

2017 Annual Briefing on the Chinese Communist Government's Persecution of The Church of Almighty God

Since early 2017, the authorities of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has launched a full-scale “Door-knocking Operation” in Mainland China, conducting a “blanket” and “dragnet” search for the Christians of The Church of Almighty God (CAG). They’ve established a database. By making use of the “network management,” they exerted control over Christians, watching for a chance to conduct centralized arrests. This operation has subjected the CAG Christians to persecution on an even larger scale. ^[1]

Based on incomplete statistics, in the whole year of 2017, at least 7,899 CAG Christians were subjected to the Chinese authorities’ persecution in Mainland China’s 32 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities for attending gatherings, preaching the gospel, and all other justified activities of the faith.

At least 4,969 church members were harassed, including having their personal information collected, being threatened into writing “Statement of Guarantee,” being forced into being photographed, video recorded, monitored, and having their fingerprints, blood samples and hair collected; among them, 372 members had their homes illegally searched.

At least 2,930 members were illegally arrested, among whom 1,425 were subjected to short-term or long-term detainment, 59 were subjected to various torture under kangaroo courts, 163 were sentenced to imprisonment, and at least 32,213,023 RMB was confiscated.

The above cases concerning the persecuted Christians (only alias provided) of The Church of Almighty God are publicized on the official website of The Church of Almighty God at <https://www.godfootsteps.org/proofs/>.

According to incomplete statistics, as of December 31, 2017, there are already 51 CAG Christians persecuted till death by the Chinese Communist government, 606 CAG Christians remained in detention, and the longest prison term is known as 14 years so

¹ <https://en.adhrf.org/notice-on-forwarding-the-key-work-points-of-the-provincial-leading-group-for-prevention-and-handling-of-cult-issues-in-2017.html>

far, and 47 members were released in 2017 after serving their terms. Part of the name list concerning the current imprisoned Christians has been publicized on the website of HRWF.^[2]

As the Communist government is currently carrying out a full-scale investigation and making wanton arrests of the CAG Christians, this has caused many Christians to go into hiding. Many Christians arrested or kept under surveillance after their release are no longer contactable, so it is very difficult to conduct a comprehensive and detailed survey of all the Christians who have been captured and persecuted. When it comes to the number of the CAG Christians arrested and persecuted this year, the above statistics are only the tip of the iceberg.

Attached here are one case of death by persecution, two cases of cruel torture, and three cases of imprisonment after severe sentences.

One Case of Death by Persecution

Mr. Meng Guangqun

Mr. Meng Guangqun (alias Li Qiang), resident of Xinyang City, Henan province, is originally a member of the Praise Church. He joined The Church of Almighty God in October 2000. One day in December 2012, Meng was caught for spreading the gospel and detained for 15 days by Xi County Public Security Bureau in Xinyang City under the charges of “illegal evangelizing” and “disrupting social order.” He was released after serving his punishment in full. On the morning of July 15, 2017, police from the Xi County Public Security Bureau captured Meng for his belief in Almighty God once again without showing any identification and took him down to the bureau office. Meng was forced to strip naked and the police whipped his back and buttocks with wooden sticks and leather shoes. They brutally kicked his legs and they beat him so hard that the wooden sticks broke. His buttocks and hands were smashed and his left leg was torn. Meng was beaten so badly that he could not even get up on his knees. On July 18, police from the Xi County Public Security Bureau sent Meng home with guns and said to him: You have another good think about it and give us what we want. From now on, you must report to us every Monday. If we catch you believing in God again, we will beat you to death!” On July 23, Meng was again

² http://hrwf.eu/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/0330-CAG-List-of-Prisoners_ordered-by-prison-terms.pdf

pursued by police, who chased him into the woods until late in the night. With no escape route, he was forced to jump down from an area that was more than 3 meters high, and the fall put him in a grave condition. From then on, Meng's mental state was extremely poor, fearfully calling anyone he saw a cop and constantly mumbling "police, police." Due to the severity of his injuries and the excessive shock, Meng stopped eating and drinking and became as thin as a skeleton. In the end, Meng passed away in his home on the morning of August 5, 2017. He was 47 years old.

See detailed case:

<http://hrwf.eu/china-church-of-almighty-god-members-fatally-tortured-while-in-custody/>

Two Cases of Torture

Mr. Wang Chunsheng

Mr. Wang Chunsheng is a native of Xiangcheng City, Henan Province. He joined The Church of Almighty God in December 2004. On March 28, 2017, Wang was arrested by the CCP police at a meeting place. He was taken to Huaiyang Public Security Bureau in Zhoukou City to be interrogated. In order to force Wang to tell the information about the church, the police used their feet in leather shoes and the iron chair to press on Wang's toes, used the sole of a shoe and a belt to strike his face, used the buckle of the belt to hit his back, used the electric baton to shock his shoulders, arms, and legs, and used the pliers to pinch his tongue, lips, and face. Wang lost feeling in his toes and face due to the beating. On March 29, a police officer used the sole of one of his sports shoes to strike Wang's face back and forth dozens of times, and his teeth became loose and the skin in his face was split. In the afternoon on March 30, Wang was released and sent back home. Because of the torture, Wang's toes are still grayish brown now, his back is still numb due to the shock, and his gum often bleeds. That experience has left indelible wounds on his body and in his heart. See the detailed case in the attachment.

Mr. He Linbo

Mr. He Linbo, 42 of age, a native of Henan, China, now residing in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, used to be a top leader of The Church of Almighty God. In

October 2017, Mr. He Linbo was wanted on line by the Chinese police due to his faith in Almighty God. On November 26 the same year, Mr. He was arrested by the police during a security check at the Shihezi Train Station in Xinjiang. He was subsequently taken to the local police station for interrogation. There, he was tortured. The police viciously whipped him on his hands, back, legs, chest, the tops and bottoms of his feet with a finger-sized electric wire and a thinner copper wire. The police officers then fed him mustard oil, and forcibly made him do half squats. Later, Mr. He Linbo was escorted to a hotel for secret interrogation. There, the police officers handcuffed him to a tiger bench and deprived him of sleep for seven days and nights. As soon as he dozed off, the police officers opened the window to make him freeze, and used towels soaked with cold water to rub him on his head, face and neck, followed by a forced conversion. In the early hours of December 18, 2017, Mr. He Linbo escaped from the hotel while the guarding police officers were asleep.

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