

# **24 Cases of CAG Christians Persecuted to Death by the CCP Government**

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## **The Case of Xie Yongjiang, a Christian From The Church of Almighty God Persecuted to Death by the CCP Government**



A tragic event occurred in early May of 1997: A Christian from The Church of Almighty God in the city of Huaibei in Anhui Province was arrested by the Chinese police and tortured to death. The victim was Xie Yongjiang, a 43-year-old man from Xieweizhuang in Dachen Village, located in Wugou Town, Suixi County in Anhui Province's Huaibei City. He believed in the Lord Jesus in the Local Church, and later on joined The Church of Almighty God. He was an honest and honorable person.

### **Arrested for His Faith, Murdered During an Interrogation Under Torture**

On April 29, 1997, Xie Yongjiang learned that a member of the Church, Mr. Luo (a 36-year-old native of Wugou Town), had been arrested because of believing in Almighty God and preaching the gospel. Xie Yongjiang became concerned that the belongings of the Church stored at Luo's home would be confiscated by the police, so he and his son-in-law Mr. Gao (24 years old at the time) and Gao's father (54 years old at the time, now dead due to illness) rushed to transfer them elsewhere that very same night. When they were done, it was already 2 a.m. the following morning. The three rode their bicycles home, but as they neared Wugou Town, they were stopped by some police officers from the local police station who were on a patrol. The officers recognized Xie Yongjiang from his two previous arrests due to his faith. They forcefully arrested the three on suspicion of unlawful preaching and took them to the Wugou Town Police Station.

According to Mr. Gao's recollection, around 3 a.m. on April 30, his father, his father-in-law Xie Yongjiang, and he himself were taken to the Wugou Town Police Station in Suixi County, where they were separated for interrogation after being forcibly searched. Two male officers cruelly beat him up with a belt and viciously kicked his legs, beating him while saying: "We'll keep beating you until you three admit you were preaching, and if you don't, we'll beat you to death!" They didn't stop until the belt snapped. On May 1, the police used a metal rod about 2 centimeters thick and about 70 centimeters long to savagely whip his entire body. Gao was black and blue all over.

On the morning of May 2, when Gao and his father were being taken to the county Public Security Bureau (PSB) to handle the formalities, the elder Gao hinted to his son that something bad had happened to Xie Yongjiang. After Chief Yang with the PSB Criminal Division verified the younger Gao's statement, Gao asked after his father-in-law, and Chief Yang refused to respond. On the evening of May 2, he asked the police car driver about his

father-in-law. Although it was just one small question, the driver fixed him with a fierce stare, picked up a screwdriver, and yelled: “If you ask one more time, I’ll stab you to death with this screwdriver!” Gao was terrified and didn’t dare to ask again. That night, father and son were sent to the Suixi County Detention Center where they were held for 15 days.

Informed source Daqiao (alias) revealed that on May 1, he went to the police station for a visit after learning that Xie Yongjiang had been detained. Xie was locked up in a dark room with just one small opening for a window. Xie told him quietly that the police had beat him ruthlessly, only because of his faith in God.

Xie Yongjiang’s wife reported that when she went to the Wugou Town Police Station on the afternoon of May 1 to bring her husband a blanket, she saw him in the station courtyard washing a police car. The officers did not permit him to speak to his wife. She just saw that he was limping as he walked.

On the morning of May 2, Xie’s wife went to bring her husband some food, and the police notified her that he had been transferred to Suixi County. That same afternoon, Xie Yongjiang’s family was notified that he had hanged himself in the police station at 2 a.m. that same morning, and his body had already been taken to the crematorium. His family’s request to view his remains was denied.

### **The CCP Made up Lies to Hide Their Evil Deeds**

It wasn’t until May 10, the day Xie Yongjiang’s remains were cremated, that his family was able to view his remains at the Suixi County Baishan Crematorium, only by going through their connections. All of his relatives present wept when they saw the pitiful sight of his body.

Xie’s son reported: “I saw that my father was only in his underwear and there were black and blue bruises covering his entire body. There was a deep, ring-shaped welt around his neck level with his shoulders, and the welt had burst and was bleeding. There were large swaths of blood on the stretcher. On his left temple, there was a 4-centimeter-long gash wound, and on the right side of his head there was a 3×2 centimeter wound. They both looked like they had been caused by being struck with a blunt object. There were two wounds respectively on the edge of his right eye and the bridge of his nose which were a bit black, as if they had been done by a baton or the edge of a piece of metal. There were four lacerations more than 4 centimeters long on his waist. And my father’s eyes were half open and bulging out, his mouth was open, and his fists were clenched. It was clear that he died struggling in the midst of incredible suffering.”

On the cause of Xie Yongjiang’s death, his son said: “The police said that my father killed himself, but his entire body was covered with wounds. It’s clear that he had been

beaten. There was a really deep wound on his left temple, and in particular the welt around his neck was under his Adam's apple. It looked like a full circle around his neck, and it had bled quite a bit. If someone hangs themselves, how could the welt be under their Adam's apple? How could their neck bleed? It's clear it wasn't suicide." It is evident that the police were lying.

When Xie's family saw how brutal the police had been with such disregard for human life, they were indignant and they all agreed to sue the Wugou Town Police Station to seek justice. The police bribed the local village cadres and Xie's cousin to persuade his family to agree to settle it privately. The family was resolute. They didn't want money—they wanted the murderers to be punished. When the people the police had sent to persuade them saw that enticements would not work, they once again went to Xie's home with threats. As a result, Xie Yongjiang's children didn't dare to go out at night. His wife spent all day in tears because of his passing. For a period of time, she wouldn't eat or drink and was in a daze, sitting all day in the courtyard just staring blankly.

Xie Yongjiang's murder by the police because of his belief in Almighty God led to a local uproar. The Suixi County Procuratorate approved the arrest of Wang Min (a native of Wangjiazhuang in Mengji Village, Wugou Town), the Wugou Town Police Station auxiliary officer who had admitted to forcing Xie Yongjiang's confession through torture. Before the case was closed, Wang Min retracted his testimony, saying that he was just taking the heat for the police station and before long, he was released on bail pending trial. After that, there was a civil mediation between Wang Min and Xie's family in the Suixi People's Court. In the Conciliation Agreement, it was written that during the interrogation, Wang Min struck Xie Yongjiang's back with a belt four times, kicked him twice, and early the following morning Xie hanged himself and died. Wang Min gave the Xie family 41,000 RMB in compensation for financial losses. The family clearly knew that Xie Yongjiang had not hanged himself, but because they had no recourse and were under great pressure, they had no choice but to agree to the mediation.

This tragedy occurred nearly 20 years ago, now, but their grievances have not yet been resolved.

## **The Case of Deng Xiufen, a Christian From The Church of Almighty God Persecuted to Death by the CCP Government**



In September 2002, Christian Ms. Deng Xiufen (alias Zhou Min) was arrested by the police for believing in Almighty God and sentenced to one year of re-education through labor. One day in May 2003, due to the chronic attrition of excessive workload and severe nutritional deficiency, she suffered paroxysmal attacks. Deng Xiufen died in prison 3 hours after the sudden disease at the age of 35 due to intentionally delayed treatment by the Moganshan Labor Re-education Camp in Wukang Town, Huzhou City, Zhejiang Province.

Ms. Deng Xiufen, born in 1968, was originally from Wencheng County, Wenzhou City, Zhejiang Province; she later moved to Hai'an Town, Rui'an City, Zhejiang Province. Since childhood she had believed in the Lord, and in 2001, she joined The Church of Almighty God. From what we understand, Deng Xiufen was a kind-hearted, forthright and honest person who had won the unanimous praises of relatives and neighbors.

### **Arrested for Believing in God, Sentenced and Brutally Abused in Prison**

On September 26, 2002, Mr. Shen Qiang (40 years old), Director of the Ou Hai District Public Security Sub-bureau, Wenzhou City, Zhejiang Province, along with police elites Jianming and three others, went to Deng Xiufen's home. Under the excuse of having received confidential reports of her believing in Almighty God and possessing spiritual books, they forcibly arrested Deng. Subsequently, accusing her of "participating in an evil religious organization and disturbing social order," the police illegally sentenced her to re-education through labor for one year.

According to Leilei (an alias, resident of Oubei Town, Wenzhou City, Zhejiang Province, Christian of The Church of Almighty God, also arrested by the police for believing in Almighty God, now fled to the United States), who was held in the same cell with Deng Xiufen, in November 2002, Deng Xiufen was transferred to the Moganshan Labor Re-education Camp in Zhejiang Province to serve her sentence. She was later assigned to engage in forced labor in the seamstress group of the First Squadron, the Second Brigade. Leilei and Deng Xiufen were assigned to the same group. In the labor re-education camp, a yellow card bearing the words "Special Disciplinary Control" was hung on the chest of every Christian believer of Almighty God. As a result of their belief in Almighty God, Christians such as Deng Xiufen, Leilei and others were routinely abused, discriminated and suppressed by prison guards. They were treated worse than pigs and dogs.

They got up at 5:30 every morning and gathered. Breakfast was only a small steamed bun and a bowl of porridge cooked so thin that hardly any rice grains were visible in it. Living on a starvation diet, they still had to work more than 10 hours every day. Due to the intense labor, excessive physical exertion and starvation, they were in a constant state of debilitation and dizziness.

Due to the prison guards' "particularly strict management" of the group she was assigned to, Deng Xiufen often had to work overtime. Her work hour was longer than others' by two hours. Her typical work hour was almost 14 hours. On most occasions, she did not make it in time to the mess hall. Often there was only cold leftover food for her. Sometimes, there was nothing. After the work rush every time, Deng still had to drag her exhausted body to the hall of the labor re-education camp to receive involuntary "forced conversion." Any unsatisfactory learning performance was met with corresponding punishment.

The prison guards allowed Deng Xiufen and others to spend only 10 RMB a month, which was not even enough for daily necessities, let alone food. Up to 14 hours of high-intensity workload and severe nutritional deficiency caused serious damage to the originally healthy Deng Xiufen.

### **Paroxysm from Hyper-exertion, Sudden Death in Prison from Delayed Treatment**

One day in early May 2003 at about 8 p.m., Deng Xiufen returned to the dormitory after working overtime. She suddenly felt dizzy, nauseous, uncomfortable all over and about to vomit. Seeing that Deng Xiufen was squatting and gasping for air, her face reddened and her neck bulging, Leilei rushed over and helped her sit on a stool. By then, Deng was so weak that she didn't even have the strength to talk. When Leilei saw that, she lost no time and called the re-education staff on duty (who were also prisoners) to help carry Deng to the door of the duty office. Leilei intended to ask the duty re-education staff to send Deng Xiufen to the infirmary. But the two exit iron doors were locked, and the prisoners could not go out.

Deng Xiufen slumped in a chair. Her body was covered with cold sweat and her hands were icily cold. Time elapsed by the minutes while Leilei anxiously waited for the guard to open the door. Each minute felt like a year. Not long after, Deng Xiufen's head snapped to the right, her hands were hanging down and cold sweat was dripping from her fingers. Her body was soaked in sweat. When the guard and the prison doctor leisurely arrived at the labor re-education camp respectively, it was already past 11 o'clock at night, three hours after

the outbreak of Deng's illness. The guard ordered two prisoners to carry Deng Xiufen out. Deng had lost sensation in her feet. The prisoners dragged Deng to the infirmary.

The duty reeducation staff secretly told other prisoners that Deng Xiufen was suffering severe prostration at that time. Her clothes were so soaked with sweat that they could be wrung for water. Deng did not make it. She had missed the golden hour for rescue.

According to the disclosure of an inmate from the Second Squadron of the Moganshan Labor Re-education Camp, she had witnessed the incident on the night before Deng Xiufen expired. When Deng was taken to the infirmary, there was no doctor in the medical room. The guards put Deng in the bed and left. Deng was lying there motionless. Her face was ashen and she seemed to be unconscious. Half an hour later, the doctor and Li Ming, the secretary of the Second Brigade, slowly arrived at the infirmary. At that time, Deng Xiufen had passed away. Afterward, this was written on Deng's death certificate: myocardial infarction, timely rescue rendered but resuscitation failed.

After Deng died, the prison guards arranged for two prisoners to watch Leilei round the clock, strictly disciplining her, not allowing her to speak out the real cause of Deng Xiufen's death. Christian Deng Xiufen, only aged 35, left the world this way.



## **The Case of Zhang Zhaoqi, a Christian of The Church of Almighty God, Who Was Persecuted to Death by the Chinese Communist Government**



On September 8, 2005, The Church of Almighty God (“CAG”) Christian Zhang Zhaoqi was arrested by the police for believing in Almighty God and gathering. On the following day, he was beaten to death by the chief of the detention center with a wooden stick!

Victim Zhang Zhaoqi (alias: Old Gao), male, aged 50, resident of Potou Village, Chengguan Town, Qin County, Changzhi City, Shanxi Province. He joined CAG in 2001 and was a gospel preacher of CAG before his murder.

On the evening of September 8, 2005, past 9:00, when Zhang Zhaoqi was gathering at the home of a Christian surnamed Zhao in the Li Village Group of Shangyi Village, Jiaokou Town, Qinyuan County, the village director Xi Sanhu, villager group leader Han Huaiguan, militia commander Wang Xiangrui, along with the Jiaokou Town police station chief Wei Shumin and two other plainclothes policemen burst into the house. Without producing any credentials, the police searched around, confiscating hymn books, compact discs and even the VCD player they found. They also subjected Zhang Zhaoqi to physical search and interrogation, and forced him to provide his personal identification information. Zhang did not respond. The police escorted Zhang in handcuffs to the Jiaokou Town police station in Qinyuan County.

According to the internal personnel of the Public Security Bureau, on September 9, past 1 pm, Zhang Zhaoqi was transferred to the office of the Qinyuan County Public Security Bureau. Four policemen, Li Jie, Zhao Wei, Li Yanbing, and Hu Hailong beat Zhang during the interrogation.

Shortly after 6 o'clock that evening, the police took Zhang to the Qinyuan County Detention Center where he was interrogated by the Chief Shi Jianye of the Qinyuan County Public Security Bureau's Political Security Section, but the interrogation still made no progress. When Hao Mingzhu (male, about 50 at that time), director of the Qinyuan County Detention Center, was wining and dining out, he was called back by his colleague to participate in the interrogation. Annoyed over his wining party being spoiled by Zhang, and by Zhang's refusal to provide any information about the church, Hao picked up a wooden stick and whipped Zhang over his whole body for an hour until Zhang was covered with bruises. At about 9:00 that evening, Zhang died in the Qinyuan County Detention

Center. Hao Mingzhu's motive for causing the death of Zhang Zhaoqi was revealed by Hao's wife when she was chatting with her friends over a game of Mahjong.

It was reported that on the second day after Zhang's death, people from the Changzhi City Procuratorate of Shanxi Province came to the detention center and saw Zhang's bruise-riddled body, whose apparent cause of death was torture. Subsequently, Hao was held in the Qin County Detention Center, but Jia Wenjing, director of the Qinyuan County Public Security Bureau, publicly exonerated Hao Mingzhu at the general meeting, saying that Zhang Zhaoqi died because no one was there to discourage Hao.

According to insiders of the Public Security Bureau, the aftermath of the case was handled by Wang Chengde, political commissar of the Qinyuan County Public Security Bureau. The police first assigned Zhang Shuwei, director of the Chengguan police station in Qin County, and a policewoman from Qinyuan County to negotiate with Zhang's family. Not until the fourth day after Zhang's death did the two come to Zhang's eldest brother's home and let him identify the photographs, and informed him that his younger brother Zhang Zhaoqi had died without mentioning about Zhang's cause of death or the whereabouts of his body.

The police only paid Zhang's family a burial fee of RMB 19,000 as compensation, then cremated the body and destroyed the remains. None of Zhang's relatives have seen Zhang's body from beginning to end.

Afterward, Zhang Zhaoqi's nephew and eldest brother wrote a letter to the Shanxi Provincial Public Security Department, the provincial party committee, and various judiciary agencies to report about Hao Mingzhu's murder of Zhang, but the case was left unanswered.

The murderer Hao Mingzhu was incarcerated for only a few months in the Qin County Detention Center and was assigned to the Qinyuan County Public Security Bureau's Police Dog Breeding Center. In 2011, he was transferred to a post at the National Security Brigade.

## **The Case of Wang Mingchi, a Christian of The Church of Almighty God, Who Was Persecuted to Death by the Chinese Communist Government**



Wang Mingchi (alias Chen Hao), male, from Mazhai Village, Yandian Town, Shen County in Liaocheng City located in China's Shandong Province, accepted Almighty God's gospel of the last days in May of 2002. He was arrested by the Chinese police in 2006 because of his belief in Almighty God, and during his imprisonment was ruthlessly beaten and tortured. Due to the severity of his injuries, the police released him early for fear of being held responsible. Wang Mingchi then took his last breath at the age of 45.

One day in May of 2006, Wang Mingchi was reported while delivering books of God's words to Christians from The Church of Almighty God in Liaocheng's Yanggu County. As he was walking through the area, he was arrested by several Yanggu County National Security Brigade officers who had been constantly surveilling him.

According to Wang Mingchi's account while he was still alive, after he was brought to the Yanggu County Public Security Bureau, several officers took turns beating him, viciously boxing his ears, punching and kicking him, and used all sorts of instruments to brutally torture him for several days. They would only stop when they became tired from beating him. They interrogated him about his personal information and his belief in God, and when he wouldn't talk they beat and tortured him even more fiercely. During this time, he was tortured to the point that he lost consciousness several times, but he still did not breathe a word of information about the church.

The Yanggu County police sentenced Wang Mingchi to three years of re-education through labor for the crimes of "undermining law and order and scalping books" in spite of a complete lack of evidence. They then detained him in the Zibo City Labor Camp in Shandong Province. He was already suffering from multiple wounds and was greatly weakened physically, but he was required to perform extra hard labor. Before long, he was bedridden with illness.

On December 15, 2006, the police in the Zibo City Labor Camp hurried to get in touch with his family to have them take him home out of fear of being held responsible for his death. They even forced his family to pay a fine of RMB 20,000 with the excuse that his sentence was not yet up. Wang Mingchi's family was very poor and were unable to get enough money together in spite of their efforts to borrow and scrape up as much as possible.

The next day, the labor camp police saw that Wang Mingchi was on his last legs; they had no choice but to call his family and tell them to pick him up without paying the fine.

On the 17th, the Mazhai Village secretary and Wang Mingchi's family rushed to the Zibo City Labor Camp and were all utterly shocked when they saw him. In just a little over six months' time, he had gone from being a 1.8-meter tall, over 90-kg strong Shandong man with a plump face and a strong constitution to a sickly, frail person under 50 kgs, with a sallow and thin face and a blank look in his eyes. What grieved his family even further was that it was in the middle of the harsh northern winter, but Wang Mingchi was wearing a summer T-shirt, and his emaciated body was shivering in the fierce cold.

At a little past 9:00 p.m. on December 24, 2006 on the eighth day after Wang Mingchi returned home, he was overcome by the severity of his injuries and took his last breath.

## **The Case of Shen Xiurong, a Christian From The Church of Almighty God Persecuted to Death by the Chinese Government**



Victim Shen Xiurong was female, 42 years old at the time, resident of Xiaocui Village, Wangmiao Town, Pingyuan County, Dezhou City, Shandong Province; a leader of The Church of Almighty God who joined the Church in 1998. According to Shen's neighbors and fellow Christians at her church, she was a resolute person and was never pessimistic or backed down when she encountered struggles in life. On March 6, 2008, Shen was arrested by Chinese Communist Party police for believing in Almighty God and taken to the Public Security Bureau of Pingyuan County, Dezhou City. After being interrogated for 4 hours, she suddenly fell from a building and died. The details are as follows:

At around 11:30 a.m. on March 6, 2008, Chen Guang, a driver of the State Security Brigade of Pingyuan Public Security Bureau of Dezhou City, drove to Shen's house in a black car carrying two plainclothes police officers along with a Christian of The Church of Almighty God surnamed Yan (male, 60 years old), who had been arrested in Qiancao Town of Pinyuan County. The two officers suddenly broke into Shen's home and arrested her. Without showing any official documents, they ransacked the house but did not find anything. The two officers then confiscated Shen's CD player and the recital CD inside it, and took Shen to the State Security Brigade of the Public Security Bureau of Pingyuan County.

Shen and Yan arrived at the Pingyuan Public Security Bureau around 12:30 p.m. After they got out of the car, the two plainclothes officers made Shen carry the CD player upstairs. As she was heading up the stairs, Shen took out the CD inside the player and broke it into pieces. The officers were incensed and yelled at her. After arriving at the third floor, Shen and Yan were separately interrogated.

Yan recalled: At around 3 p.m. that afternoon, he was undergoing interrogation when a tall police officer who arrested them came to the interrogation room and said aggressively: "This woman (referring to Shen) is quite tough. We must detain her!"

Shen's husband found out that his wife had been arrested when he returned home after 12 p.m. At around 4 p.m., he was suddenly notified by Shen's uncle, who worked at the Pingyuan County Court, that Shen had fallen from the building of the public security bureau and died. Her body was being held inside the freezer of the crematorium.

It is understood that Shen had died after falling headfirst from the third-story toilet window into a trash container on the ground. Police from the Pingyuan Public Security Bureau explained to Shen's family that she had committed suicide, but Shen's husband knew his wife's personality very well. He said angrily: "You definitely killed her!" However, the police denied it and maintained that Shen had killed herself. Based on professional who had studied forensics, the distance from the third floor to the ground is too short for a headfirst fall to be suicide. But as Shen had already died, what happened during the time she was detained and how she really died could not be ascertained.

Shen's body was cremated on March 10 and buried 5 days later. Afterward, the Pingyuan Public Security Bureau paid Shen's family 220,000 RMB to keep the matter private, and warned them not to pursue things further. The death of Shen was thus left unsettled.

## **The Case of Wang Fengtian, a Christian From The Church of Almighty God Persecuted to Death by the Chinese Government**



In early 2009, a tragedy occurred in Weifang City, Shandong Province, when a Christian from The Church of Almighty God was secretly arrested and killed by the Chinese Government.

The victim, Wang Fengtian, was female, born in July 1970, and lived in Zuoshan Town, Changyi County, Weifang City, Shandong Province. She was an ordinary Christian in The Church of the Almighty God. Below is the full story of Wang Fengtian's arrest and brutal murder at the hands of the Chinese police.

At about 7 p.m. on January 16, 2009, several policemen from the Zuoshan Police Station in Xiashan District, Weifang City, Shandong Province, entered Wang Fengtian's home. Without producing any official documents, they searched her home—and despite finding nothing connected to her faith in God, they forcibly took her to Zuoshan Police Station. Several police officers subsequently returned to Wang's home and searched the living room, bedroom and yard all over again. Even the brick wall in the toilet was broken—but still nothing was found. At 7:50 that evening, another Christian of The Church of Almighty God named Hai'ou (a pseudonym) and her parents were also arrested as a result of their belief in Almighty God and locked up together with Wang.

At Zuoshan Police Station, officers forced Wang to tell them about the church. They brutally interrogated her for a day and night, during which time they gave her nothing to eat or drink. Hai'ou says that while she was being questioned she heard the sound of a woman screaming in agony in another room. The officer who was with her said they were interrogating Wang Fengtian.

At 2 a.m. in the morning of January 17, following their interrogations, Wang Fengtian, Hai'ou and Hai'ou's parents were put in a large, 2m-high metal cage. On the same day, the four of them were transferred to Weifang City Detention Center.

Hai'ou recalls that whilst in the detention center, Wang Fengtian repeatedly asked for bail pending trial, but the police refused. Wang Fengtian was taken for questioning four times at the detention center. During this questioning, Hai'ou heard the sound of her crying and saw her wearing heavy ankle irons. According to a Christian named Minghui (a pseudonym) who has held in the same cell as Wang Fengtian, the ankle irons were 2cm thick and linked by chain to her handcuffs. They made it very difficult for Wang Fengtian to walk. After each questioning session, the police reduced the number of chain links be-

tween the handcuffs and ankles, eventually resulting in Wang being unable to stand up straight whilst walking.

By February 16, Wang Fengtian and the other Christians had been detained for one month. Because the police had been unable to obtain any evidence for a conviction, the detention center asked Wang and the others to sign a statement of acquittal and began preparing to release them. As this happened, more than a dozen police officers from the Zushan Police Station were standing beside them. Once Hai'ou, Wang Fengtian, and Minghui had signed the statements, the officers rushed forward, cuffed their hands behind their backs, put black hoods on them, and bundled them into a van—just as if they had been condemned to execution. Even the guard from the detention center could only stand there open-mouthed, and asked, “What happened? Weren't they acquitted?”

The police secretly took Wang Fengtian and the two others to a hotel (it was later learned that it was the Shuiyuntian Hotel in Jingzhi Town), where they were illegally detained. During this time, Hai'ou heard the sound of police yelling, things being smashed, and the cries of Wang Fengtian from the next room. She heard one policeman surnamed Han say, “Wang Fengtian hasn't confessed. She's been beaten black and blue, she's swollen up like a pig!” Hai'ou quietly wept after hearing these words. Despite setting up a private court in which Wang Fengtian and the others were subjected to brutal interrogation, the police didn't receive any confessions.

Two weeks later, in early March, Wang Fengtian lost her life as a result of vicious torture by the police.

After Wang Fengtian was beaten to death, the police didn't immediately inform her family. Instead, they tried to conceal her death, and made several visits to the homes of Wang Fengtian, her parents, and all her relatives to ask whether they believed in Jesus, what their jobs were, and to try and find out more about Wang Fengtian's family background, etc. To cover up their crimes, the police also sent Wang's badly beaten corpse to a hospital for cosmetic reconstruction. A nurse (Wang Li, female, 44 years old, who came from the same village as Wang) who took part in the procedure recognized Wang Fengtian. Fearing information about what they'd done would get out, the police immediately segregated the nurse and stopped her from taking part in the surgery.

Later, when Wang Fengtian's younger sister went to identify the body, she saw that her sister's back was covered in bruises. It was obvious that Wang Fengtian had suffered inhumane torture before she died. Yet due to threats of local police, Wang Fengtian's family had no choice but to keep quiet. Unable to air their grievances, they had no way of getting justice for Wang Fengtian.



## **The Case of Zhang Huanfu, a Christian From The Church of Almighty God Persecuted to Death by the Chinese Government**

Victim Zhang Huanfu was female, 50 years old at the time, from Qiaoping Village, Zhuyang Town, Chongqing's Jiangjin District. She was an ordinary Christian of The Church of Almighty God who joined the Church with her husband Cao Benxian in May 2000. The following is a full account of Zhang's illegal arrest by the Chinese Communist Party police and how she was tortured to death.

### **Sentenced to Re-education Through Labor for Hosting Christian Meetings; Tortured to Death During Period of Detainment**

Zhang and her husband were an honest farming couple. After the two of them started believing in Almighty God, they often attended meetings with neighboring Christians. However, the good times did not last long, as the hosting of Christian meetings at Zhang's home was reported to authorities.

At around 10 a.m. on August 18, 2008, several police officers from the Public Security Bureau of Yongchuan District, Chongqing Municipality, raided Zhang's home and found books on believing in God and hymn CDs. Zhang was illegally arrested and taken to the Yongchuan District Public Security Bureau.

For her belief in Almighty God, Zhang was later sentenced to a year of re-education through labor at the Shimahe Women's Labor Re-education Camp in Jiangbei, Chongqing.

The first time Cao went to the labor re-education camp to visit Zhang, he could barely recognize his wife because she had been beaten up so badly that her entire face had changed shape.

One day in April 2009, the Shimahe Women's Labor Re-education Camp called Cao to tell him that Zhang was seriously ill. When Cao arrived at the camp, the police took him to a room, where they pointed to a body on the ground which was covered by a dirty and ragged blanket and said: "That is your wife. She hanged herself." Cao could not accept it and wanted to see his wife's body, but was blocked by police. After Cao just stayed for 2 short minutes, the police impatiently said to him: "OK, you've seen her. Now the body can be taken to the crematorium." Cao wanted to follow the body to the crematorium, but even this basic right of family members was taken away by the police, as he was only allowed to wait in the car.

At 5 p.m., Zhang's ashes were returned to Cao, but the police delayed him from leaving. It was only until after midnight, when there were no people around, that the police

drove Cao to the side of a road in Qiaoping Village and told him: “Just take the urn of ashes back and bury it in a hole. Don’t notify your relatives.”

According to another Christian of The Church of Almighty surnamed Yang who served time with Zhang: “Zhang Huanfu and I both served time at the Shimahe Women’s Labor Re-education Camp’s third unit. She lived next to me. That labor camp had a rule—new prisoners had to get up at 5 a.m. every day in their first month and start memorizing 23 prison rules after they finish washing their faces and brushing their teeth. Those who could not memorize them were subjected to corresponding physical punishment. As Zhang’s memory was poor, she failed the first time and was punished to stand for an hour. When she failed the second time, the physical punishment was doing squats for half an hour. When she failed the third time, she had to run 20 laps on the track. When she failed the fourth time, she was not allowed to eat. When she failed the fifth time, she was not permitted to go to the toilet and had to urinate and defecate in her pants.... Zhang often went hungry because she could not memorize the prison rules. She was sometimes so hungry that she passed out, but the Captain said she was just pretending and beat her up. Once, a prisoner felt Zhang was really pitiable and bought her a dish to eat, but Captain Liu found out and subjected that prisoner to physical punishment of 300 squats.

From the second month, prisoners had to meet production quotas. Every day, we worked from 7 a.m. in the morning to 10:30 p.m. at night. If we did not complete our task, we were not allowed to eat and had to work overtime. Those who could not complete their task for a long period of time also had their sentences extended. Meal time every day was a total of 30 minutes, just 10 minutes per meal, and included getting food, eating and washing up. Those who did not finish their meals in time weren’t allowed to eat anymore. After finishing work, the time for us to clean ourselves up was 8 minutes, including showering, laundry, and washing our faces and feet. When time was up, we weren’t allowed to wash any further. Toilet time was also fixed. Each person could only go twice a day, and each time could not exceed 10 minutes. As Zhang failed to complete her tasks for a long time, she was regularly reprimanded by the Captain, not only often going hungry but also worrying that her sentence would be extended, adding exponentially to her physical and mental torment.

After Zhang committed suicide by hanging herself in April 2009, prison authorities called an emergency meeting with the people living in Zhang’s cell, prohibiting anyone from leaking information or leaving the cell, and threatening and intimidating them by saying: ‘Anyone who reveals what really happened will be dead immediately!’”

**Family Members Want an Explanation but Are Threatened and Intimidated by Police**

Zhang's relatives were grief-stricken and furious after finding out about her death, and 16 of them headed down to Shimahe Women's Labor Re-education Camp to seek an explanation. The police at the camp surrounded the 16 of them with guns and threatened: "People get killed here all the time. One who died a couple of days ago was tossed outside and no one cared."

Zhang's relatives persisted in protesting outside the labor re-education camp for a month and 2 days. In the end, the police threatened the relatives with the job of Zhang's youngest daughter, forcing them to give up their protests.

Zhang's wrongful death placed Cao under long-term psychological stress. In the end, he lost his sanity and was placed in the Chongqing Psychiatric Hospital. Just like this, an honest couple and perfectly fine family was destroyed by the Chinese Communist government.

## **The Case of Ma Suoping, a Leader From The Church of Almighty God Persecuted to Death by the CCP Government**



Ms. Ma Suoping (Spiritual Name: Youling), 40 years of age, was a resident of Shuangfengyan Village, Shuanghe Township, Xiangning County, Linfen City, Shanxi Province. In 1999, she joined The Church of Almighty God. Before she was murdered, she was one of the main leaders of The Church of Almighty God in mainland China.

At around 2 o'clock in the afternoon on July 17, 2009, more than 20 plain-clothed policemen holding police batons and clubs, along with police dogs burst into Mr. Liu's home which was located in Luan County, Tangshan City, Hebei Province. Without showing any credentials, the police captured five Christians including Liu, Ma Suoping and Linlin. A male police officer in his 40s who was about 1.7m tall grabbed Ma Suoping by her hair and proudly said, "This is her! Even though she has makeup on, I can recognize her!" The police brought the five into the living room and forced them to crouch down. They used clothing and bedsheets to wrap their heads up, then brought their police dogs into the rooms to do a search. They confiscated Liu's 120,000 RMB, 2 cases of books on believing in God, 4 laptops, 5 cell phones, 2 bags of clothing, a few boxes of health products, etc. Afterwards, the police took Ma Suoping and the other four Christians with their heads wrapped up and put them into separate cars. They took them to a military sub-district facility in Tangshan City in Hebei to interrogate them secretly.

According to Liu's neighbor, the day that Ma Suoping was captured, the police dispatched approximately forty to fifty police cars and vehicles along with hundreds of policemen and SWAT police. Both sides of the street in front of Liu's house were blockaded and SWAT police carrying guns were present up to over 60m from his front door.

According to inside sources, the police have known for a long time that Ma Suoping is one of the main leaders in The Church of Almighty God and even designated her as a "national leader." She was already wanted on the Public Security Network in July 2008. The Public Security Bureau in Zhengzhou City, Henan Province had already attempted to capture Ma Suoping many times but had been unsuccessful. In 2009, through operations involving monitoring and tracking her cellphone, the police were able to pinpoint Ma Suoping's location to Tangshan. Afterwards, they carried out an operation to capture Ma Suoping. This operation was directly arranged by the National Ministry of Public Security,

which mobilized police forces from Henan and Hebei as well as Tangshan City police to carry out a surprise arrest in Tangshan.

After Ma Suoping was captured, the other Christians that were captured along with her never saw her again nor did they know where she was taken. Nobody knows what kind of cruelties she had to endure before she died.

According to Linlin and Ms. Wang, both of whom were also captured, the police tortured them and tried to coerce them to confess just how much Church money Ma Suoping managed and where they were located. The torture that they went through included: having their hands shackled behind their backs and being violently dragged up, having their upper bodies and arms pricked with toothpicks, smashing their heads onto the floor etc. During this time, Linlin could not bear the torture and tried to smash herself into a wall to commit suicide. Her head bled a lot. However, the police continued to try to extort a confession from her. Linlin and Wang were only common believers in The Church of Almighty God yet they received such harsh treatment. One can only imagine what the Chinese Communist police did to Ma Suoping.

On July 22, Ma Suoping was killed by the CCP police.

On July 24, the police finally notified Ma Suoping's family that Ma Suoping had already died. Her body was left in the morgue of Yellow River Central Hospital in Zhengzhou City, Henan Province. When Ma Suoping's husband Mr. Song and the secretary of Shuangfengyan Village, Yang Jinzhu went to see her body, they discovered that it was covered with bruises and scars from beating. However, the police denied that they attacked her. They claimed that Ma Suoping was captured alone on July 21, transferred to Zhengzhou at 5 p.m. on July 22 and died suddenly of a heart attack at 6 p.m. They said that the scars and bruises on her body appeared after she died.

Ma Suoping's husband Mr. Song was certain that his wife had been healthy all along and that she never had any problems with her heart. Consequently, he refused to accept the police's explanation and requested that his wife's body be returned to Shanxi. The director of Zhongyuan Public Security Sub-bureau in Zhengzhou City and two other people negotiated with Mr. Song many times with threats and intimidation. Finally, on July 26 in the afternoon, Mr. Song and his daughter brought Ma Suoping's ashes back to Shanxi and buried them on July 29.

## **The Case of Yu Futing, a Christian of The Church of Almighty God, Who Was Persecuted to Death by the Chinese Government**



Yu Futing, male, from Longhe Town in Chongqing's Changshou District, joined The Church of Almighty God in 2005.

The morning of September 10, 2009, Yu Futing went to the home of another Christian Liu, for a gathering. A little past 11:00 a.m., four people including the Hexing Chief of Police Zhang Biao and officers with the Changshou Duzhou Police Station burst into Liu's home along with seven village cadres. After wantonly searching the premises, the police performed illegal arrests on Yu and Liu, bringing them to the Duzhou Police Station.

At 4:00 p.m., a plainclothes officer and officers with the United Front Work Department went to search Yu Futing's home. They found a receipt for RMB 16,000 of contributions to the church.

Based on what was written by Yu Futing during his lifetime, the police questioned him and Liu about the receipt they had found in his house, and when he wouldn't talk, they kicked him while wearing leather shoes and hit him with an electric baton. They also threatened him, saying: "Even if you don't talk, we'll still say that you believe in a Xie Jiao and give you a sentence!"

In the end, they sentenced Yu Futing to a year of re-education through labor for the crimes of "involvement in a Xie Jiao organization and disrupting social order."

On September 30, 2009, Yu Futing was sent to the Fuling Jiangdong Labor Camp.

While he was still alive, Yu Futing wrote this about his memories of the labor camp: "Life in the labor camp was really terrible. Generally, I just had a little bit of vegetables, and sometimes not even that—it would only be chili\*. I only got a bit of tomato and egg soup when officials were coming to the prison for inspections. That was the best that life got. When the food came every day, I wasn't allowed to eat until I had finished reading the prison rules, so by the time I could eat, the food had already gotten cold. It was like this all four seasons."

In the labor camp, the police instructed other prisoners to torture him. In the middle of a harsh winter, only because Yu Futing bathed without requesting leave, he was disciplined twice by the other prisoners—they used a basin to dump cold water over his head, and then set up a fan to blow on him. From then on he began to fall ill. Before his incarcer-

ation, he had always been in very good health and he was the primary source of labor in the family.

Since he lacked the money to get medical attention, coupled with the hard labor, Yu Futing's illness worsened by the day. However, the police did not ease up on his torture because of his illness. One time when he was heading out to work, one of the prison guards kicked him viciously because he was walking slowly, leaving his backside visibly bruised. He also beat him with a wooden stick, hitting his legs until they were black and blue, and terribly swollen. At the time, Yu Futing just cried. Later on he wasn't even able to climb stairs, but the prison guards still did not allow him to get medical attention.

On April 24, 2010, the police saw that Yu Futing was even incapable of walking and was also unable to work. They felt that he had become useless, so they called his wife to have his family pick him up. When his son-in-law brought him back home, his entire body was swollen—his head was very swollen, and even his stomach was swollen and there were also hard lumps in it. The police had tortured him to the point that he didn't even look human anymore.

After more than a month, Yu Futing was transferred to the Chongqing Xi'nan Hospital for treatment. The examination results were late-stage liver cancer. Since medical treatment was ineffective, he passed away on October 5, 2010 at 63 years old.

\*Yu Futing did not eat spicy food at home.

## **The Case of Ye Jianjun, a Christian of The Church of Almighty God, Who Was Persecuted to Death by the Chinese Communist Government**



Ye Jianjun, male, born on December 9, 1950 in the Longkou Economic Development Zone in Longkou City, Shandong Province. He was an ordinary worker in the city's glass factory. Ye Jianjun first believed in the Lord Jesus in 1987, and then in 1998 joined The Church of Almighty God. He is honest, well-behaved, served enthusiastically, and enjoyed spreading the gospel, and frequently went to the Shandong cities of Penglai and Yantai to do so. In 1999 when he was out sharing the gospel, he was arrested by the Chinese government and was brutally tortured to the point that he had a schizophrenic break. Thirteen years later he departed this world, his name still not cleared.

According to the recollections of Ye Jianjun's wife Ju Hua (alias), on one day in May 1999, Ye Jianjun took a taxi back home after having been away for more than ten days. He had a dull look in his eyes and didn't have a single penny on him. Ju Hua led him into the house after paying his fare. When she saw that he had thinned to the point that he was a bag of bones and he seemed very absent-minded, she questioned him and discovered that he had been arrested while spreading the gospel. The police had tied him to a metal chair and brutally boxed his ears, swiftly alternating sides. They didn't stop until his hearing was impaired. During the interrogation and torture, they deprived him of food and water for five days.

When Ju Hua learned that her husband still had not eaten she rushed to prepare some rice gruel. When eating, after Ye Jianjun had taken a few sips, he started to stare blankly, walked into the middle of the courtyard with the bowl, and poured out the food bit by bit. After it was empty, he suddenly let go of the bowl and it broke into pieces. Ju Hua prepared water to wash his feet and urged him several times, but he would not wash. Instead he kicked the basin over and beat Ju Hua. This was when she finally realized that he had become mentally unstable. Ye Jianjun's family took him to the Shandong Province Longkou City Huangshan Psychiatric Hospital, and he was given a diagnosis of schizophrenia. In the following few years, Ju Hua sold the family home to pay for his treatment, paying a total of over RMB 30,000. However, there was no improvement at all.

In spite of his mental illness, the scars on Ye Jianjun's soul and the grievances left behind from the brutal torture he had endured could not be erased. In 2009, Ye Jianjun



would frequently say that he wanted to go to Beijing to make an appeal, and in May of that year he left home. Over ten days later, a call came from a shelter in Liaoning asking for Ye Jianjun's family to go pick him up. After he returned home, he said that he wanted to go to Beijing to make a report but became ill when he got to Liaoning. He was saved by an elderly person who sent him to the shelter.

From the time that Ye Jianjun began suffering mental health problems from his arrest and brutal torture by the police, he suffered discrimination and coldness from other people. In February of 2012, he passed away at the age of 63 without having his name cleared.

## **The Case of Ye Aizhong, a Preacher of The Church of Almighty God, Who Was Persecuted to Death by the Chinese Communist Government**



In March 2012, a tragedy occurred when a Christian from The Church of Almighty God was arrested and secretly murdered because of helping his fellow Christians to buy and exchange electronic goods.

Victim Mr. Ye Aizhong, 42 years old, was from Yuelai Town, Shuyang County, Suqian City, Jiangsu Province. He joined The Church of Almighty God in 1999 and had been a preacher in the Church before his murder. Below is the full story of Ye Aizhong's arrest and brutal murder at the hands of the Chinese police.

### **Killed After Arrest at Computer City**

Sources have said that Ye Aizhong was a warmhearted man who loved helping others. He had attracted the attention of the Chinese police because he often helped other Christians buy and exchange MP5 players used for listening to hymns and sermons.

At a little past 8:00 a.m. on March 26, 2012, Ye Aizhong and another Christian from the same town, a 48-year-old man with the surname Feng, went to Shuyang County Computer City to help Christians have their MP5 players repaired. The two men were arrested outside the Computer City by two plainclothes policemen (who were about 30 years old) from the Nanguan Police Station in Shuyang County. Without presenting any official credentials, the policemen bundled Ye and Feng into a black car and, their eyes blindfolded, took them to the Shuyang County Detention Center. They also took an MP5 player and RMB 5,000 belonging to Ye Aizhong.

At the detention center, in attempt to force them to provide information about the inner workings of the Church and the church money, the police denied Ye and Feng anything to eat or drink for two days and a night.

At around 10:00 p.m. on March 27, the policemen took the two men to the second floor of the Shuyang County Public Security Bureau's Crime Squad, where they were interrogated separately. According to Feng, three pairs of policemen took turns at interrogating them throughout the day. The policemen repeatedly struck them with electric batons on their chest, shoulders, back, waist and feet, ultimately causing Feng to feel numb all over and lose consciousness. Soon after, another group of officers ordered Feng to sit on the

floor with his legs sticking straight out. They then placed an unelectrified baton across his legs and stomped to and fro on it for a full half hour, leaving the skin raw and bleeding. Afterwards, they used electric batons to deliver electric shocks to Feng's head until he fainted. When he regained consciousness, they wouldn't let him close his eyes; as soon as he did, he was beaten or shocked with an electric baton. This carried on until 4:00 a.m.

While Feng was being tortured, the officers took the electrified chair from the room he was in to the adjoining one, where Ye Aizhong was being held. Soon after, there came the sound of Ye's excruciating screams. His cries of agony lasted for an hour or so, after which they gradually died down.

On the evening of March 28, Feng—who was chained to a chair at the time—vaguely heard, from the room where Ye was being detained, the sound of the police officers interrogating and beating him, and his screams of pain.

At daybreak on March 29, the police took Feng outside. As he passed the doorway to the room where Ye was being held, Feng saw him sitting motionless in the electrified chair, his head hanging down. Feng called out to him twice, but Ye gave no response. The same day, the police took Feng to the Shuyang County Detention Center and detained him there for 15 days on the charge of “suspicion of using superstition to undermine the law.”

On March 30, the officers from the Shuyang County Public Security Bureau's Crime Squad informed Ye's family that he had died on March 29. Despite their grief, one of Ye's younger brothers tried to reason with the police after hearing this terrible news, saying that Ye had not been breaking the law by believing in Almighty God—so why had he been arrested and beaten to death? “He wasn't beaten to death!” An officer in his thirties replied with conviction, “He fell ill and died after being given a blood test!” When Ye's family asked the police for a diagnosis from the hospital, the police were evasive and incapable of producing anything. This increased suspicions among Ye's family that he had been beaten and tortured to death by the police, because his family knew that Ye had never suffered ill health; how could he suddenly die because of a blood test? It led to an impasse between the two sides.

### **To Cover Up Their Evildoing, the Police Forced Ye's Family to Sign a Disclaimer**

Afraid of the negative consequences if the incident became widely-known, the police threatened Ye Aizhong's family, saying, “Sign this or we won't let you see his body.” They also threatened several of Ye's cousins and relatives who operated timber factories, saying that their factories would be closed and they'd be put in prison if they tried to protest on

Ye's behalf. Under this pressure, Ye Aizhong's family had no choice but to give in and sign the disclaimer tearfully.

They weren't allowed to see his remains until April 5th. The sight of Ye, who had always been so lively and active when alive, lying unmoving in a yellow body bag in the funeral home, covered in welts, not a single part of his body unblemished by signs of injury, filled his family with intense grief and indignation. They couldn't stop themselves from crying out with heart-rending sobs of anguish.

At about 12:00 noon on that day, the remains of Ye Aizhong were cremated in the Shuyang County Funeral Home. His ashes were brought back by his family and buried in his family's cemetery.

# **The Case of Zhang Hongtao, a Christian From The Church of Almighty God Persecuted to Death by the CCP Government**

Ms. Zhang Hongtao, victim, a native of Tianshui City, Gansu Province; an ordinary Christian from The Church of Almighty God. On December 6, 2012, Zhang Hongtao was arrested for preaching the gospel. On the same day, she was tortured to death by the CCP police at the age of 55.

## **Arrested for Preaching the Gospel, Tortured to Death in 4 Hours**

On December 6, 2012, past 9 a.m., Zhang Hongtao and several Christians from The Church of Almighty God met in Xiaochuan Town, Cheng County, Gansu Province, to preach the gospel. Upon arriving there, Zhang Hongtao and other Christians started preaching the gospel to the owner of a cold-noodle stall. Unexpectedly, it was overheard by a CCP plainclothes policeman. About 10 o'clock, Zhang Hongtao was unlawfully arrested and escorted to the police station in Xiaochuan Town.

About 2 p.m. the same day, the police at the Xiaochuan Town Police Station called a contact number on Zhang Hongtao's phone (a Christian from The Church of Almighty God), claiming that Zhang was admitted to the Cheng County Hospital. After 4 p.m., they called again and said that Zhang Hongtao had died.

On December 7, the police of the Cheng County Public Security Bureau located Zhang Hongtao's husband surnamed Dong, informing him that Zhang had been arrested for preaching in Cheng County, and she had died of sudden cerebral hemorrhage. At the Cheng County Public Security Bureau, Dong saw his wife lie flat in a small house naked. Without the consent of the family, her skull had been opened. There was an egg-size lump on her head. Her face, neck, shoulders, back and legs were covered with bruises that appeared to have been caused by beating. When Dong asked what had happened to his wife, the police dodged the question by saying that the autopsy was conducted to ascertain the cause of death. They did not disclose other details.

Seeing the wounds on his wife's body, Dong suspected that his wife had been killed by the police. The next day, he notified the family and some village people to visit the leaders of the county Public Security Bureau, county Politics and Law Committee and the Petition Office to resolve the matter. However, every department evaded the matter with the excuse that "the leaders were on business trip." Later, when Zhang's family angrily returned to the Cheng County Public Security Bureau and demanded for a resolution, their answer was, "On December 6, Zhang Hongtao was taken to the public security bureau for questioning because of preaching the gospel of Almighty God, but she refused to say anything and died

afterwards. The deceased died of normal cause, which was determined by autopsy to be cerebral hemorrhage. The public security bureau takes no responsibility for it.” Zhang’s family found the police’s statement unacceptable. Zhang’s body was obviously covered with multiple wounds and a large lump on her head. How could that be called a normal cause of death? Zhang Hongtao was just having a minor cold on that day. From the time she was arrested at 10 a.m. to around 2 o’clock in the afternoon, there was only a little more than 4 hours. Had it not been due to external injuries, how could it have resulted in her sudden death? However, the police did not mention anything about the injuries on Zhang’s body.

### **Total Disregard of Human Lives, Gross Cover-up of Crime**

Finding no recourse in pursuing the case in the county Government and Provincial Public Security Department, Zhang’s family returned on December 10 to the Cheng County government compound for an explanation. A person with the tough look of a leader threatened to arrest Zhang’s family for unlawful gatherings, petitioning and inciting. The politics and law committee secretary persuaded the crowd to leave with the excuse of “We will reply to you after discussion.”

Afterwards, the government sent a secretary and a lawyer to Zhang Hongtao’s home twice to settle the matter with a conviction against her: “The Church of Almighty God is the object of severe crackdown of the state. Zhang Hongtao’s believing in Almighty God and promoting the gospel constitutes an unlawful act.” Finally, a one-time compensation of 100,000 RMB was given to Zhang’s family, providing that the family could not retrieve the body, which was to be handled by the government. Zhang’s family saw there was no place to appeal but could only compromise.

## **The Case of Jiang Chundi, a Christian of The Church of Almighty God, Who Was Persecuted to Death by the Chinese Government**



Jiang Chundi, female, 63 years old at the time, from Yongping Village, Xinba Town in Jiangsu Province's Yangzhong City, she joined The Church of Almighty God in 2008, and was a regular Christian affiliated with the Church. Below is the story of Jiang Chundi being persecuted to death by the Chinese Communist Party police.

According to informed sources, Jiang Chundi was a law-abiding, well-behaved rural woman who lived with her daughter Zhang Qun (40 years old). When they had finished their own farm work they would frequently go to the neighboring villages to spread the gospel.

Around 2:00 p.m. on December 13, 2012, Jiang Chundi and her daughter Zhang Qun along with several other Christians from the same village left the Senior Activity Center where they had been sharing the gospel. They were intercepted by a police vehicle from the Yangzhong City Xinba Police Station, and then a Yangzhong City National Police Brigade car arrived very shortly after. They were arrested by the police and taken to the Xinba Police Station.

They were all interrogated separately at the police station. According to another Christian who was arrested along with Jiang Chundi: "I was interrogated nonstop from 4:00 p.m. on the day I was arrested until 3:00 a.m. the following day. One of the National Security Brigade officers (around 40 years old and slightly chubby) put handcuffs and leg cuffs on me, then viciously kicked me and stomped on me. He kept on trying to force me to reveal information on spreading the gospel. I was tortured to the point that my entire body was in unbearable pain." Another informed source revealed that Jiang Chundi was also interrogated until early morning of the following day. After the police had threatened and intimidated her, they forcibly escorted her back home to raid her house. When they were not far from her house, the elderly woman sat down on the ground and refused to move, so they forcibly hoisted her back up and brought her home. They confiscated four MP5 players, four flash memory cards, and several of her daughter Zhang Qun's notebooks.

On December 17, Jiang Chundi's neighbor stumbled upon a corpse floating face-down in the river behind her home. She rushed to call the police, and the body was identified as Jiang Chundi.

Zhang Qun was released early because of her mother's death so that she could handle the funeral arrangements.

Jiang Chundi's daughter Zhang Qun said: "On December 18, the day after I was released from the detention center I saw my mother's body at the mortuary.... That evening, Wang Dehong, the village head, brought the deputy police chief and someone who claimed to be a medical examiner to my home for an unexpected visit. The so-called medical examiner was holding some sort of instrument (something that could take audio and video recordings) and kept it pointed at me. The deputy police chief said to me with a stern look and a forceful tone: 'A death is a major event, but your mother committed suicide. She was not killed!' After that he stared at me intensely. Then he asked me: 'Do you have any opinions on what happened?' At the time, I thought of the fact that there was still a box of books on believing in God in the house and I was afraid they would conduct another search, so I said I didn't. When they heard my answer, their expressions all immediately relaxed and their tones became much more congenial. In fact, they were coming to figure out whether or not I wanted to pursue holding the police accountable. After that they were still afraid that I would go back on that so they sent someone to accompany me when I was handling my mother's death certificate."

Zhang Qun is filled with grief and indignation when her mother's death comes up. She said: "My mother was a very resolute person. She suffered many misfortunes and blows in her life, but she never entertained the notion of taking her own life. When she was sick, even though the pain from the illness was tortuous and she became weak, she never wished for death. Even though my older sister's death was an enormous blow for her, she never wanted to commit suicide. How could someone like that just up and kill herself? The explanation from the police was just absurd. Seeing my mother's tragic death, all I could do was swallow my tears because in a country under the rule of the Communist Party, I have nowhere to go for redress!"



## **The Case of Zhang Laigu, a Christian From The Church of Almighty God Persecuted to Death by the Chinese Government**



Victim Zhang Laigu was female, 35 at the time, and lived in Nanling County, Wuhu City, Anhui Province. She joined the Church in 2003 and was responsible for spreading the gospel. She was outgoing, lively, and cheerful. At the end of 2012, Zhang was arrested under false pretext by the Chinese Government in Shanghai when she was spreading the gospel, and she died in custody after being illegally detained. Below is the full story of Zhang's arrest, torture, and death at the hands of the Chinese Government.

### **Zhang Died in Custody After She Was Arrested Under False Pretext When Spreading the Gospel**

At 8 p.m. of December 12, 2012, when spreading the gospel in a community in Fengcheng Town, Fengxian District, Shanghai, Zhang Laigu was arrested by seven or eight plainclothes police officers from the Fengcheng Town Police Station. That evening, she was transferred to the Shanghai Minhang District Detention Center.

According to the recollections of a Christian with the surname Li (who was detained in the adjacent cell to Zhang Laigu), Zhang was referred to "Anonymous" in the detention center because she refused to give her name. She was frequently subjected to verbal abuse by the guards, and bullying and physical abuse by the other prisoners. Despite it being the middle of winter, she was not allowed to drink warm water. The last time Li saw Zhan Laigu was when she heard the loudspeaker announce "Anonymous prisoner no.36, come out!" Soon after, she saw Zhang pass in front of her cell, but Zhang didn't dare turn her head to look at her. Li says Zhang had a grave expression on her face. She looked sallow and wan, there were bags under her eyes, she seemed helpless. There was great sadness in her eyes; Li sensed she had suffered a great injustice. Li winked and nodded at Zhang, trying to cheer her up, but Zhang gave no response. After that, Li heard no further news of Zhang Laigu. It wasn't until she was released from prison that she discovered Zhang had died in custody.

The police told Zhang Laigu's family that she had torn her trousers into a rope and hanged herself in the toilet. "The police were lying," Li says. "At the detention center where I was held with Zhang Laigu, the toilet lights were embedded into the wall. The walls were covered in smooth tiles and were curved and slightly sloping, without any corners or edges.

They were also 4m high. There wasn't anywhere you could tie something. There's no way she could have hanged herself in there.”

### **The Police Tried to Threaten Zhang's Family to Cover up Their Evildoing**

Following Zhang's death, the Shanghai Minhang District Detention Center informed her family that she had committed suicide whilst in her custody. Zhang's family was shocked. That's because they knew her as a strong, cheerful person. There was no way she would have killed herself. They felt outraged. Twenty or thirty of her relatives went to the detention center in Minhang District, Shanghai to seek justice and demand to see Zhang Laigu's body. When they saw her body and tried to take pictures, the police immediately forced them to stop. Zhang's relatives were incensed and started arguing with the police—who, seeing the way things were going, immediately threatened that “Anyone who causes trouble will be arrested!” Immediately afterward, they shut the group of twenty or thirty relatives in a large hall in the detention center and cross-examined each of them on their relationship with Zhang Laigu. During this time, they didn't allow any of them to leave.

On January 12, 2013, the body of Zhang Laigu was cremated at the crematorium in Minhang District. The Shanghai Municipal Public Security Bureau provided 700,000 RMB in compensation to her family.

After Zhang Laiju's death, the Shanghai Municipal Public Security Bureau and the Public Security Bureau of Nanling County, Wuhu City, Anhui Province sent four police cars containing eight officers to the home of her parents, where they threatened to outlaw all religious assemblies in the village.

## **The Case of He Chengrong: a Christian From The Church of Almighty God Persecuted to Death by the CCP Government**



On December 21, 2012, a Christian from The Church of Almighty God named He Chengrong was arrested secretly by the CCP police for her belief in Almighty God. She was murdered during custody at the age of 44.

Ms. He Chengrong (alias Xiaoran) lived at Block 1, Shengyuan of Experimental Forestry Center in Aksu, Xinjiang. She joined The Church of Almighty God at the end of 2004. Before she died, she used to be a leader of The Church of Almighty God.

### **Captured Due to Monitored Phone Calls and Murdered During Custody**

On December 21, 2012 at about 1 p.m., He Chengrong was tracked and located by the police by her phone calls. She was arrested on the way to the church because she failed to escape from the police's hunting and intercepting. The police confiscated 700 RMB of cash, two TF cards, some gospel materials and all the personal stuff on her. Finally, the police escorted her to the National Security Brigade of Aksu Public Security Bureau.

After He Chengrong was arrested, her husband tried to bribe the police officers of the local public security bureau by paying them more than 30,000 RMB as a ransom, and the police agreed to release He Chengrong in four or five days.

According to He Chengrong's family, on January 9, 2013 at about 12 p.m., unexpectedly, three policemen from the National Security Brigade of Aksu Public Security Bureau came to inform them that He Chengrong was sent to the First Agricultural Division People's Hospital in Aksu due to myocardial infarction on the evening of January 8, and that she died after a failed rescue attempt. They questioned the police, with controlled indignation and agony, "Why not inform the patient's family when she was under emergency medical care?" But the police fooled them with the excuse of "not having enough time."

He Chengrong's family couldn't see her remains until January 10 at 4 p.m. They were shocked by the dreadful appearance of the deceased. The remains were covered with a mass of bruises, including a black and blue bruise of about 2cm in width behind her ears, and finger-wide vertical marks on both sides of her neck. There were bruising scratches all over her back. It was hard to find a piece of skin as wide as the palm in normal color, and her arms were also a mass of bruises. The lower half of her body was so swollen that her legs looked like two loaves of bread double thicker than usual. He Chengrong's family

questioned the police in agony and indignation about the cause of those bruises. The police said it was nothing but the livor mortis.

According to the revelation of a female Christian who was detained next door to He Chengrong's cell, she saw that He Chengrong was beaten to a dead faint by the police officers and then awakened by cold water. On the night when He Chengrong died, she heard He Chengrong groaning loudly in agony all night long. She could feel that He Chengrong was suffering great pain and trying to shout out but failed. Early next morning, she heard someone in He Chengrong's cell shouted, "She won't pull through! She's dying!"

Another female prisoner surnamed Wang at the age of 45 at the time, who was a former bank clerk, shared the cell with He Chengrong. She exposed later that the police from the National Security Brigade punched, kicked and slapped He Chengrong in order to obtain the information about the church and other Christians. They kept her from sleeping day and night, and forcibly fed her with chili oil. She was carried back to her cell on a stretcher every time after being interrogated.

During the last interrogation, He Chengrong was again fed with chili oil and her stomach suffered from the stimulus. She felt so uncomfortable that she could not swallow anything. Ms. Yue'er Nisha, an Uyghur guard in the detention center, asserted that it was a deliberate fast. She shackled He Chengrong's feet to prevent her from going to the toilet. Moreover, she directed other male prisoners to tie her onto a wide bed and forcibly insert a tube into her oesophagus to feed her with hot food.

On January 7 at about 8 p.m. that very night, He Chengrong was incontinent, got a very high fever, and remained unconscious at the edge of death. Though the guard got several reports about that, she turned a deaf ear to it, saying that she was pretending to be sick. He Chengrong wasn't sent to the hospital until January 8 before dawn, and died after a failed rescue attempt.

On January 10, He Chengrong's family went to the hospital after they got the notice from the police. He Chengrong's family took pictures and shot videos of her remains on the spot. The police feared that He Chengrong's family would obtain the evidence against their advantages. So they photographed all He Chengrong's family members present for a special purpose. The police fooled He Chengrong's family by saying "A satisfactory solution will be given to you." They dismissed He Chengrong's family back home forcibly and only allowed one of He Chengrong's brothers-in-law to stay.

At about 6 p.m. that very evening, without being approved by He Chengrong's family, the Xinjiang police sent a forensic scientist to the funeral home to open He Chengrong's skullcap to take away her brain and dissect her abdomen to remove her heart, lungs, stomach, liver and part of the intestines with the excuse of "examination of the cause of death."

According to He Chengrong's brother-in-law, that was really a cruel scene of dissecting He Chengrong's remains. Zhao Youpeng, the 54-year-old male vice director of Aksu Public Security Bureau, together with the Secretary of the same public security bureau, vice director of the Nancheng Police Station, vice director of National Security Brigade, was then at the scene.

Later, the police did not allow He Chengrong's family to see her remains again.

### **The Police Deployed Armed Police to Threaten He Chengrong's Family**

Zhao Youpeng, vice director of Aksu Public Security Bureau, was in charge of the aftermath of He Chengrong's death. He came to find He Chengrong's family to solve this problem with the forensic scientist and some people from the Aksu Court, Aksu Procuratorate and National Security Brigade. Zhao Youpeng told He Chengrong's family that her belief in Almighty God was against the Party and the society, and that she was a political criminal for her belief was associated with politics, and that the police were not responsible for the death of He Chengrong because she died of myocardial infarction. He Chengrong's family stated that she never ever had heart disease or myocardial infarction etc., except for stomach disease.

Later, He Chengrong's family negotiated with the Aksu police several times to demand justice for her. The police deployed the armed police and took the tough stance of denying any relationship with He Chengrong's death. They even threatened them with imprisonment if they would not leave. Afterward, He Chengrong's husband was escorted to the police station. Zhao Youpeng threatened him, saying, "Wasn't it just the death of a political criminal? Be smart! It is Xinjiang here!" Then Zhao forced He Chengrong's husband to sign a laboratory test report which stated that He Chengrong died of pulmonary infarction. But He Chengrong's husband refused to sign it.

On February 5, 2013, the Aksu police had He Chengrong's remains cremated forcibly at Xidaqiao Crematorium. The cause of He Chengrong's death became a mystery forever.

## **The Case of Jiang Guizhi, a Leader of The Church of Almighty God, Who Was Persecuted to Death by the Chinese Communist Government**



On January 4, 2013, The Church of Almighty God leader Jiang Guizhi was arrested by the police because of her belief in Almighty God and subsequently died whilst being detained by the authorities. She was 46 at that time. Jiang had lived at Jiankang Road, Qinghe District, Pingyu County, Zhumadian City, Henan Province. She joined The Church of Almighty God in November 2002, and prior to her death had been a leader of the church.

### **Covert Raids and Secret Arrests**

At around 1 p.m. on January 4, 2013, Jiang arrived for assembly at the rented accommodation of a 63-year-old Christian woman surnamed Zheng. The apartment was located at the southeastern corner of Qingping Square in Xinmi City, Henan Province. At a little past 7 o'clock in the evening, eight police officers headed by Yu Hongchao, the captain of the Xinmi City National Security Brigade, burst into the room after gaining entry to the apartment with a key. According to Zheng's account, the police did not present any official credentials before apprehending her, Jiang Guizhi, and another woman present, Zhang Li. Jiang Guizhi and Zhang Li were put in handcuffs. The police ransacked the apartment; not even the toilet trash was spared, and they also cut a sofa open with a knife to see if there was anything inside. The apartment was turned upside down. The police took books containing the words of God, RMB 10,000 in cash, computers, mobile phones, items of clothing—even household goods, cooking utensils, and food.

That evening at around 9 p.m., Jiang Guizhi and the other two women were taken to the Xinmi City Public Security Bureau.

### **Torture, Abuse, and a Brutal Killing**

On January 6, 2013, Yu Hongchao, the captain of the National Security Brigade of Xinmi City's Public Security Bureau, and officers named Shen Ke, Wang Lei, and Bai Shuangfeng, secretly escorted Jiang Guizhi and Zhang Li to the Xiyuan Hotel in Xinmi City for interrogation. From then on, the two of them never saw each other again.

Jiang Guizhi is dead, and there's no way of knowing the precise details of what she suffered. For the other Christians who were arrested and interrogated by Yu Hongchao and the other officers at the Xiyuan Hotel at the same time, thinking about what happened

there still feels like a nightmare. According to a female Christian named Wang Fang (alias), in an attempt to force her to provide information about church's leaders and its assets, officers including Yu Hongchao and Wang Lei didn't let her sleep during the time she was detained at the Xiyuan Hotel; as soon as she closed her eyes, they'd kick and punch her. The extreme exhaustion and terror of the ordeal left Wang Fang disoriented and feeling mentally unstable. The police forced her to take off all her clothes and insulted her with dirty, filthy words. They did not let her use the toilet, forcing her to wet herself. They also made her lick the urine off the ground. Another female Christian, Mo Wen (alias) has also said that at the Xiyuan Hotel, Shen Ke and other officers forced her to spread her legs and squat on a wooden baton. They also used a belt to beat her about the face and head, in addition to hoisting one of her legs into the air on a metal frame, leaving her balancing on tiptoe by the other leg. In another method, called "grilled lamb," she was handcuffed with her arms around her legs, a metal pipe was threaded behind her knees, and she was then hung upside down. ... The various methods the Chinese police used against these Christians give an indication of the kind of torture and maltreatment Jiang Guizhi would have suffered.

After being secretly interrogated for 21 days, Jiang Guizhi was sent to Zhengzhou City No. 2 Detention Center on January 25, 2013. 18 days later she was dead.

Another female Christian from The Church of Almighty God who was held in the same cell as Jiang Guizhi and talked to her, has said that after arriving the No. 7 cell, Jiang was listless and seemed troubled. Several days later, Jiang dropped her bowl whilst eating and was unable to pick it up despite several attempts. One morning several days after that, Jiang was unable to get out of bed. She seemed confused, and her reactions were slow. The prisoner in charge of their cell, Chen Lin, sent several prisoners to force her to get up. She didn't know how to dress herself, was incapable of holding a food bowl, and didn't know how to use the toilet. Only when repeatedly asked by her cellmate did Jiang reveal that the police had taken her to a private room in a hotel where she was interrogated, raped, and had objects stuffed inside her vagina. After talking for a short while, Jiang fell silent and unresponsive. The only way to get her to drink was to spoon feed her soy milk. Seeing that Jiang was unwell, prison officer Guo Xiaoyun called several prisoners to carry her out in a sheet. That was the last time her Christian cellmate saw her.

### **The Police's Callous Disregard for Human Life and Attempts to Cover Up Their Evildoing**

According to the police, Jiang Guizhi died in the early morning of February 12, 2013. But following her arrest on the night of January 4, 2013, her family were given no information about what had happened until the second day after her death, when Pingwu Police

Station in Pingyu County, Zhumadian City, Henan Province sent a police officer to inform them of her death. The officer said that Jiang had died of a heart attack at Zhengzhou City No. 2 Detention Center.

When Jiang's family saw her body at the mortuary of Fourth Affiliated Hospital of Zhengzhou University, they were overcome with grief and indignation. The doctor said that when she was brought to the hospital, Jiang Guizhi was foaming at the mouth, disoriented, and had lost control of her bowel and bladder movements. Her family had come to the hospital for a death certificate; on it, they saw question marks written next to recorded symptoms of high blood pressure, heart disease, and cerebral infarction. The diagnosis was that her death had been caused by multiple organ failure. Seeing the death certificate confirmed to the family that the police's claim that she had died of a heart attack was an attempt to cover up the truth and avoid responsibility.

In their search for evidence, Jiang's family asked to see the records of her interrogation. The police firmly refused, and only allowed them to watch surveillance videos of Jiang's day-to-day life in the detention center. The recordings showed her to be in very poor physical condition during the last days of her life. When she tried to drink water, it dribbled from her mouth. She was incapable of dressing herself and unsteady when using the toilet, needing help to pull her trousers up. When Jiang's family asked the police why they hadn't immediately taken her to hospital given how serious her condition was, they evaded and said they had not known she was ill. When her family asked why she had been arrested and what the verdict of her case was, Bai Shuangfeng, who had been in charge of handling the case at the Xinmi City Public Security Bureau, only replied that Jiang had been arrested because she believed in Almighty God and was a leader in The Church of Almighty God. He said he couldn't comment on anything else.

Afterwards, to cover up their crimes and get the case closed as quickly as possible, the Zhengzhou police made several trips to Pingyu County to discuss the incident with Jiang's family. They also called together officials from the local county party committee and county government, as well as the leaders of where Jiang's brothers-in-law and son worked, to put pressure on Jiang's family to keep the case secret. In addition, they threatened to monitor their phone calls, saying that they would suffer the consequences if they leaked the truth of the case. In the end, Jiang's family, under pressure from the government, had no choice but to compromise and not pursue the matter any further.

On March 5, 2013, Jiang Guizhi's body was cremated at the Zhengzhou City Crematorium. On March 9, her ashes were brought back to her hometown Pingyu County and buried in a tomb in a white temple on the east side of the crematorium.



## **The Case of Zhang Ruixia, a Christian From The Church of Almighty God Persecuted to Death by the CCP Government**



Ms. Zhang Ruixia, born in 1961, was a native of Qingfeng County, Puyang City, Henan Province. She joined The Church of Almighty God in 1991. In June 2014, more than ten policemen, headed by Captain Ma Zhihong of Linzhou City Public Security Bureau's National Security Brigade, arrested Zhang because of her belief in Almighty God. Zhang was tortured to death during detention at the age of 53. It was not until half a year later that Zhang's family heard the news. According to Zhang's family, her body was emaciated and unrecognizable. It had bruises all over. Her abdomen was dented and there was a long sewed up scar on it. The internal organs were suspected to be taken out and removed.

The following is the process of Zhang Ruixia being persecuted to death by the CCP police.

On June 25, 2014 at about 5 p.m., the Christians Zhang Ruixia and Xiaoying (an alias) from The Church of Almighty God went to another Christian's place at a community in Linzhou, Henan Province. About an hour later, the police forced the door open. Led by Ma Zhihong, captain of National Security Brigade of Linzhou Public Security Bureau in Anyang, Henan Province, a dozen policemen forcibly rummaged the house without showing any documentation. They arrested Zhang Ruixia and Xiaoying and took them to the Criminal Investigation Brigade of Linzhou Public Security Bureau. A policeman said that they tracked Zhang Ruixia all the way from Xinxiang to Linzhou.

On June 25 at about 7 p.m., the Christians Xiaoqing (an alias) and Xiaohong (an alias) from The Church of Almighty God were also tracked and arrested by the police.

According to Xiaoqing, on June 25 at about 11 p.m., Xaiqing was taken to the Criminal Investigation Brigade of Linzhou Public Security Bureau for interrogation. When she went to the toilet, she saw Zhang Ruixia, Xiaoying and Xiaohong were detained respectively in three different rooms. Zhang Ruixia was handcuffed to a tiger bench, with her head down. There were four or five plain-clothes policemen in their twenties in the room. She heard a policeman roaring at Zhang, "Don't keep your head down in silence. We have a lot of ways with you." As soon as Xiaoqing went back to her interrogation room, she heard that Zhang uttered a cry in misery and then everything was in silence in Zhang's room. Afterward, she heard a policeman say, "The woman is really tough. She did not even cry when being beaten. She is really hard to deal with." Xiaoqing never saw Zhang Ruixia again after that.

About two or three months later in the Detention Center, Xiaoqing met Xiaoying, who was arrested together with Zhang Ruixia, and learned from her that Zhang Ruixia had been killed by the police.

About twenty days after Zhang Ruixia was arrested, four policemen from a police station in Macun Village, Qingfeng County, Puyang City, Henan Province, went to Zhang's for house-ransacking. There was no one at home, so they wanted to borrow ladders from Zhang's neighbors to climb over the wall to get into Zhang's house but were turned down. Then the police went to Zhang's mother-in-law's place. They rummaged her house but searched out nothing.

After Zhang's family learned Zhang had been arrested, they inquired many times where Zhang Ruixia was being detained from the village cadre Liu. But Liu refused to tell them anything. It was not until at the end of January 2015 when Xiaoqing, who had been arrested together with Zhang Ruixia, was released, that Zhang's family knew Zhang's death. By that time, Zhang had been dead for half a year. As stipulated in the PRC Criminal Procedure Law, the family of the detainee shall be notified of the detention of the detainee within 24 hours. However, the authorities of Linzhou Public Security Bureau of Henan Province not only did not notify Zhang's family after she was arrested, but they did not even inform them after she died.

Later, at a hotel opposite Linzhou Public Security Bureau, the family of six met Ma Zhihong, captain of the National Security Brigade of Linzhou Public Security Bureau, who arrested Zhang Ruixia. They made a request to see Zhang's remains. Ma Zhihong turned them down first. Eventually he allowed only one family member to go to see it. Afterward, Zhang's younger brother saw a skinny, desiccated body. Its face, hands and feet were so small that they were just like a child's, without any flesh. It was hardly recognizable and only the jaw and teeth showed that she might be Zhang Ruixia. The body was covered with bruises. Her abdomen was dented, and there was a long sewed up scar on it. The internal organs were suspected to be taken out and removed. Through a DNA test, it was identified that the body was Zhang Ruixia's.

Later, Zhang's family were not allowed to see Zhang's remains again. They questioned how Zhang died and why the police did not notify them of her death in half a year. Ma Zhihong said: "Her belief in Almighty God amounts to engagement in counter-revolution and law breaking. We had been hunting for her for two years as she was a head." Ma lied that he did not know Zhang's home address. He also excused that Zhang had been sick and was sent to hospital the following day after she was arrested, and that they also had the video of her interrogation as evidence. When Zhang's son made a request to see the video, Ma Zhi-

hong made another excuse, “I will discuss it with my leaders for permission.” But they never gave the video of Zhang’s interrogation.

In March 2015, over twenty people of Zhang’s family and neighbors went to Linzhou Public Security Bureau to demand justice for Zhang, holding banners and wreaths. The policemen gave Zhang’s younger sister and nephew some punches and kicks and threatened them, “You’re disturbing the social order. We’ll arrest all of you if you keep making trouble here!”

Zhang’s family wanted to take her remains home but were refused by the authorities of Linzhou Public Security Bureau. Eventually, Zhang’s remains were cremated in Linzhou City.

## **The Case of Gao Cuiqin, a Christian From The Church of Almighty God Persecuted to Death by the CCP Government**



On July 15, 2014, Ms. Gao Cuiqin (alias Zhang Ping), a Christian from The Church of Almighty God, was arrested by the CCP government due to her belief in Almighty God. She was then killed during custody at the age of 53. Prior to that, she had lived in the town of Suo, located in Huantai County, Zibo City in Shandong Province, China. She joined The Church of Almighty God in 2003.

### **Gao Cuiqin's Arrest and Subsequent Murder**

Early morning on July 15, 2014, around 6:30 a.m., Gao Cuiqin was at home making breakfast when six plainclothes police officers (four male and two female) burst into the Gao's house, led by Gong Yuebing, deputy captain of the Shandong Huantai County Public Security Bureau (PSB) National Security Brigade. Gao's mother-in-law and sister-in-law were standing in the doorway at the time. According to the family, the police forced Gao to accompany them to the Suo Town, Huantai County Police Station due to her belief in Almighty God, without producing any documentation. After registering her, she was transferred to the Huantai County Detention Center. Two other Christians from her village were arrested along with Gao that day: Ms. Wang (alias Li Min, 67 years old) and Mr. Liu (alias Wu Tao, 50 years old). Around noon that same day, the police returned to Gao's home and demanded that her mother-in-law pay for Gao's living expenses while detained. She did not comply.

The day after Gao's arrest, she was beaten to death by the police.

Emergency personnel with Huantai County Shengjie Hospital disclosed that around 11 a.m. on July 17, the police called Shengjie Hospital requesting an ambulance for a medical emergency. Doctors rushed to the scene, but seeing that the patient had already been dead for some time, did not bring her body to the hospital. The police made another phone call to the Huantai County Branch of the Shandong Qilu Hospital, and emergency personnel took the victim to the hospital.

At 1 p.m. on July 17, Zhao Xuepeng, the director of Huantai County Police Station in Suo Town, called Gao Cuiqin's husband, Mr. Liu (not the same Mr. Liu mentioned above). He said that Gao Cuiqin was in the hospital and urged him to go, but did not tell him over the phone that she was already dead.

About an hour later, Gao's sister, brother and sister-in-law went to the hospital, but the hospital didn't have a record of Gao's hospitalization. They were unable to find her.

At 6 p.m. that evening, after Gao's husband Liu met with the police, he inquired into his wife's condition, but received no response from the police. He was taken to the hospital where he saw two tubes in his wife's nose and a flat line on the ECG. Her head was twisted at an angle and her neck was tilted up; her body was stiff. It was clear that she had been dead for a while, but the doctor was still using an external pacemaker, pretending to try to save her. According to Liu, he overheard a doctor present state that when his wife had arrived at the hospital, she showed no signs of life. Liu then took photos of his wife's body.

An emergency department staff member said that Gao had been dead for some time when she was sent to the hospital, that she showed clear signs of having been beaten; her entire face was purple and extremely swollen.

According to Li Min (alias), another Christian who was held in the same detention center along with Gao Cuiqin, around 5 a.m. on July 16, she heard the sound of the impact of iron shackles from the adjacent room where Gao was being interrogated, followed by a terrifying scream. After that, everything was silent.

Another Christian who was arrested due to her belief in Almighty God, Liu Yun (alias) said that on the 16th when she was arrested and brought to the Suo Town Police Station, she heard an officer answer a phone call and say that someone in the detention center had died: "It was done by [name]. He had no idea and hit her with an electric baton randomly...." Only later did she realize that the officer was reporting on who had beaten Gao Cuiqin to death.

In the afternoon of July 18, when Gao's family were at the funeral home taking care of her remains, they saw that there were many red marks on her back, her armpits were black, her face was blue, and that her head was twisted to one side. They simply could not straighten it out. According to a longtime PSB employee, he analyzed the conditions of her death and concluded that Gao Cuiqin's injuries were consistent with being tied to a chair and attacked by a high voltage electric baton.

### **CCP Cover-up**

After Gao Cuiqin's death, the police had the village secretary negotiate terms with her widower, Mr. Liu. On July 18, Liu reported to the mayor that Gao had been an innocent victim, and local municipal leaders dispatched three employees from the PSB and the Discipline Inspection Committee to negotiate with Liu. They said that Gao was rightfully arrested for her belief in Almighty God, and they demanded that Liu handle the matter privately. He did not agree to this.

The case of Gao Cuiqin's murder was not investigated; the two male officers suspected of beating her to death disappeared without a trace.

Gao's family demanded to see video recordings of her interrogation, but the police refused.

The police did everything they could to conceal her true cause of death, saying: "Gao had a pre-existing heart condition, which led her to death from sudden cardiac arrest." But her family said she had no such medical history.

Many of her fellow village residents were outraged when they learned that Gao had been beaten to death by the police because of her belief in Almighty God, and many said: "How could the police beat such a good honest person to death? Wasn't it just her faith?"

The police continued to pressure Mr. Liu and his family, threatening them with the family's jobs and their children's future prospects. Under such pressure from the CCP government, Liu had no choice but to agree to settle it unofficially.

## **The Case of Wu Haiyan, a Christian From The Church of Almighty God Persecuted to Death by the Chinese Government**

In July 2014, a case in which a Christian of The Church of Almighty God (CAG) was illegally arrested and persecuted to death by the CCP government had occurred in Hejin City, Shanxi Province. The victim Wu Haiyan, female, aged 57, was a resident of Dujiagou Village, Qingjian Town, Hejin City, Shanxi Province. By the time the incident happened, she was one of the leaders of CAG who had joined the church for nearly a decade.

The following is the account of how Wu Haiyan was killed:

At the beginning of March 2013, after learning that Wu Haiyan was a leader of CAG, the police unsuccessfully tried to arrest her three times in a row.

After spending nine months in abscondence, Wu Haiyan returned home. On July 7, 2014, at around 6 p.m., after having caught wind of her return, the Hejin State Security Brigade police broke into her home, forcibly arrested her and confined her in a room on the second floor of the law training center of the Hejin Municipal Commission for Discipline Inspection, where the police interrogated her around the clock, forcing her to give up her faith and reveal other church members and the church's information. Wu refused to comply. Captain Cheng Fei of the Hejin State Security Brigade arranged for Wu Haiyan's two daughters to persuade their mother to confess about the church's information without avail.

On July 17, the police arrested another Christian Li Hui (pseudonym) of CAG and detained her with Wu Haiyan.

At noon on July 19, Captain Cheng Fei of the State Security Brigade interrogated Wu in a room adjacent to the one where Li Hui was held. Li heard Cheng Fei ask, "Who is your superior leader? Where did you stay in these months away from home?" Wu refused to answer. Seeing that he was unable to get any information from Wu, Cheng Fei aggressively threatened her, "We have already found out that you are the highest leader of CAG believers in Hejin City!" Then he played her by saying, "We have people in your church. Your district leader is our person (the district leader had fled long ago in order to evade the CCP's arrest). Even if you don't speak to us, we can still sentence you to eight to ten years. We will send you to Senglou Town tomorrow (where the county detention center is located)!" Fearing that her mother would be sentenced, Wu's eldest daughter tried to persuade her mother to cooperate with the police. Wu refused on the spot.

Past 8 o'clock that evening, a policeman once again did ideological work on Wu Haiyan and Li Hui, trying to persuade the two to abandon their faith and betray the church and other Christians. They staunchly refused.

Past 5 o'clock in the morning of July 20, Wu Haiyan and Li Hui were arranged for cleaning duties by the police. After cleaning a yard together, Wu was arranged to go upstairs to wipe

the glass, and Li Hui was sent to clean the bathroom. In just a little over ten minutes, Li heard someone shout, “Wu Haiyan jumped off the building!” As the incident occurred so abruptly, Li Hui was in shock and collapsing in tears.

On the same day, Li was picked up by relatives. Before leaving, the police repeatedly threatened and warned her that if she told anyone about the incident, she would be held responsible according to the law. They even demanded her relatives to write a letter of guarantee. The police also warned Li Hui, “We are just letting you go for now. We are not finished with this thing about your belief in Almighty God yet. You will be on call all the time!”

Although the police described Wu Haiyan’s cause of death as suicide by jumping off a building, Li Hui felt that the matter was too suspicious. First, Wu Haiyan had not shown any suicidal tendency before the incident. Second, if Wu had indeed committed suicide, why did the police threaten and warn her repeatedly, and prevent her from speaking about it? To date, she has still been tracked and monitored!

After Wu Haiyan’s death, the village asked the judicial authorities to make compensation to the deceased person’s family accordingly, and the leaders of the relevant authorities agreed verbally. However, after the body of Wu Haiyan was cremated on July 25, 2014, the police re-neged. The family of the deceased has yet to receive any compensation payment. Moreover, the mobile phone of the deceased’s husband has been monitored by the police. The current head of the village learned that the police claimed, “Even if we were to make compensation, the money will be squeezed out of those who believe in Almighty God.”



## **The Case of Liu Limei, a Christian From The Church of Almighty God Persecuted to Death by the CCP Government**



On November 16, 2014, due to five years of unbearable surveillance, intimidation and harassment by the CCP police, Ms. Liu Limei (alias Li Jing), a Christian of The Church of Almighty God eventually committed suicide by jumping into a river in Lüliang City, Shanxi Province, at 44 years of age.

Ms. Liu Limei, before her death, resided at the residence community of Pingshuo China National Coal Group Corporation, Shuozhou City, Shanxi Province and was a medical worker. She joined The Church of Almighty God in April 2006 and warmly hosted brothers and sisters. According to her friends and colleagues, Liu Limei was warmhearted and generous, lively and cheerful.

### **Liu Limei Was Illegally Arrested**

On the evening of July 17, 2009, Liu Limei and her husband were on the way home when they were intercepted by more than a dozen police officers who were watching in the green belt. They were led by Qiao Riwen, Head of National Security Brigade of Shuozhou City Public Security Bureau (PSB), Shanxi Province and Mr. Xie, the division chief of Shuozhou City PSB. Before Liu Limei reacted, two police officers rushed forward and held both her arms respectively. Another police officer held her tightly by the neck from behind and forced her into a car and escorted her to the underground trial room of Shuozhou City PSB.

Xie showed a search warrant to Liu's husband and rushed to Liu's home to ransack the house and confiscate her property along with Qiao Riwen, and several other police officers. They confiscated two laptops, one DVD player, two computer cases, 2 MP3 players, more than 10 spiritual books and more than 60 spiritual CDs.

According to police insiders, they had monitored Liu by telephone and learned that she had hosted senior leaders of the Church.

In order to obtain information about the church leaders' information and internal information of The Church of Almighty God, Qiao Riwen and female police officers Gao Rihua and Zhang Lingjuan and others continuously interrogated her for two days and three nights. During this time, the police officers did not allow Liu to sleep and subjected her to punishment in the form of half-squatting for a long time. Liu Limei was too weak physically to stand it and collapsed to the ground several times due to suffering from illnesses including an irregular pulse, gastritis and lumbar disc protrusion. The police officers saw what happened but dismissed it and verbally insulted her personality, and said many

things to slander and blaspheme against Almighty God and attack The Church of Almighty God to do forced conversion of her. They further threatened Liu Limei with her children's future and her elderly parents to make her tell them the Church information. They interrogated her for nine days from start to finish with no result.

On July 26, at the request of Liu's family, Shuozhou Public Security Bureau processed the formalities to release Liu Limei on bail and transferred the case to Xinkai Branch of Shuozhou PSB and took the opportunity to extort 50,000RMB from Liu's family. According to the police, Liu Limei was suspected of the "crime of sabotaging the enforcement of laws by utilizing evil religious organizations" because she believed in Almighty God. During the investigation of the case, Liu was not allowed to leave the local city. She was asked to regularly report to the Xinkai Branch of Shuozhou PSB and write ideological reports and be on call at all times.

### **Police Had Monitored Liu Limei Closely for Five Years**

Before her death, Liu Limei noted in her devotional notes that after her release she was always monitored closely by the police officers from the Xinkai Branch of Shuozhou City PSB. All the cellphones of Liu Limei's family had been monitored all year round, and Liu Limei often saw strange cars in different colors parked near her house and a car would trail her every time she went out. In her workplace, she often saw suspicious people wandering around outside her office and they would immediately hastily get out of the way when she came out of the office. For the next six months, Wang Junwu, director of Xinkai Branch of Shuozhou City PSB, and police officer Liu Runfang routinely went to Liu Limei's workplace to interrogate her about whether or not she was in contact with other Christians, and ordered Liu Limei to immediately report it to them if anyone contacted her. Wang Junwu also instigated Liu Limei's superiors to put pressure on her, resulting in Liu often being reprimanded by her superiors and ridiculed by her colleagues because of her faith in God. She suffered extreme mental pressure and six months later was forced to resign from the role of Emergency Department Director.

Ten months later, the police installed a surveillance camera on the wall of Liu Limei's neighbor's home, monitoring Liu for 24 hours a day. In the following 2 to 3 years, police officers Gao Rihua and Liu Runfang from Xinkai Branch of Shuozhou City PSB often broke into Liu Limei's house for various reasons and interrogated her about her faith and her recent whereabouts. They also warned her not to believe in God anymore, or else she would be arrested again! This caused Liu Limei's family to live under a tense atmosphere. In order to evade police arrest, she was forced to go out and hide every few days.

Due to the prolonged period of high tension and depression, Liu Limei suffered from severe insomnia, and she became reticent and reserved from being cheerful and extraverted as she had been before. Coupled with police abuse during her arrest, Liu's mental health and physical condition worsened increasingly. Two years later, Liu Limei became ill and had to take sick leave.

### **Liu Limei Was Backed Into a Corner and Committed Suicide**

According to Liu Limei's husband, in June 2014, the CCP government executed another big round of unified arrests of The Church of Almighty God Christians. After hearing the news, Liu Limei left her home again on the 22nd of that month, and hid in a small house of less than 60 square meters in Shanyin County, Shuozhou City.

After discovering that Liu Limei had left home, Gao Rihua interrogated Liu's husband many times about her whereabouts, and also incited his leaders in his work unit to put pressure on him. In order to protect Liu Limei from persecution, her husband never disclosed where she had gone.

Liu Limei suffered extreme mental pressures after hearing this, and felt fearful and restless. She did not dare to go out during the day or turn on the lights at night. She even did not dare to cook for fear that she would be found in the room and be reported. Liu Limei's husband did not dare to readily go and see his wife either because he worried about being tracked by the police. He could only take advantage of rainy weather or his lunch breaks and nighttime to take a taxi and secretly give Liu Limei some daily necessities, each time only staying for around two hours at most. Thus, Liu Limei hid in the small house alone with no one talking to her. She suffered torment, helplessness and fear, which made her emotionally unstable. Due to the prolonged period of fear, Liu Limei turned extremely thin, and it was difficult for her to swallow the food.

Eventually, Liu Limei could not stand the tremendous mental pressure. On November 16, 2014, Liu Limei committed suicide by jumping into a river in Lüliang City, Shanxi Province.

Just a month before Liu Limei's death, officers of the Xinkai Branch of Shuozhou City PSB asked her to report to them, and to write an ideological report and pressed her to give up her faith. And so, a 44-year-old Christian was hounded to her death by the CCP.

## **The Case of Liu Jinhua, a Christian From The Church of Almighty God Persecuted to Death by the Chinese Government**



Victim Liu Jinhua, female, born on June 18, 1987, resident of Pingchong Village, Ronghuan Town, Hengdong County, Hengyang City, Hunan Province; joined The Church of Almighty God in September 2012. In August 2014, when Liu Jinhua was copying faith materials in a rental house at No. 61 Hengyue South Road, Chengguan Town, Hengdong County, Hengyang City, she was spotted and reported by the landlord Hu Ermei. Afterward, the police surreptitiously stalked and monitored Liu. On the early morning of February 12, 2015, Liu Jinhua died tragically in the yard of her rental house. She was only 28 years old.

According to an informed person Chen Hui (pseudonym), on February 11, 2015, she came to Liu Jinhua's rental house to discuss with Liu about belief in God, and she stayed overnight. On the following day (12th), at 6:05 before dawn, Liu Jinhua got up, went outside to the bathroom and never returned. At 8:05 in the morning, when Chen Hui got up and went outside to the bathroom, she saw Liu Jinhua lying on her back breathless, her limbs stretched out into a "spread eagle" shape. There was a small violet-black bruise beneath her left eye corner, and blood stain on her left nostril. When Chen Hui screamed in fear, four policemen from the Chengguan Town Police Station, He Jianheng, Tang Jing, Yan Qiao, etc., who had been hiding in ambush nearby, suddenly rushed forward. Without presenting any credentials, they arrested Chen Hui and escorted her to the Hengdong County Public Security Bureau for interrogation. Policeman Tang Jing kept pressing Chen about her relationship with the deceased, and pinned this case on Chen Hui, claiming that the deceased was killed by her.

### **Cover-Up by CCP Police Exposed**

According to Liu Jinhua's mother, Liu's uncle rushed to her and her husband at 11:30 a.m. on February 12, 2015 and said, "The police just called and told the village secretary that Jinhua had committed suicide by jumping off a building. Her body was sent to the Hengdong County Crematorium!" On hearing this, Liu's mother rushed to the funeral home in Hengdong County. In front of the mortuary refrigerator No. 1, Liu's mother saw an egg-sized hole on top of Liu Jinhua's head, and the scalp was gone. The cranial bones had collapsed, apparently caused by a blunt instrument like a hammer. Liu's mother cried as she said, "This is not suicide. It is homicide!"

After the incident was exposed, He Jianheng, a policeman from the Chengguan Town Police Station in Hengdong County, seized upon Liu Jinhua's belief in Almighty God and

threatened Liu's mother, "We have been asking around for two or three months. Liu Jinhua believed in Almighty God. The state proscribes belief in Almighty God! We heard several people talking in her rental house a few days ago. So we surrounded the house at 5 o'clock this morning and finally caught her!" They further threatened, "Believing in Almighty God is against the Party and society. It is prohibited by the state. Any believer will be arrested. We will even arrest you if you believe in Almighty God!"

After looking at the crime scene, the Liu family found that the window in Liu Jinhua's room was reinforced with steel bars. It was simply impossible for her to jump out. When questioned by Liu's father, the police couldn't answer. They then lied that Liu Jinhua had attempted to commit suicide by swallowing Dichlorvos, but she later jumped off the roof because she could not stand the unbearable discomfort. The Liu family did not believe a word of the police. The standoff continued until 4 o'clock in the afternoon. In order to ascertain whether his daughter had taken poison, they reluctantly demanded an autopsy.

At 6 o'clock in the afternoon, four forensic experts including Chen Jingquan and Zeng De of the Hengdong County Public Security Bureau conducted a craniotomy and laparotomy on Liu Jinhua's cadaver. During the postmortem, Liu's father did not smell any pesticide odor. He noticed a large bruise mark on Liu Jinhua's left thigh and a small bruise on her lower left leg. At a glance, it was obvious that she had been beaten before her death. Liu Jinhua's husband discovered that Liu's trousers were torn on the outside of the right leg from the thigh to the knee. After the autopsy, the Hengdong County Public Security Bureau kept delaying without producing any autopsy report.

On March 2, Liu's father went to investigate the crime scene with a dozen or so relatives. They noticed two dried pools of blood at the entrance of the first floor where Liu Jinhua used to live. There were blood stains on the stairs from the first floor to the fourth floor. On the rooftop, there were two pot-sized blood stains covered with sand. After viewing the crime scene, the Liu family was absolutely convinced that Liu Jinhua had not died from self-inflicted poisoning, let alone committing suicide by jumping off a building! Instead, she was dragged from the entrance of the first floor to the fourth floor by the murderers and pushed down from the top of the building.

### **Police Carried out Assassination, Tried to Evade Culpability Under Guilty Conscience Through Smoke and Mirrors**

In the face of so many factual proofs, the police knew that they were in the wrong and their position was indefensible. In order to cover up their criminal acts, they produced a false video to hoodwink the Liu family. On March 15, the Hengdong County Public Security Bureau police called and asked Liu's father to come with several people to watch the video that showed the scene of Liu Jinhua's death.

Liu's father watched the entire video and found that the police were falsifying and deceiving. He was extremely angry and questioned, "How did she get a hole in her head from jumping off a building? How was there blood stain from the first floor to the fourth floor? She absolutely did not die from jumping off the roof. She was beaten to death!" The forensic expert Chen Jingquan argued, "But no murder weapon was found on the scene! How could you claim she was beaten to death?" Then, Chen Jingquan produced a falsified certificate stating that Liu had died from swallowing Dichlorvos, but he did not announce the postmortem results of the craniotomy.

When the Liu family saw the police deny everything, they found the help of Kang, a relative who worked in the Hengdong County government. Later, Kang said, "I asked Bin Jianfeng, the captain of the Hengdong County criminal police brigade. He said, 'Had we known that she was your relative, we wouldn't have killed her. We wouldn't have beaten her so hard as we did.'" Kang then reproached Liu's father, "Your daughter believed in Almighty God. The state arrests believers in Almighty God. What else do you have to say? There is nothing I can do about it."

On March 18, 2015, Liu's family went to Hengdong County Public Security Bureau again to inquire about Liu Jinhua's cause of death. The Public Security Bureau police unanimously said that Liu Jinhua killed herself by taking poison. Having nowhere to voice their grievances, the Liu family had to give up and leave helplessly.

On the same day (18th), the Liu family cremated the body of Liu Jinhua.

## **The Case of Nan Xiangming, a Christian From The Church of Almighty God Persecuted to Death by the CCP Government**

Mr. Nan Xiangming, born in 1942, resided at Ponan Group One, Podi Village, Junma Township, Liquan County, Xianyang City, Shaanxi Province. In October 1994, Nan Xiangming and his wife believed in the Lord, and in 1999 they joined The Church of Almighty God. Nan Xiangming and his wife were an honest and upright couple who were happy to help others. They were proactive in assisting the Church burning CDs of hymns and sermons. Due to the CCP government's serious persecution of The Church of Almighty God, in order to evade police searches, in 2003, Nan Xiangming and his wife built a basement room to house Church books, CDs and CD writers.

On July 24, 2014, three Christians came to help Nan Xiangming and his wife renovate their basement. Unexpectedly, the CCP police learned of this and the five of them were arrested. Nan Xiangming was innocently sentenced to three years' imprisonment for believing in Almighty God. The long time in prison without enough to eat coupled with high-intensity labour led to his aggravated diabetes. Treatment was delayed due to the police's refusal for Nan Xiangming to receive treatment out of custody. In February 2016, Nan died in prison, at 74 years of age.

The following are the facts of Nan Xiangming being persecuted to death by the CCP:

At about 1 p.m. on July 24, 2014, Nan Xiangming's wife Wang (aged 67) was making lunch and Nan Xiangming and three other Christians were resting in the living room. Suddenly five police officers, Liu Jiang and others from Junma Township Police Station, Liquan County, Xianyang City forced entry and without showing any documents, starting to search the home and confiscate property. They made a mess of Nan's home and ultimately found these: 118 spiritual books, 2 CD-writers, 86 CDs, 2,795 blank CDs, 53 stamps, 4 MP4 players, 2 DVD players, 1 newly purchased tricycle, 1 used electric tricycle, 1 electric motor-bike, 1 cell phone and 500 RMB in cash. These items were all confiscated. The police forced the arrest of Nan Xiangming and his wife, along with the other three Christians and took them into custody at Junma Township Police Station in Liquan County.

That evening at around 8 o'clock, Yang Chao, the Director of Junma Township Police Station in Liquan County, and other police officers conducted interrogations of Nan Xiangming and the others successively. The police forced Nan to answer what the source of the faith items at Nan's home was and who the top leaders of the Church were. Nan Xiangming refused to answer, and the trial lasted until past midnight. Police intimidation coupled with long-time starvation resulted in Nan Xiangming, who already suffered from diabetes, becoming weak all over, paralysed, sat in the corner, holding strong until dawn.

Around 8 a.m. on July 25, the five Christians including Nan Xiangming were transferred to Liquan County Public Security Bureau. After that, Nan Xiangming was detained in Liquan County Detention Center.

On August 2, Nan Xiangming and the others, wearing prison uniform and handcuffs and shackles, were escorted to the village where Nan Xiangming lived and paraded in public.

On August 29, Nan Xiangming was officially arrested.

At 3 p.m. on May 14, 2015, Nan Xiangming was sentenced to three years of imprisonment by the People's Court of Liquan County, Shaanxi Province, on the charge of "sabotaging the enforcement of laws by utilizing evil religious organizations" because of believing in Almighty God.

On July 13, Nan Xiangming was transferred to Weinan Prison in Shaanxi Province to serve his sentence.

On July 16, the prison authorities called Nan's daughter and asked her to buy drugs to treat Nan's diabetes. Since then, the prison officers refused visits by Nan's family and only allowed a monthly remittance to Nan Xiangming's bank card; no other items were allowed to be sent to him.

On February 1, 2016, Weinan Prison once again called Nan Xiangming's daughter and asked her to send 20,000 RMB.

The next day, Nan's daughter went to the prison and learned that Nan was in a critical condition and had been sent to Xin'an Central Hospital in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province (a prison hospital).

In the hospital visitation room, Nan Xiangming secretly said to his daughter that the long period of food deficiency in prison had resulted in a deterioration of his diabetes. Revealed by the examination, his blood sugar level had reached 14-15mmol/L (at home Nan's blood sugar remained in normal range of 3-5mmol/L). Moreover, recently when he ate, he vomited whatever he ate. Nan's daughter's successive requests to prison guards for transferring her father to another hospital and approving his treatment on medical parole were rejected. The prison authorities said: "The Chinese Communist Party's policy is this: Treatment out of custody for diabetes will only be given in the case of blindness or foot rot!"

At 9 p.m. on February 7, Nan's family received a call from Weinan Prison. The prison authorities said that all rescue measures had proved ineffectual and that Nan Xiangming had died.

Later, a relative of Nan learned from the hospital that Nan died after invalid rescue efforts because his high level of blood sugar caused diabetes syndrome, which resulted in coronary heart disease.



At strong request from Nan's family, Weinan Prison finished the case rashly by paying cremation fee of 8,000 RMB.

## **The Case of Zhang Mengling, a Christian From The Church of Almighty God Persecuted to Death by the CCP Government**



The Church of Almighty God (CAG) Christian Mr. Zhang Mengling was unlawfully arrested, tortured and imprisoned by the CCP police for believing in God and preaching the gospel. During incarceration, he was denied medical attention when he fell seriously ill. Less than five months after being released from prison, he died of illness at the age of 53.

Mr. Zhang Mengling (alias Zhou Ping), born in 1963, was a native of Siyangzhai Village, Taiqinggong Town, Luyi County, Zhoukou City, Henan Province. He started believing in the Lord Jesus in 1993, and accepted the work of Almighty God in the last days in 1999. He was an honest and dutiful person who loved to help people. When he was alive, he was happy to witness for God and preach the gospel.

In August 2012, Zhang Mengling went to preach the gospel in Sichuan Province.

On April 2, 2013, at about 7 p.m., when Zhang was at the home of Christian Wang Zhongzhi (alias, male) in Beishan Village, Hualong Sub-district Office, Shuanghe Town, Huaying City, Sichuan Province, nine policemen broke into the house, arrested Zhang and conducted a search on the premises, confiscating books about believing in God, evangelical materials, two SD cards, mobile phones, etc. Immediately after, the police handcuffed Zhang and brought him along with Wang Zhongzhi to the Huaying City Public Security Bureau.

On arrival at the Huaying City Public Security Bureau, the police ordered Zhang to sit on an iron chair and cuffed his hands and feet inside the iron rings on the upper and lower parts of the iron chair. The city's state security brigade policeman Hu Yong and policeman Deng Jie (both male in their 30s with Deng Jie being the captain of the traffic police brigade and Hu Yong a regular policeman) interrogated Zhang twice without success.

On April 3, Hu Yong and Deng Jie escorted Zhang to the forced conversion base in Wusheng County, Sichuan Province.

During that period, Hu Yong and Deng Jie slapped Zhang on the face, gave him a punch in the chest and cuffed his hands asymmetrically behind his back. They interrogated Zhang four times, including questioning him about the number of people Zhang had preached the gospel to in Sichuan, who those people were, where they lived, and how to contact them. Zhang refused to answer.

When Hu Yong and Deng Jie saw that they could not get any information from Zhang, they dragged him to an iron chair, restrained his feet in shackles, and tightly cuffed his

hands behind the back of the chair with a pair of handcuffs. The handcuffs sank deeply into his flesh, causing Zhang's fingers to swell rigidly and unable to bend. His feet were so swollen that he could not put on shoes.

Zhang was cuffed on the iron chair for more than half a month, during which the police did not let him sleep. His body was extremely debilitated.

Deng Jie threatened Zhang, "As long as you tell us the names of the people here that you have preached to, how to contact them, who your leaders are, we will immediately let you go home. If you keep refusing to tell us, your suffering will be even greater!" Hu Yong also threatened Zhang, "You don't have to speak. But I tell you, even with zero confession, you'll still be sentenced!"

On the afternoon of May 10, Hu Yong and Deng Jie transferred Zhang to the Huaying City Detention Center, confining him in No. 21 cell.

On June 14, Zhang was formally arrested and transferred to No. 15 prison cell on the same day. In the prison, he mopped the floor, cleaned the toilets and so on every day. He was hungry all day long. For breakfast, he was only given a dilute rice soup so thin that he could see his own shadow in it. Both lunch and dinner were a small scoop of steamed rice with a spoonful of vegetable consisting of a few leaves and mostly water. Zhang was often dizzy from hunger. When the conditions were serious, he could not get up, and he needed two people to carry him to the toilet. Even so, he still had to be on work duties for two hours every night. One night, Zhang passed out while on duty. He was unconscious for more than four hours before coming to.

On September 9, the Huaying City Court heard Zhang's case. Zhang refused to admit that his belief in God was against the law. No sentence was imposed on that day.

On November 18, 2013, Zhang was taken outside the gate of the Huaying City Detention Center. A policeman read out the verdict to him directly: Pursuant to Article 300 of the Criminal Law of the People's Republic of China, Zhang Mengling is sentenced to three years in prison on the charge of "sabotaging the implementation of the laws by utilizing evil religious organizations."

On December 18, Zhang was sent to the Jiazhou Prison's Fifth Prison Unit in Leshan City, Sichuan Province for imprisonment and labor reform. During the period of labor reform, Zhang not only had to endure heavy labor, he also suffered from the verbal abuse of prison guards, which exacerbated his illness. On one occasion, he collapsed after a surge of blood pressure. He was sent to the hospital where he stayed unconscious for 24 hours. When he regained consciousness, he was taken back to work by prison guards.

When Zhang's wife learned about his conditions, she sent medication to him. However, the prison did not allow medicine sent from outside the prison. His family could only

send money for him to buy drugs to control the disease. A total of 15,000 RMB was sent in three years. During that period, his family had visited him twice. He had obviously lost much weight and aged a lot.

On May 9, 2016, Zhang was released upon completing his sentence.

On that day, Zhang's wife, son and village party secretary picked him up from prison. On the way home, Zhang's blood pressure was so high that he could not walk. Dizziness caused him to vomit three times in the taxi. He stayed on medication after returning home, but his blood pressure never dropped.

On September 22, Zhang suffered a cerebral vascular rupture (cerebral aneurysm) due to high blood pressure. He was sent to the First People's Hospital of Shangqiu City for emergency treatment. Since medical treatment was ineffective and he died on October 5, 2016.

## **The Case of Meng Guangqun, a Christian From The Church of Almighty God Persecuted to Death by the CCP Government**

Mr. Meng Guangqun, a native of Luoshan County, Xinyang City, Henan Province, a former member of the Great Praise Church, joined The Church Almighty God in October 2000. The people around him all regarded him as a kind-hearted and honest person.

One day in December 2012, when Meng Guangqun and several other Christians were evangelizing in Xi County, Xinyang City, they were arrested by four police officers of the Xi County Public Security Bureau and taken to the bureau for interrogation. One of the Christians managed to escape the arrest. Later Meng was detained by the bureau for 15 days for “illegal preaching” and “disturbing social order.” After the detention term ended, he was released.

### **Subjected to Arrest Again and Brutal Torture for His Faith in God**

At about 8 a.m. on July 15, 2017, Meng Guangqun was at home alone. Three police officers from Xi County Public Security Bureau came to Meng’s residence. Without giving any explanation or showing an arrest warrant, they forcibly escorted Meng to the public security bureau for interrogation.

During the interrogation, the police forced Meng to provide the information of the Christian who escaped the arrest in December 2012, the whereabouts of the church leaders, and some other information of the church. Meng did not tell them. The police commanded him to strip naked and lie face down on the floor. Three officers then fiercely beat him on the back and buttocks with sticks and the soles of the leather shoes, and one of the sticks was even broken. Meng Guangqun was in excruciating pain and could not move. One of the officers kicked Meng’s legs so fiercely with his leather shoes that Meng’s left calf was lacerated and black and blue.

On July 18, Meng Guangqun was escorted back home by the armed police officers of Xi County Public Security Bureau. The police warned him, “You’d better think it over and tell us everything we want to know. Come and report to the bureau every Monday. If you’re caught for believing in God again, you’ll be beaten to death!” Meng Guangqun feared to be caught again by the police, so at that night he fled from home.

### **Chased in the Escape, Dead Due to Serious Injury**

On July 19, Meng Guangqun quietly came to a Christian couple, Li couple's house for hiding. He told this couple about his experience of being arrested and brutally beaten up by the CCP. Seeing Meng's buttock was so badly bruised and lacerated that he could not sit, and his hands were bruised too, the couple felt heart-broken. They hurried to cook a meal for him, but Meng could not eat. He said in tears, "I felt pain all over, felt heaviness and oppression in my heart, and I can't eat. I'm so distressed. I just believe in God and do not steal or rob, but the CCP beat me up so badly." At around 9:30 p.m., Meng Guangqun left the Li couple's house for fear of involving them.

On July 23, Meng Guangqun risked going back home for having no place to hide. Around 8:30 p.m., when he was close to his home, he found a police car parked along the roadside not far away from his house. As soon as two police officers saw him, they jumped off their car and ran toward him. Meng was so scared that he hurried off on his bike. Unfortunately, he hit into a tree, the front and the tires of his bicycle were all crashed. He fell on the ground, with a large purple bump on his head, his whole body covered with water and mud. With great pain, he desperately ran into the woods. The police chased after him in the woods until late that night. Eventually he was forced to jump from a three-meter-high ridge into the paddy field under it, dying. The police saw this and then stopped hunting. After the police left, Meng hauled himself up and arrived at his aunt's house at around 4:30 the next morning.

According to Meng Guangqun's uncle, in early morning of July 24, when he opened the door, he saw that Meng Guangqun were fully covered with mud and water, pale and panic. He covered his head with his right hand, and there was a purple blood bump on his forehead. He wore a short-sleeved shirt. His arms, face, hands were covered with thorns. He had no shoes on his feet, but only a pair of broken socks. His pants were ripped and torn with a long cut. After learning that Meng was pursued by the police, his uncle hurried to clean the wound for him. Meng Guangqun said: "Uncle, please take me to see a doctor. I feel hurt and numb in my head. I'm worried to become a vegetable." His uncle took him to a village clinic. Seeing that Meng was badly injured, the doctor gave him a simple dressing and told Meng's uncle that Meng might suffer from brain injury and he'd better take him to a major hospital for treatment. Meng, however, worried that he might be found and recaptured by the police when he had to show his ID card to be hospitalized, so he decided to go back home. Since Meng had been unable to walk, his uncle drove him home on an electric tricycle at that noon.

After Meng returned home, he started to suffer somewhat mental disorder resulting from a bad injury, coupled with being severely terrified of the police coming to arrest him at any time. On July 27, Meng's uncle visited him and saw him lying in bed, weak, his face

in blue, very scary. When Meng saw his uncle, he suddenly sat up and said in horror, “Uncle, do not come again. The police are everywhere.” Meng’s elder brother said sadly, “Meng Guangqun has rarely eaten since he was back. He kept walking back and forth in the house, muttering ‘police, police.’ When I asked him about what had happened and what the police did to him, he just ignored me. He refuses to eat or drink, so skinny, like a dying person. My mom and I are crazily anxious about him.”

In the morning of August 5, 2017, Meng’s mother brought food to him and found him dead in bed. At that time, Meng was at the age of 52.