders illegally.</p> <p>On April 24, an ERCC member named Ran Yunfei was brought by authorities over to the police officer before his scheduled online testimony sharing. The church had to change the topic last minute in response. Ran was escorted home once the online session was over.</p> <p>On April 30, the head of Longquanyi District Ethnic & Religious Affairs Bureau brought over several staff members to "visit" ERCC member Liu Hongliang's studio, under the pretense of seeing how he and his wife are doing. The official advocated for the revised religious regulations, before volunteering to introduce a Three-self church pastor to Mr. & Mrs. Liu.</p> <p>Given that the Lius are both studying at a seminary, the local government attempts to use a carrot-and-stick approach to convince them to join a state-vetted church. The Lius remain undeterred and continue to worship with ERCC members.</p>			
Source:	<input type="checkbox"/> China Aid	<input type="checkbox"/> Bitter Winter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Free Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> CCFR
	<input type="checkbox"/> AsiaNews.it	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Christian Concern		
Source link:	https://www.persecution.org/2020/05/01/police-continues-interrupt-early-rain-covenant-churchs-online-worship/			
Notes:				

Title of incident:	Police Violently Raid House Church			
Date of incident:	May 3, 2020			
Types of incident:	<input type="checkbox"/> Sinicization	<input type="checkbox"/> Demolition/Closure of Churches	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arrests/Disappearance of Christians	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Pressure
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Under Legal Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Other		
Summary:	<p>International Christian Concern (ICC) has learned that local authorities on May 3 violently raided a house church in China's Xiamen city in Fujian province during Sunday worship. Several members were injured during the process as the police wrestled them to the ground and dragged them across the floor. At 9:00 a.m., dozens of security guards and officers from the local Ethnic and Religious Bureau descended on Xingguang Church in Jimei district.</p> <p>Without any legal documentation, the authorities interrupted the service, calling the gathering "illegal." The male church members blocked the entrance but were only able to resist for a short period. The police saw the resistance, dragged several members out of the door, and snatched their cell phones. In a video shared by preacher Yang Xibo from Xunsiding Church, the police are pressing members' heads down to the ground. Others yelled, "Stop filming!" to church members and neighbors who were recording the violent intrusion.</p> <p>According to Bob Fu from China Aid, Xu Wenping suffered a chest wound, a rib fracture, and a bruise on his arms. Two other men and women were injured during the clash as well. Children at the scene were frightened and screamed as they witnessed the chaotic incident.</p> <p>The police detained six men after the raid, and the authorities released them at 9:00 p.m. Other church members welcomed them with applause and hugs as they stepped out of the police station.</p>			
Source:	<input type="checkbox"/> China Aid	<input type="checkbox"/> Bitter Winter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Free Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> CCFR
	<input type="checkbox"/> AsiaNews.it	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Christian Concern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Facebook	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Twitter
Source link:	https://www.persecution.org/2020/05/04/police-violently-raid-house-church-china/			
Notes:	https://www.facebook.com/1663626761/videos/pcb.10220360210149709/10220360207989655/?type=3&theater https://twitter.com/ccfr2017/status/1256802485106118657 https://twitter.com/BobFu4China/status/1256983504031813633?s=20			

Title of incident:	Join the CCP or be Destroyed			
Date of incident:	May 7, 2020			
Types of incident:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sinicization	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Demolition/Closure of Churches	<input type="checkbox"/> Arrests/Disappearance of Christians	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Pressure
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Under Legal Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Others (Please specify)		
Summary:	<p>Across China, the Chinese government continues its crackdown against Christianity, with ongoing raids, cross removal, and disbandment activities. According to the Chinese Christian Fellowship of Righteousness (CCFR), a state-vetted church located at Panji District in the city of Huainan, Anhui Province, had its cross removed recently. In a video shared by CCFR, a worker is standing on the church rooftop next to a ladder, where the cross is no more.</p> <p>It is safe to assume that this church belongs to the state-sanctioned Three-Self Church, as only government-approved churches are permitted to have church buildings in China.</p> <p>In a separate post, CCFR shared that a house church in Shangrao city was damaged, and authorities scheduled it for demolition. In a photo shared by a member of the church, the church ceiling tiles lay everywhere on the floor.</p> <p>According to persecution watchdog Bitter Winter, the local government in Jiangxi province has intensified its clampdown against house churches, starting from last November. Local authorities raided several churches in three different cities, ordering them to shut down, join the Three-Self Church, or face troubles. Some church leaders were detained, forced to sign an agreement to stop gathering. Join the CCP or be destroyed.</p>			
Source:	<input type="checkbox"/> China Aid	<input type="checkbox"/> Bitter Winter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Free Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> CCFR
	<input type="checkbox"/> AsiaNews.it	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Christian Concern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Twitter	
Source link:	https://www.persecution.org/2020/05/10/cross-removed-anhui-province-house-church-damaged-jiangxi-province/			
Notes:	https://twitter.com/ccfr2017/status/1258406776594034688?s=20			

Title of incident:	Chinese Government Restricts Nanyang Bishop's Funeral			
Date of incident:	May 9, 2020			
Types of incident:	<input type="checkbox"/> Sinicization	<input type="checkbox"/> Demolition/Closure of Churches	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arrests/Disappearance of Christians	<input type="checkbox"/> Social Pressure
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Under Legal Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Other		
Summary:	<p>Chinese officials imposed restrictions on the funeral of 98-year-old Bishop Joseph Zhu Baoyu of Nanyang, Henan province. Only 40 people were allowed to attend the May 9 funeral in Henan province. People were being watched and parishioners were banned from taking photographs of the service. Bishop Zhu was tested positive for COVID-19 in February, and became the eldest recovered patient in China. His recovery was reported in China's state media People's Daily.</p> <p>According to UCA News, bishop Zhu was imprisoned by communist authorities and suffered "reform through hard labor" for nearly 20 years after his ordination as a priest in 1957. Bishop Zhu was secretly ordained as coadjutor bishop of Nanyang Diocese at the age of 73. He became bishop of Nanyang in 2002 at the age of 81. The government did not allow the diocese to hold a solemn funeral for Bishop Zhu, nor did anyone from outside attend it, limiting crowds in the name of fighting the spread of Coronavirus.</p> <p>A local parishioner said the government controlled the funeral with plainclothes police among the people present. He added that the ban on taking pictures had "nothing to do with the epidemic. Officials may be afraid that our photos will give away information. But it's not like the bishop's funeral is a secret, unless they have some other plans in their mind."</p> <p>The Chinese government often deliberately downplays the importance and reverence of unofficial Catholic clergy, since they pledge their loyalty to the Vatican, not to the Party.</p>			
Source:	<input type="checkbox"/> China Aid	<input type="checkbox"/> Bitter Winter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Free Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> CCFR
	<input type="checkbox"/> AsiaNews.it	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Christian Concern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UCA News	
Source link:	https://www.persecution.org/2020/05/12/chinese-government-restricts-nanyang-bishops-funeral/			
Notes:				

Title of incident:	ERCC Pastor Transferred to Prison, Exact Location Still Unknown			
Date of incident:	May 13, 2020			
Types of incident:	<input type="checkbox"/> Sinicization	<input type="checkbox"/> Demolition/Closure of Churches	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arrests/Disappearance of Christians	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Pressure
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Under Legal Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Other		
Summary:	<p>According to a member from the heavily persecuted Early Rain Covenant Church (ERCC) in Chengdu, imprisoned pastor authorities recently transferred Wang Yi from Chengdu City Detention Center to prison. Yet, the exact location has not been made clear to Wang's family.</p> <p>China Aid reports that Wang's parents have not been able to visit their son, and once an inmate is transferred to a prison, the family has the right to apply for visitation.</p> <p>The authorities sentenced Pastor Wang Yi to nine years of imprisonment for "subversion of state power" and "illegal business operation" last year. His wife Jiang Rong and son Shuya Wang have been placed under surveillance since. No one knows where they live now; authorities banned the couple from contacting others. Wang's parents, on the other hand, Wang's parents, have been closely watched at home since December 9, 2018. They are only permitted to walk around their community and cannot move as they want.</p> <p>Every month Wang's parents are allowed to see Jiang Rong and Shuya once, under the surveillance from their respective guards. Wang's mother misses her son very much and wishes to visit him in prison soon. She also hopes that she and her husband can live freely without the authorities' surveillance soon.</p>			
Source:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> China Aid	<input type="checkbox"/> Bitter Winter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Free Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> CCFR
	<input type="checkbox"/> AsiaNews.it	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Christian Concern		
Source link:	https://www.persecution.org/2020/05/13/ercc-pastor-transferred-prison-exact-location-still-unknown/			
Notes:				

Title of incident:	Wuhan Preacher Taken Away During Online Evangelism Event			
Date of incident:	May 23, 2020			
Types of incident:	<input type="checkbox"/> Sinicization	<input type="checkbox"/> Demolition/Closure of Churches	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arrests/Disappearance of Christians	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Pressure
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Under Legal Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Other		
Summary:	<p>On May 23, as the "Proclaim Jesus Gospel Gathering" was taking place via Zoom, the police in Wuhan, Hubei province, came over and took away preacher Luo from Nanjing Road Church. Police released Luo after 4.5 hours of interrogation.</p> <p>The whole day's online event yesterday was divided into the morning and afternoon sessions, with a focus on "Evangelism and Church Planting." Around noontime, the police suddenly arrived and started to look for evangelism materials or publications, before taking preacher Luo away.</p> <p>According to the information shared by the Chinese Christian Fellowship of Righteousness, with wisdom and strength from God, during the interrogation, Luo witnessed to the police how Christians were serving the city during the pandemic. They became speechless and thought about what Christians did during Wuhan's most challenging moments.</p> <p>Luo added, "I also told them a few times in all seriousness, I will only live for Christ, I will not argue on other matters. However, I will never change [my persistence] about evangelism." In the end, the officials politely sent him on his way out of the police station.</p> <p>ICC previously reported on Christians' distribution of face masks, protective suits, and Gospel pamphlets to passersby on the Wuhan streets. Preacher Luo first took this initiative. Their actions encouraged many churches inside and outside of China to join their efforts.</p>			
Source:	<input type="checkbox"/> China Aid	<input type="checkbox"/> Bitter Winter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Free Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> CCFR
	<input type="checkbox"/> AsiaNews.it	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Christian Concern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Twitter	
Source link:	https://www.persecution.org/2020/05/24/wuhan-preacher-taken-away-online-evangelism-event/			
Notes:	https://twitter.com/ccfr2017/status/1264071680340529153			

Title of incident:	Police Secretly Installed CCTV to Monitor Guangzhou House Church			
Date of incident:	May 26, 2020			
Types of incident:	<input type="checkbox"/> Sinicization	<input type="checkbox"/> Demolition/Closure of Churches	<input type="checkbox"/> Arrests/Disappearance of Christians	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Pressure
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Under Legal Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Other		
Summary:	<p>On May 26, pastor Ma Chao from the Guangfu house church in Guangzhou, Guangdong province, was heading to his church to attend a prayer meeting. He could not help but notice the newly installed CCTV cameras outside the church's door and in the stairwell, with lenses pointing directly at the church's entrance.</p> <p>Ma told China Aid, "They installed CCTV cameras outside our door and close to our entrance. I inquired with our community management company to find out that it was not done by the company, but by the police who intend to place us under surveillance. There are in total three cameras, all pointing at us."</p> <p>A few days earlier, on May 20 at 10 am, local police investigated three members of the church at the church. Ma said, "Four police officers came, saying that they were investigating the church's gathering. Two of them said we were not allowed to meet."</p> <p>Although the members asked the police to show their IDs and legal documents, they were rejected. Ma added, "When they asked them to show IDs or explain why they visited the church, they refused to show their IDs. A police officer said that his uniform is the ID. They also took pictures of the church's Bibles, hymn books, and said that this is where Ma Chao has his illegal gathering, so they came specifically for it."</p> <p>The local authorities have repeatedly harassed Ma. As recent as April, he was visited by the police as they inquired about his activities. In March, he and his wife were blocked from leaving their building in Coronavirus prevention. He thinks that these visits are meant to threaten him and push him out of Guangzhou.</p>			
Source:	<input type="checkbox"/> China Aid	<input type="checkbox"/> Bitter Winter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Free Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> CCFR
	<input type="checkbox"/> AsiaNews.it	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Christian Concern		
Source link:	https://www.persecution.org/2020/06/03/police-secretly-installed-cctv-monitor-guangzhou-house-church/			
Notes:				

Title of incident:	ERCC Member Forcibly Evicted from Rented Apartment			
Date of incident:	May 27, 2020			
Types of incident:	<input type="checkbox"/> Sinicization	<input type="checkbox"/> Demolition/Closure of Churches	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arrests/Disappearance of Christians	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Pressure
	<input type="checkbox"/> Under Legal Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Other		
Summary:	<p>On May 27, a member from Chengdu's Early Rain Covenant Church (ERCC) was forcibly kicked out by his landlord and the police, after they removed his belongings from his rented apartment.</p> <p>Hao Gui Ru and Cheng Xiangxi, both from ERCC, signed a lease with their current landlord on November 14 last year. The two-year contract will be due in November 2021. However, the police from Caojiayang and local authorities have been putting pressure on their landlord, asking him to evict his Christian tenants.</p> <p>As reported by ICC, Cheng was recently detained for allegedly criticizing the government on WeChat. Cheng's administrative detention expired on May 29 after two weeks. Now the authorities are targeting Hao.</p> <p>After Hao was removed, he had to sleep at another member's house. When he attempted to move into another Christian's place the next day, local authorities sent dozens of people to stop him. Some people from the community attacked the believers with spatula and fistfight, yet the police deliberately turned a blind eye. Police told Hao that he could not even sleep on the streets.</p> <p>According to China Aid, many ERCC members from other provinces have been cast away or evicted from their residence, after the local authorities put pressure on their landlords. They want these Christians to leave their jurisdiction or Chengdu.</p> <p>As June 4 approaches, marking the 31st anniversary of the Tiananmen Massacre, the church might face even more surveillance or crackdown, since ERCC has traditionally hosted prayer meetings in remembrance of the tragic incident. Please continue to pray for this heavily persecuted church.</p>			
Source:	<input type="checkbox"/> China Aid	<input type="checkbox"/> Bitter Winter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Free Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> CCFR
	<input type="checkbox"/> AsiaNews.it	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Christian Concern		
Source link:	https://www.persecution.org/2020/05/31/ercc-member-forcibly-evicted-rented-apartment/			
Notes:				

Title of incident:	Christians Must Praise Xi Jinping for Beating COVID-19 if They Want to Reopen Church			
Date of incident:	May 30, 2020			
Types of incident:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sinicization	<input type="checkbox"/> Demolition/Closure of Churches	<input type="checkbox"/> Arrests/Disappearance of Christians	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Pressure
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Under Legal Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Other		
Summary:	<p>At the 13th joint meeting for national religious groups, the government required religious activity venues “be reopened orderly in areas with low infection risk, under the implementation of epidemic prevention and control measure.” Churches must tell stories to their congregations of how amazing the Chinese socialist system defeated the coronavirus.</p> <p>On the day of the church’s reopening, the government demands to hold a grand flag-raising ceremony. Religious citizens, including Three-self churches, must pray for “<i>attainment of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation</i>”, a slogan created by President Xi Jinping.</p> <p>According to Bitter Winter, a church preacher stated, “If the Communist Party is in power, it means the devil rules the country. It just makes no sense to reopen the church if we have to preach about politics.” This was after a list of demands for the opening of services to focus on promoting the CCP’s achievements, praising Xi Jinping, and telling of how many Christians in the US died because of COVID-19.</p>			
Source:	<input type="checkbox"/> China Aid	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bitter Winter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Free Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> CCFR
	<input type="checkbox"/> AsiaNews.it	<input type="checkbox"/> International Christian Concern		
Source link:	https://bitterwinter.org/want-to-reopen-church-praise-xi-jinping-for-beating-covid-19/			
Notes:				

Title of incident:	China Demolishes House Church One Month After Violent Raid			
Date of incident:	June 11, 2020			
Types of incident:	<input type="checkbox"/> Sinicization	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Demolition/Closure of Churches	<input type="checkbox"/> Arrests/Disappearance of Christians	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Pressure
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Under Legal Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Other		
Summary:	<p>International Christian Concern (ICC) has learned that on June 11, local authorities brought in more than 100 officers from four different agencies to demolish Xingguang Church in China's Xiamen city, Fujian province. The demolition came a month after the violent May 3 raid of the house church, during which several members were injured.</p> <p>Around 9:00 a.m., dozens of chengguan, or Urban Management Law Enforcement officials, lined up outside of Xingguang Church in Jimei district, before storming the church located on the fifth floor with other dozens of firefighters, public security officers, and religious affairs bureau staff.</p> <p>The house church, purchased by the members and also the home of several members, was soon reduced to rubble. The furniture and personal property stored at the church were also confiscated by the authorities illegally. A member documented the aftermath and debris left behind by the authorities in a video.</p> <p>The church has already been raided twice this year – on April 19 and on May 3. The church's preacher, Titus Yu, was threatened with a notice that his church would face disbandment as punishment if he did not correct his 'illegal' act.</p>			
Source:	<input type="checkbox"/> China Aid	<input type="checkbox"/> Bitter Winter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Free Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> CCFR
	<input type="checkbox"/> AsiaNews.it	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Christian Concern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Facebook	
Source link:	https://www.persecution.org/2020/06/12/china-demolishes-house-church-one-month-violent-raid/			
Notes:	https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=1663626761 https://www.facebook.com/1663626761/videos/pcb.10220729622264781/10220730844175328/?type=3&theater https://www.facebook.com/1663626761/videos/pcb.10220729622264781/10220729618864696/?type=3&theater https://www.facebook.com/1663626761/videos/pcb.10220729622264781/10220729618184679/?type=3&theater			

Title of incident:	250 Anhui Church Crosses Taken Down			
Date of incident:	June 16, 2020			
Types of incident:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sinicization	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Demolition/Closure of Churches	<input type="checkbox"/> Arrests/Disappearance of Christians	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Pressure
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Under Legal Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Other		
Summary:	<p>Between January and April 2020, over 250 state-approved churches in the Anhui province had their crosses forcefully taken down. These actions are part of China's plan to ensure stability; authorities are to take down all Christian symbols according to religious regulations. These regulations do not specifically target Christian symbols, but any religious symbol, since they are considered a threat to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).</p> <p>According to Bitter Winter, a persecution watchdog magazine, the victims include but are not limited to Three-Self churches in Lu'an, Ma'anshan, Huaibei and Fuyang. Three-self churches are China's state-approved churches, which grants the CCP full authority over religious institutions. Congregations that support the state and comply with their regulations still experience persecution.</p> <p>On April 2, over 100 Gulou Church members in Fuyang city tried to stop authorities from taking down their cross from the century-old church. One member said, "Officials did not show any documents, fearing that people would implicate them with anything in writing. They only conveyed verbal orders and forced us to obey them." Local officials told the church members that the cross' removal was done in accordance with a national policy to remove religious symbols.</p> <p>In the city of Lu-an, over 183 churches had crosses removed during the first four months of 2020, according to the magazine. The report states that in March, a church leader in the city was threatened with imprisonment and the closure of his church if the church's cross was not removed.</p>			
Source:	<input type="checkbox"/> China Aid	<input type="checkbox"/> Bitter Winter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Free Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> CCFR
	<input type="checkbox"/> AsiaNews.it	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Christian Concern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Christian Post	
Source link:	https://www.persecution.org/2020/06/16/250-crosses-removed-churches-anhui-since-january-2020/			
Notes:				

Title of incident:	Underground Chinese Bishop Repeatedly Detained Since 2007			
Date of incident:	June 22, 2020			
Types of incident:	<input type="checkbox"/> Sinicization	<input type="checkbox"/> Demolition/Closure of Churches	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arrests/Disappearance of Christians	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Pressure
	<input type="checkbox"/> Under Legal Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Other		
Summary:	<p>A Chinese bishop, who is not recognized by communist China, has been detained again in an unspecified place, possibly due to his reluctance to join the state-sanctioned Catholic Church.</p> <p>According to UCA News, the 70-year-old bishop Cui Tai from Xuanhua diocese in Hebei province was taken away to an unspecified place on June 19, based on local Catholics' account.</p> <p>Bishop Cui has been repeatedly detained since 2007 without any judicial procedure. He also was not accused of any wrongdoing. Yet he has only been allowed to return home for a few days during festivals such as the Lunar New Year and the Mid-Autumn Festival. Bishop Cui also suffers from severe stomach ailments.</p> <p>Earlier this year, he returned to the diocese in during the Lunar New Year holidays. Perhaps due to the pandemic, he was not taken back to the detention place, a source told UCA News. The five-month time was the longest period that he was able to be back in his diocese without being detained since 2007.</p> <p>Chan Lok-shun, project officer of the Justice and Peace Commission of Hong Kong Diocese, believes the detention of the bishop who has been loyal to the Holy See, rejecting the state-vetted Catholic Church, is a gross violation of his freedom. <i>"The situation of religious freedom in China has not only not improved but has worsened,"</i> he said.</p> <p>Bishop Cui's re-imprisonment was proof that the Chinese Communist Party <i>"was still using brutal methods"</i> against religious leaders who do not agree with the state religion.</p>			
Source:	<input type="checkbox"/> China Aid	<input type="checkbox"/> Bitter Winter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Free Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> CCFR
	<input type="checkbox"/> AsiaNews.it	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Christian Concern		
Source link:	https://www.persecution.org/2020/06/22/underground-chinese-bishop-repeatedly-detained-since-2007/			
Notes:				

Title of incident:	CCP Takes Over Direct Management Through New Committee			
Date of incident:	June 22, 2020			
Types of incident:	<input type="checkbox"/> Sinicization	<input type="checkbox"/> Demolition/Closure of Churches	<input type="checkbox"/> Arrests/Disappearance of Christians	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Pressure
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Under Legal Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Other		
Summary:	<p>Since January 26, 2019, authorities across China have begun interfering in the direct management of religious state-run places of worship. The State Administration for Religious Affairs and the Ministry of Civil Affairs started implementing the Template for a Charter of Legal Persons in Religious Activity Venues, government take-over of decision-making from the people of religious faith.</p> <p>Later, on April 1, an order was passed, which required all religious venues to establish a "<i>democratic management committee</i>," which "<i>consist of clergy members, representatives of religious citizens, and other relevant members.</i>" Furthermore, only members who support the policies established by the CCP may be appointed; the committee removes those who show an ounce of dissent.</p> <p>The Religious Affairs Bureau in Anyang city, Henan province, designates a clergy member as the committee's director without elections from the church members. Those who have the people's votes, but not the approval of the CCP will not take office.</p> <p>A pastor from Guangdong lamented, "<i>The committee is just lip service. The Template requires to 'discuss with religious affairs institutions and make joint decisions,' which gives the government an even more significant advantage to manage religious venues directly.</i>"</p>			
Source:	<input type="checkbox"/> China Aid	<input type="checkbox"/> Bitter Winter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Free Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> CCFR
	<input type="checkbox"/> AsiaNews.it	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Christian Concern		
Source link:	https://www.persecution.org/2020/06/28/ccp-directly-administer-places-worship/			
Notes:				

Title of incident:	House Church Raided, 6 Elders Taken Away in China's Guangxi			
Date of incident:	July 3, 2020			
Types of incident:	<input type="checkbox"/> Sinicization	<input type="checkbox"/> Demolition/Closure of Churches	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arrests/Disappearance of Christians	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Pressure
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Under Legal Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Other		
Summary:	<p>Across China, the act of passing gospel tracts on the streets has increasingly been targeted by the authorities, with Christians being taken away for administrative detention.</p> <p>A Christian in Jiangxi province recently told China Aid that while they used to be able to spread the gospel openly, without local authorities interfering their activities, now they would be placed under administrative detention. On July 3, the two Christians in Zhejiang province's Quzhou who were sharing the gospel on the streets were taken by the police and detained for ten days.</p> <p>Another pastor from Henan shared that there have been more than ten Christians placed under administrative detention in Jiangsu for passing out gospel tracts on the streets. With this rate, it is possible that within the first ten days of July, there could have been more than 300 Christians who have been detained.</p> <p>In addition, those who were released did not dare to share the details of their detention. The pastor said, <i>"In the past they would share what happened to them. Now they dare not to share. Before they were released they were threatened by the police that they would be detained again, or that their social welfare would be stopped. [...] While the churches used to speak up about the detention, now more than 90% of churches choose to stay silent."</i></p> <p>On top of the crackdown against churches, the CCP also increasingly uses social pressure to frighten Christians, in the hope that they would stop their activities or join a state-vetted church.</p>			
Source:	<input type="checkbox"/> China Aid	<input type="checkbox"/> Bitter Winter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Free Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> CCFR
	<input type="checkbox"/> AsiaNews.it	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Christian Concern		
Source link:	https://www.persecution.org/2020/07/12/house-church-raided-6-elders-taken-away-chinas-guangxi/			
Notes:				

Title of incident:	House Church Raided, 6 Elders Taken Away in China's Guangxi			
Date of incident:	July 5, 2020			
Types of incident:	<input type="checkbox"/> Sinicization	<input type="checkbox"/> Demolition/Closure of Churches	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arrests/Disappearance of Christians	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Pressure
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Under Legal Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Other		
Summary:	<p>On July 5 around 4 pm, dozens of officials from the Ethnic and Religious Affairs agency raided the Enguang church in Guanxi region's Guiling city.</p> <p>The house church was having its worship during that time at a hotel, when local government officials and police barged in and grabbed the microphone to denounce the gathering. Worshippers were asked to show their IDs. Six elders were taken to Qixing police station, after they were first placed in a room along with other church staff and interrogated.</p> <p>According to China Aid, as of 11:00 a.m. Beijing time on July 6, four of the six elders were still being held at the police station. Christians gathered outside the public security bureau to sing hymns as they waited for their return.</p>			
Source:	<input type="checkbox"/> China Aid	<input type="checkbox"/> Bitter Winter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Free Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> CCFR
	<input type="checkbox"/> AsiaNews.it	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Christian Concern		
Source link:	https://www.persecution.org/2020/07/12/house-church-raided-6-elders-taken-away-chinas-guangxi/			
Notes:				

Title of incident:	Cross Removal Returns in Zhejiang Province			
Date of incident:	July 7, 2020			
Types of incident:	<input type="checkbox"/> Sinicization	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Demolition/Closure of Churches	<input type="checkbox"/> Arrests/Disappearance of Christians	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Pressure
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Under Legal Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Other		
Summary:	<p>At 5 a.m. on July 7, dozens of government officials descended upon two churches in China's Zhejiang province, bringing crane to forcibly remove the crosses atop these state-approved churches.</p> <p>According to Father Francis Liu from the Chinese Christian Fellowship of Righteousness, the churches at Aodi and Yinchang were ambushed by the government. They not only destroyed church property and damaged many locks, they also clashed with the believers who protested against them. An elderly man who is more than 80-year-old was pushed to the ground.</p> <p>Liu said that some local Christians predict that perhaps the government will initiate another wave of cross removal. A house church pastor from Wenzhou told ICC that it is still too early to judge whether or not the cross removal campaign has come back from other provinces.</p> <p>Zhejiang's Wenzhou city saw thousands of crosses removed from 2014-2016, thanks to the then Party Secretary Xia Baolong of Zhejiang Province. Xia now heads the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office and many are concerned that churches in Hong Kong might become his next targets.</p>			
Source:	<input type="checkbox"/> China Aid	<input type="checkbox"/> Bitter Winter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Free Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> CCFR
	<input type="checkbox"/> AsiaNews.it	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Christian Concern		
Source link:	https://www.persecution.org/2020/07/11/cross-removal-returns-zhejiang-province/			
Notes:				

Title of incident:	CCP Demands Church to Ban Minors in Order to Reopen			
Date of incident:	July 9, 2020			
Types of incident:	<input type="checkbox"/> Sinicization	<input type="checkbox"/> Demolition/Closure of Churches	<input type="checkbox"/> Arrests/Disappearance of Christians	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Pressure
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Under Legal Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Other		
Summary:	<p>As the pandemic in China gradually fades out from people’s attention, and the country is seeking to bring everything back to normal, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has demanded a Catholic diocese in northern China to sign a document that bans children under the age of 18 from attending, if the church wanted to reopen again.</p> <p>According to UCA News, this Zhengding church in Hebei province also acts as an orphanage for disabled children. Bishop Jia Zhiguo rejected signing the document, along with the entire diocese. <i>“All parishes are required to sign a pledge that they will not allow minors to enter their churches or officials will not allow them to open churches,”</i> a Catholic from Zhengding said.</p> <p>The government in Jinzhou city threatened the church that if the document is not signed, they would take over the church-run orphanage for handicapped children and the bishop’s house, while making it appear as if the local government is “buying” the property.</p> <p>Nuns who took care of the children now only care for the babies who are left, since older children were removed. The CCP also asked all nuns to register with the state-approved Catholic church; otherwise, the CCP will expel them. Rarely are children who are disabled and orphaned receive any sympathy or support from the government. Churches are often the only support structure willing to care for them.</p> <p>While the negotiations are still ongoing, the government has already stated its intention to seize the orphanage.</p>			
Source:	<input type="checkbox"/> China Aid	<input type="checkbox"/> Bitter Winter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Free Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> CCFR
	<input type="checkbox"/> AsiaNews.it	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Christian Concern		
Source link:	https://www.persecution.org/2020/07/09/ccp-demands-church-ban-minors-order-reopen/			
Notes:				

Title of incident:	Underground Church in Jiangxi Faces Intensified Persecution			
Date of incident:	July 10, 2020			
Types of incident:	<input type="checkbox"/> Sinicization	<input type="checkbox"/> Demolition/Closure of Churches	<input type="checkbox"/> Arrests/Disappearance of Christians	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Pressure
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Under Legal Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Other		
Summary:	<p>An underground church in China's Jiangxi province has been threatened by the Chinese government to submit to its power and register under the Sino-China provisional deal. This agreement, signed in 2018, allows the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) to take bold strides to demand registration and eradication of independent churches that have traditionally pledge their loyalty to the Holy See.</p> <p>Yujiang diocese, which has nearly 20,000 parishioners, is under an intensified attack by the CCP against its bishops, priests, and parishioners, especially after the 2018 regulations on religious affairs were announced. According to Asia News, the CCP forbids underground clergy to preach and do other religious activities openly. These priests who have led the underground church have never been state-approved, as they have refused to submit to the 2018 Regulations.</p> <p>Bishop Peng Weizhao and other priests refuse to sign the document to become part of the state-vetted Church, even under threat of being banned from preaching or evangelizing openly. If they submit, they fear that the CCP will replace them with state-sanctioned bishops, and a Sinicized gospel which deviates from the Truth.</p>			
Source:	<input type="checkbox"/> China Aid	<input type="checkbox"/> Bitter Winter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Free Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> CCFR
	<input type="checkbox"/> AsiaNews.it	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Christian Concern		
Source link:	https://www.persecution.org/2020/07/10/underground-church-jiangxi-faces-intensified-persecution/			
Notes:				

Title of incident:	Three-Self Church Leader Sues the Government in Qinghai Province			
Date of incident:	July 14, 2020			
Types of incident:	<input type="checkbox"/> Sinicization	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Demolition/Closure of Churches	<input type="checkbox"/> Arrests/Disappearance of Christians	<input type="checkbox"/> Social pressure
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Under Legal Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Other		
Summary:	<p>The leader of a state-sanctioned church, forcibly demolished last April in China's Qinghai province, has filed a lawsuit against two local religious management agencies, marking the first administrative litigation filed by a state-sanctioned church's leader against the government.</p> <p>According to IPK Media, the leader of the Three-Self Donghu Church, Wang Ruiqin, who is also a former Qinghai Province Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) delegate, commissioned her lawyer Lin Qilei to sue the religious management agencies at Xining City and Chengxi District at the beginning of July.</p> <p>Lin said that since the courts at Xining City no longer take any administrative litigation cases, the case was submitted to the local Railway Transportation Court. However, the Court informed Lin that this case cannot be established, since there is no way to prove that Wang Ruiqin is Donghu church's leader, and that the demolition was done by the Chengxi District's religious management agency.</p> <p>On April 12, Easter Sunday, a team from the Xining City Chengxi District Urban and Rural Construction Bureau spent two-hour tearing down Donghu Church, calling the church illegal while citing "safety concerns."</p> <p>In 2003, the nearly 20-year-old church received approval to become a Three-Self Church by meeting the official requirements. It is the oldest and largest church in the Chengxi district with more than 300 members.</p>			
Source:	<input type="checkbox"/> China Aid	<input type="checkbox"/> Bitter Winter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Free Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> CCFR
	<input type="checkbox"/> AsiaNews.it	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Christian Concern		
Source link:	https://www.persecution.org/2020/07/14/three-self-church-leader-sues-government-qinghai-province/			
Notes:				

Title of incident:	China House Church Leader Warned; Cross Removal Pending for Official Church			
Date of incident:	July 15, 2020			
Types of incident:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sinicization	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Demolition/Closure of Churches	<input type="checkbox"/> Arrests/Disappearance of Christians	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Pressure
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Under Legal Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Other		
Summary:	<p>Only July 15, a house church leader in Hebei province received an official warning from the sub-district office, reminding him that he cannot join service and conduct Bible study at unauthorized religious venues.</p> <p>According to a document shared by the Chinese Christian Fellowship of Righteousness (CCFR), Wang Hongze received the warning from the Fenggang sub-district office in Nangong city yesterday, quoting the Regulations of Religious Affairs enacted by the State Council in 2018, warning him that</p> <p><i>“Those that have not obtained or have lost religious professional credentials, must not engage in activity as religious professionals; Non-religious groups, non-religious schools, non-religious activity sites, or non-designated temporary activity sites must not hold religious activities, must not accept religious donations.”</i></p> <p>Meanwhile, on July 12, local authorities in Huainan city in Anhui province notified the elderly members of a Three-Self church that their cross will soon be removed.</p> <p>In a video shared by CCFR, a man dressed in black can be seen having an argument with members of the church sitting at the road leading to their church. At one point, the man asked the woman filming the dispute not to film anymore. An elderly woman also protested about the impending cross removal.</p> <p>In recent months, Anhui province has removed hundreds of crosses from state-approved churches, as the government tries to “Sinicize” the churches by removing religious symbols and images.</p>			
Source:	<input type="checkbox"/> China Aid	<input type="checkbox"/> Bitter Winter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Free Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> CCFR
	<input type="checkbox"/> AsiaNews.it	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Christian Concern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Twitter	
Source link:	https://www.persecution.org/2020/07/10/underground-church-jiangxi-faces-intensified-persecution/			
Notes:	https://twitter.com/Francisliu/status/1283424737960443905			

Title of incident:	State-vetted Churches in China Turned into Cultural Centers			
Date of incident:	July 18, 2020			
Types of incident:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sinicization	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Demolition/Closure of Churches	<input type="checkbox"/> Arrests/Disappearance of Christians	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Pressure
	<input type="checkbox"/> Under Legal Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> Other		
Summary:	<p>As China continues to crack down on churches, some state-approved Three-Self churches have been converted to cultural centers “voluntarily.”</p> <p>China Aid reports that recently Flowing Stream Church in Funing County’s Yangzai township, Jiangsu province, has been forcibly occupied by the local government and converted to “Yangzai Township Flowing Stream Village Cultural Service Center.”</p> <p>In 2019, the Three-Self church was first disbanded by the local United Front Department, and was accused for “occupying village’s cultural base.”</p> <p>A local villager told China Aid that after the local authorities converted the building into a cultural service center, it has been promoting President Xi Jinping’s core socialist values and spreading “positive energy.”</p> <p>Another church in the vicinity, Beizhouzhuang Church, also experienced the same treatment. It was converted to “Beizhouzhuang Cultural Compound,” after the members “voluntarily donated the venue for the village (according to the government),” although the church was also first disbanded last October for not having the right registration.</p> <p>Beizhouzhuang Church members have since been unable to gather as a result of the government takeover.</p>			
Source:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> China Aid	<input type="checkbox"/> Bitter Winter	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio Free Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> CCFR
	<input type="checkbox"/> AsiaNews.it	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Christian Concern	<input type="checkbox"/> Twitter	
Source link:	https://www.persecution.org/2020/07/18/state-vetted-churches-china-turned-cultural-centers/			
Notes:				