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# Full Text: Progress in China's Human Rights in 2013

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BEIJING, May 26 (Xinhua) -- The Information Office of the State Council, or China's Cabinet, issued a white paper on Progress in China's Human Rights in 2013 Monday. Following is the full text:

Progress in China's Human Rights in 2013

Information Office of the State Council

The People's Republic of China

May 2014, Beijing

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### Foreword

In 2013 China made progress in its human rights undertaking while advancing on the course of the Chinese Dream, a great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

In that year, the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the Chinese government, based on China's prevailing conditions and reality, and aiming at promoting social fairness, justice and the people's well-being, comprehensively deepened the reform, promoted various undertakings in the economic, social and cultural fields, and safeguarded the people's rights to equal participation and development, so that the fruits of development would benefit the people in a better and more equal way. China's development provides all Chinese people with the opportunities to develop themselves, serve society, make successes in their life and realize their dreams. China is now reaching for a higher goal in its human rights undertaking.

In 2013 China's human rights undertaking made remarkable achievements in the following aspects:

-The people's living standards have risen steadily, as China continuously improves the urban and rural residents' clothing, food, accommodation, and transportation conditions, further equalizes basic public services, and better protects the people's rights to subsistence and development.

-The world's largest social security system has taken shape, and both urban and rural residents, especially people in straitened circumstances, can live in dignity, with their basic living conditions better ensured.

-China's democracy and legal system have been further strengthened. China's rural and urban areas for the first time realized the same ratio of deputies to the represented population in the election to the National People's Congress (NPC) deputies in 2013. China also took an important step forward in building a clean government, as it has restricted the use of power and cracked down on corruption.

-China has continuously constitutionalized consultative democracy, and promoted the sound development of grassroots democracy. Chinese citizens now have diversified ways to realize their democratic rights according to law and in an orderly manner, and the country's political life has become more democratic.

-China has further upgraded its governance system and capacity. The exercise of power is more procedure-based, government work is more transparent, and public freedom of speech is better ensured.

-China has abolished the system of reeducation through labor, and adopted multiple measures to curb the practice of extorting confessions by torture and prevent unjust, false and erroneous litigation. In order to better protect the citizens' rights to life, health and personal freedom, China has also made great efforts to guarantee food and pharmaceuticals safety, and to prevent major accidents.

-China has continued to provide preferential policies for ethnic minorities, and made sure they can enjoy and exercise their rights according to law. China has also accelerated the comprehensive development of various social, economic and human rights protection undertakings in regions inhabited by ethnic minorities, including the Xinjiang Uygur and Tibet autonomous regions.

-China has entered a new stage in efforts to help the disabled. With their various rights well protected and an improved public service system in place, disabled people are in a better position to participate in social life as equals.

-China has speeded up its ecological progress, increased financial input, strengthened environmental protection, punished environmental crimes, and is striving to build a beautiful China.

The pursuit of the improvement of human rights never ends, for there is always room for better human rights conditions. China's progress in its human rights undertaking is there for everybody to see, and every unbiased and reasonable observer can draw a fair conclusion. At the same time, China is still a large developing country, with conspicuous problems of unbalanced, uncoordinated and unsustainable development. Therefore, greater efforts are needed to bring higher standards to human rights protection. It has been proved that only by adhering to the socialist path with Chinese characteristics can China's human rights undertaking achieve better development, and the Chinese people realize more comprehensive development.

#### **I. Right to Development**

China's economy was stable and improved in 2013, better benefiting the Chinese people. The material and cultural needs of the people have been better satisfied, and the Chinese people's right to development has been better guaranteed.

The people's living standards are steadily on the rise. In 2013 China maintained a GDP

growth rate of 7.7 percent, which was relatively fast. The annual per capita net income for rural residents reached 8,896 yuan, up 9.3 percent in real terms; the annual per capita disposable income for urban residents was 26,955 yuan, an increase of 7 percent in real terms; and the rise in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) remained at the low level of 2.6 percent. China's annual grain output in 2013 reached 601.935 million tons; the number of civil vehicle holding reached 137.41 million; the number of fixed phone lines was 266.99 million, and the number of mobile phone users increased by 116.96 million to 1,229.11 million. The number of domestic tours totaled 3.26 billion, and the number of trips abroad made by Chinese citizens reached 98.19 million, up 10.3 percent and 18 percent, respectively, over the previous year. Among them, the number of trips abroad for private purposes reached 91.97 million, an increase of 19.3 percent.

Employment is expanding through various channels. Despite great employment pressure, China adheres to the employment priority strategy, taking stable growth and ensuring employment as the threshold of a proper economic range, and creating more and better-quality jobs on the basis of development. China attaches great importance to the development of labor-intensive industries, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), private enterprises and service industries that can create more jobs. In 2013 some 13.1 million urban jobs were created, an increase of 440,000 over 2012, and the registered urban unemployment rate stayed at 4.1 percent, which was relatively low. The government also provided skills training. As many as 20.49 million people participated in vocational training with government subsidies in 2013, among whom 12.275 million participated in employment skills training, 2.082 million attended entrepreneurship training, 5.487 million took part in job skills upgrading training and 646,000 received other types of training. The number of laid-off workers receiving training reached 3.98 million. China endeavors to facilitate the transfer to non-agricultural jobs of rural people, organized more than 20,000 special job fairs for migrant workers in 2013, and trained 9.384 million farmers. The government attaches ever-more importance to the employment of young people, especially college graduates. Through employment guidance services, campus recruitment activities, the "Employment Promotion Plan for Unemployed College Graduates" and other measures, China encourages college graduates to find jobs and start businesses in various forms and through various channels.

The basic rights of workers are guaranteed. In 2013 a total of 27 provinces (autonomous regions, municipalities directly under the central government) raised their minimum wage standards, averaging a 17 percent annual hike. The average monthly income of rural workers employed away from their homes was 2,609 yuan, an increase of 319 yuan over 2012. Community-level trade unions and organizations for safeguarding workers' rights continue to maintain a relatively rapid pace of development. By the end of 2013 the formation rate of labor dispute mediation organizations in townships and subdistricts had reached 60 percent, an increase of 10 percent year on year; the formation rate of labor

dispute arbitration committees had reached 91.6 percent; and the rate of labor dispute arbitration courts nationwide was 72.7 percent, up 20 percent year on year. The number of community-level trade unions increased to 2.77 million, up 4 percent over 2012; a total of 1.298 million effective collective contracts were signed throughout the country, involving 3.64 million enterprises and 160 million employees, up 6 percent, 18 percent and 9 percent over 2012, respectively. Assistance to impoverished workers was strengthened, benefiting 7.739 million people in 2013.

The government-subsidized housing projects continue to make progress. In 2013 the central government appropriated 200.3 billion yuan to help facilitate the building of government-subsidized housing and the rebuilding of dilapidated areas in all regions, and the improvement of supporting infrastructure. In the same year, construction of 6.6 million government-subsidized housing units and housing units in dilapidated areas started, and 5.4 million were basically finished. By the end of the year China had provided housing for another 36 million urban families. Cities at prefectural level and above had all worked out the conditions, procedures and waiting rules for government-subsidized housing applications by migrant workers, and the government-subsidized housing system had expanded to cover not only households with permanent urban residency but all the resident population in urban areas. China continued to promote the renovation of rural housing, renovating 2.66 million dilapidated rural houses in 2013.

Poverty reduction in rural areas is making steady headway. In 2013 the State Council issued Opinions on Promoting Rural Poverty Alleviation through Innovation Mechanisms. The central government appropriated 39.4 billion yuan on poverty reduction, an increase of 6.2 billion yuan over the previous year. In 2013 some 16.5 million rural residents got rid of poverty. The per capita net income for rural residents in the counties which are key targets of the government's poverty-reduction work reached 5,389 yuan, an increase of 787 yuan over 2012, or up 13.8 percent in real terms, a growth rate higher than that of the average level in China.

Education in poverty-stricken areas is better ensured, with bigger efforts being made in this regard. The expenditure from public finance on education in 2013 was 2187.7 billion yuan, up 3 percent over the previous year and mainly focusing on poverty-stricken rural areas. In the same year, the central financial body allocated 19 billion yuan of nutrition subsidies (including 2.218 billion yuan of government awards and subsidies for local pilot projects) and a special fund of nearly 10 billion yuan for building student dining halls. By the end of 2013 some 32.45 million rural students receiving compulsory education were benefiting from the nutrition subsidy policy. A total of 699 counties with contiguous poor areas (including 19 regiment-level entities of the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps) in 22 provincial-level administrative areas carried out pilot projects, covering 95,900 schools and benefiting 32 million students; 529 counties in 19 provincial-level administrative areas launched pilot projects, covering 39,800 schools and benefiting

10.02 million students. The central government appropriated 10 billion yuan to upgrade rural schools with poor compulsory education conditions, with the focus on supporting the central and western rural areas, regions inhabited by ethnic minorities and poverty-stricken areas in improving their compulsory education conditions. The government allocated 16.5 billion yuan of funds from the central budget to support and lead the expansion of preschool educational resources in various regions, and to encourage the local governments to establish the preschool education financial assistance system so as to help impoverished children, orphans and disabled children receive preschool education; the government also provided 4.647 billion yuan of national grants to regular senior high schools, benefiting nearly 5 million students from poverty-stricken households; secondary vocational education was made free for all rural students, urban students whose majors are related to agriculture, and urban impoverished students, and the first- and second-grade students whose majors are related to agriculture or who are from impoverished households enjoy national grants. Thirty provinces (autonomous regions, municipalities directly under the central government) have released policies allowing the children of rural migrant workers who live in cities to take the local college entrance examinations, and 12 provinces and municipalities have started solving the problem.

Chinese citizens enjoy better and equal cultural services. China has continued to implement the National Construction Plan of Prefectural (City) Level Public Cultural Facilities, and has started the project of building demonstration sites of the national public service system, with 18 billion yuan of funds from the central and local public finance. By the end of 2013, with the cultural information resource-sharing program, China had built one service center at the national level, 33 sub-centers at the provincial level, 2,843 branches at the county level, 29,555 service stations at the township (subdistrict) level, and 602,000 service outlets at the incorporated village (community) level, and the service outlet coverage in some provinces (autonomous regions, municipalities directly under the central government) has extended to unincorporated villages; China has built 42,654 public electronic reading rooms, among which 27,706 are in townships, 2,282 are in subdistricts and 12,666 are in communities. In 2013 public libraries in China handed out 28.77 million library cards, 3.93 million more than in the previous year; the number of visits to libraries reached 492.32 million, 57.95 million more than in the previous year. In the same year, cultural institutes across the country organized 1.2884 million activities of various kinds to provide services to 434.31 million people. China has delivered public cultural resources directly to communities by implementing a series of major cultural projects benefiting the people, including providing radio and television services to every household of rural areas, launching the national cultural information resource-sharing program, building libraries for farmers, projecting free films in rural areas, and setting up township cultural stations. In 2013 the country's total funds for culture, sports and media services provided by the public finances reached 251.956 billion yuan, an increase of 11.1 percent as compared with the previous year. The central government spent 17

billion yuan on the building of the public cultural service system, an increase of 1.6 billion yuan, or 10.55 percent over the previous year. The government uses incremental funds mainly at the community level and in rural areas, and provides preferential policies to former revolutionary base areas, areas inhabited by ethnic minorities, border areas and impoverished regions. Public cultural services have also been made more equitable.

## II. Right to Social Security

China's social security has been continuously improving in recent years, as we speed up the process of completing the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects. China's social security developed rapidly in 2013, as it expanded constantly both in coverage and scope. Although not very developed, China has put in place a rudimentary social security system, which is the world's largest and suitable to China's current social conditions.

In 2012 full coverage was achieved by the new social endowment insurance system for rural residents and social endowment insurance for non-working urban residents. By the end of 2013 a total of 497.5 million rural and non-working urban residents had participated in social endowment insurance, an increase of 13.81 million compared with 2012. A total of 322.18 million people had participated in the basic endowment insurance for urban workers by the end of 2013, an increase of 17.91 million compared with 2012. In 2013 the monthly per capita basic pension for enterprise retirees, which had been continuously raised for years, reached almost 1,900 yuan, 10 percent of the average monthly pension of 2012. The new adjustment also provided preferential treatment for retired senior enterprise technicians, and retirees whose pensions were relatively low. In February 2014 the State Council issued Opinions on Establishing a Unified Basic Pension Insurance System for Rural and Non-working Urban Residents, which integrates the new social endowment insurance system for rural residents with the social endowment insurance system for non-working urban residents, and build a unified basic pension insurance system for both rural and non-working urban residents nationwide.

China has established and improved its medical insurance system to protect both rural and urban residents' right to medical treatment. So far, China has established a basic national medical insurance system, and kept raising its standard. More than 1.3 billion people, or over 90 percent of the total population have participated in medical insurance for non-working urban workers, basic medical insurance for urban residents or the new rural cooperative medical care system. By the end of 2013 some 299.06 million people had participated in the basic medical insurance for non-working urban residents. Government subsidies for basic medical insurance for non-working urban residents have been rising year by year—from 40 yuan per person in 2007 to 280 yuan in 2013. The reimbursement rate for hospitalization expenses covered by relevant policies has been raised to around 70 percent, and the maximum payment has been raised to six times

local residents' per capita disposable income. The new rural cooperative medical care system has expanded rapidly to cover the entire rural population. By the end of 2013 a total of 802 million people had participated in the new rural cooperative medical care system, compared with 730 million in 2007, with its coverage rate rising from 85.7 percent to 99 percent. Government subsidies for the new rural cooperative medical care system and per capita funding have grown year by year. In 2013 per capita financing for the new rural cooperative medical care increased to about 340 yuan, of which 280 yuan was subsidies from government at various levels; the reimbursement rate for hospitalization expenses covered by relevant policies has stayed at 75 percent, and the maximum payment and the reimbursement rate for outpatient expenses have been further increased. In the same year the new rural cooperative medical care system benefited a total of 1.32 billion people, up 14.9 percent year on year, and 1.37 million patients benefited from serious illness insurance under the new rural cooperative medical care system, with a reimbursement rate of 70 percent. (more)

The urban and rural residents' medical burden resulting from serious illnesses has been greatly mitigated, because of the establishment of the medical care system for major and very serious illnesses and the smooth progress of the pilot projects for serious illness insurance for urban and rural residents. In 2012 six ministries, including the National Development and Reform Commission, jointly issued Guiding Opinions on Launching Serious Illness Insurance for Rural and Non-working Residents. So far, serious illness insurance has been piloted in 28 provincial-level administrative areas, and widely implemented in eight of them. In 2013 some 20 major diseases including lung cancer and gastric cancer were included in the serious illness insurance; children's phenylketonuria and hypospadias were included in the serious illness insurance under the new rural cooperative medical care system, bringing the number of serious diseases covered by the system to 22.

Steady development has been seen in unemployment insurance, work-related injury insurance and maternity insurance, which are playing an increasingly bigger role in helping the insured to maintain their living standards and obtain medical treatment and maternity protection. At the end of 2013 some 164.17 million people were covered by unemployment insurance, an increase of 11.92 million over the end of 2012; 199.17 million people had access to work-related injury insurance, among whom 72.63 million were migrant workers, an increase of 9.07 million and 840,000 people as compared with 2012, respectively. As many as 163.92 million people were covered by maternity insurance, an increase of 9.63 million over 2012. In 2013 some 4.17 million people benefited from unemployment insurance of different durations, and 1.97 million people received unemployment insurance allowances at the end of the year, with an average amount of 759 yuan per month, up 60.3 yuan or 8.5 percent over the previous year.

The subsistence allowance system has been further improved. By the end of 2013 there



were altogether 20.613 million urban recipients of the subsistence allowance. The average amount of the allowance was 373 yuan per person per month, the amount actually paid was 252 yuan, and a total of 72.42 billion yuan in allowances was extended in 2013, up 13.8 percent, 1.3 percent and 7.4 percent over 2012, respectively. By the end of 2013 there were 53.821 million rural recipients, making up 6.1 percent of the rural population; the average amount of the allowance was 2,434 yuan per person per year, the amount actually paid was 111 yuan per person per month, and a total of 84.19 billion yuan of allowances was extended, up 18.7 percent, 2.9 percent and 17.3 percent over 2012, respectively. Altogether 5.382 million rural people enjoyed the "five guarantees" (food, clothing, medical care, housing and burial expenses) across the country, with those living in nursing homes receiving an average of 4,685 yuan per person per year, those living on their own an average of 3,499 yuan per person per year, totaling 16.16 billion yuan of the "five guarantee" funds spent in the year, up 15.4 percent, 16.3 percent and 11.5 percent, respectively, over 2012.

It is the last safety net of social security rights to provide social assistance to and meet the basic subsistence needs of people in poverty, caused by natural disasters, loss of labor capacity, or due to other reasons. By the end of 2013 some 26 provincial-level administrative areas had formulated or improved their own temporary assistance policies. In 2013 some 39.37 million households received temporary assistance. An increasing number of people are benefiting from medical aid, and the target groups are gradually expanding from urban and rural recipients of subsistence allowances and people enjoying the "five guarantees" to groups with special difficulties including low-income patients with serious illnesses, people with severe disabilities and senior citizens from low-income households. A total of 25.76 billion yuan in medical aid funds was extended in 2013, benefiting 26.39 million people.

### **III. Democratic Rights**

The Chinese Constitution stipulates that all power in the People's Republic of China belongs to the people. In China, the people exercise the rights of democratic election, democratic decision-making, democratic management, and democratic oversight through various channels and in various ways in accordance with the Constitution and other laws. In 2013 rural and urban areas in China for the first time adopted the same ratio of deputies to the represented population in the election to the NPC; extensive, multilevel and institutional development of consultative democracy were vigorously advanced; community-level democracy as an important means of directly exercising democratic rights witnessed sound development; efforts were increased to combat corruption and build political integrity; and Chinese citizens participated in democratic management of public affairs in more diversified forms.

In 2013 China implemented the principle that everyone is equal as stipulated in the

Electoral Law of the People's Republic of China, and adopted the same ratio of deputies to the represented population in the election of NPC deputies in both rural and urban areas. It abides by the principle of regional equality inasmuch as administrative areas at the same level enjoy equal legal status, all are entitled to a certain number of deputies in the highest organ of state power regardless of their population sizes. Each of the provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the central government is entitled to have the same minimum number of NPC deputies, which was eight for the 12th NPC in 2013. China abides by the principle of ethnic equality, and of the elected 2,987 deputies confirmed by the NPC Standing Committee, 409 are from ethnic minorities, accounting for 13.69 percent of the total and covering all the 55 minority ethnic groups in China. Female deputies to the 12th NPC account for 23.4 percent, 2.07 percentage points up over the 11th NPC in 2008. In the 12th NPC the number of community-level deputies increased, the number of migrant worker deputies doubled, and the number of Party and government official deputies shrank, compared to the 11th NPC. Of the deputies to the 12th NPC, the number of worker and farmer deputies increased by 5.18 percent over the 11th NPC, and the number of Party and government official deputies decreased by 6.93 percent.

The NPC vigorously promotes democratic legislation, and enhances the enforceability and operability of the laws. From March 2013 to March 2014 the NPC Standing Committee deliberated on 15 decision drafts of laws and related legal issues, and adopted ten of them; amended 21 laws including the Law of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of Consumer Rights and Interests, and promulgated the Tourism Law of the People's Republic of China and the Law of the People's Republic of China on the Safety of Special Equipment. The NPC Standing Committee evaluates law drafts before promulgation, improves the mechanism of soliciting public opinion for draft laws, and specifies that in addition to the first review draft, the full text of the second review draft should also be released to the public to extensively solicit supplementary opinions and proposals in all respects. China improves the feedback mechanism of public opinion adopted, and actively responds to social concerns. The NPC and its Standing Committee listen to the people's opinions during legislation in the forms of forums, online opinion collection, investigation and research, allowing people to listen to legislation deliberations, and discussion by citizens and the media. From March 2013 to January 2014 some 5,728 persons presented 45,121 opinions on draft laws. Take the Environmental Protection Law of the People's Republic of China (Draft Amendment) for example. Its first draft received 11,748 opinions, and the second draft received 2,434 online opinions and 48 letters. After soliciting opinions for released drafts of major laws, the NPC Standing Committee summarizes those opinions and issues such summaries to the public in a timely manner.

China further clears and expands rights relief channels, actively responds to public interest appeals, and respects and protects public opinion. The government endeavors to

resolve the prominent problems concerning petition letters and visits, stresses preventing and reducing petition problems at the source, promotes open and transparent petition presentation and solution, encourages leading officials to directly receive and visit petitioners, and improves the mechanism of joint reception of petitioners by government departments concerned. China spares no effort to promote "petition in the sunshine," advances the building of an online petition information platform, and promotes the full exposure of petition handling and results, striving to achieve effective inquiry, tracking, oversight and evaluation of petition information. China makes open all online petitions accepted for examination, and the Internet has gradually become a window for the government to learn about public opinion. (more)

Building political integrity is the premise of the effective operation of a democratic system. In 2013 the CPC and the Chinese government further intensified their efforts to combat corruption, putting power, government operations and personnel management under institutional checks to ensure that the people oversee the exercise of power and that power is exercised in a transparent manner. Institutional reform of the State Council was fully launched; the central government decentralized and canceled 416 items of administrative approvals in 2013. In view of multiple corruption problems in certain fields, the CPC Central Committee issued the Work Plan for Establishing and Improving the System of Preventing and Punishing Corruption (2013-2017). In 2013 discipline inspection and procuratorial organs at all levels received 1,950,374 complaints of related offences through petition visits and letters, including 1,220,191 accusatory and prosecutable cases; filed 172,532 cases, concluded 173,186 cases, and punished 182,038 violators. In 2013 procuratorial organs at all levels filed and investigated 37,551 cases of official crimes involving 51,306 suspects, up 9.4percent and 8.4percent respectively on a year-on-year basis. China increased its efforts to handle major cases, filed and investigated 2,581 cases of embezzlement, bribery and appropriation of public funds, each involving over 1 million yuan, and 2,871 state functionaries at and above the county/division level, including 253 officials at the prefecture/bureau level and eight at the provincial/ministerial level. The courts at all levels fully performed their duty of combating corruption through criminal trials, intensified efforts to punish embezzlement and bribery crimes, wound up 29,000 cases of embezzlement, bribery, dereliction of duty and infringement of rights by state functionaries, and convicted 31,000 persons.

In China, socialist consultative democracy is an important form of ensuring the people's democratic rights. Socialist consultative democracy values final decision-making results as well as extensive public participation in decision-making, stresses respect for the opinion of the majority as well as ensuring that the minority can fully express their opinion and protect their own rights, thereby expanding the scope of democracy so as to realize the people's democracy to the maximum extent. In 2013 China accelerated the building of a consultative democratic system with reasonable procedures and complete links, expanded the consultation channels of state power organs, Chinese People's Political

Consultative Conference (CPPCC) organizations, political parties and groups, community-level and non-governmental organizations, and conducted extensive consultations on issues relating to legislation, administration, democracy, political participation and social problems. Taking these specific consultation forms as the base, China conducted extensive consultations on major issues in social and economic development and specific problems concerning the immediate interests of the people, so as to reach and enhance agreement. As an important channel of consultative democracy, the CPPCC vigorously promotes consultative democracy, innovates consultation forms categorized by specialized topics, connecting all social circles, relying on special committees and by means of panel discussions; actively conducts consultations on particular topics, between representatives from relevant sectors of society, between parties with common concern, and with relevant departments in the handling of proposals. It promotes diversified consultation activities, invites responsible persons of related departments to listen to opinions and proposals directly, so as to transform such opinions and proposals into tangible results. The CPPCC makes specific plans for consultation topics, forms and activity organizations every year. In 2013, it carried on and innovated the biweekly "consultation symposium" mechanism, and conducted consultations on macroeconomy, architectural industrialization, protecting the interests of workers and staff members, deepening the reform of scientific and technological systems, enhancing automobile exhaust control and other topics.

Community-level democracy is being advanced in an orderly manner, and protection of electoral rights and community-level autonomy have been further strengthened. In 2013 the Procedures of the People's Republic of China on the Election of Villagers' Committees was promulgated and implemented, which further specifies the procedures and requirements of villagers' committee elections. Secret ballot and open vote-counting are fully practiced; secret ballot booths have been set up; and campaign speeches and village governance speeches are being extensively promoted. Now, 98percent of villages in China have formulated village regulations, villagers' agreements and rules for self-governance by villagers; villager's participation in decision-making and management of their own affairs has been improved by a large margin. By the end of 2013 cities and towns throughout China had held seven rounds of general elections for community residents' committees. Proprietors' management committees and other non-government and volunteer organizations are now playing a greater role in community democratic self-governance.

#### **IV. Rights to Freedom of Speech**

The Chinese government endeavors to promote and protect the freedom of speech of Chinese nationals. Freedom of speech is a basic civil right stipulated in the Constitution of the People's Republic of China. In China citizens can express their views and will and publish research and creative achievements freely within the range allowed by the

Constitution and other laws. With social and economic development, the means of realizing freedom of speech has been diversified day by day, the public's information needs have been better satisfied, the space of freedom of speech has been increasingly expanded, and the people's rights to freedom of speech have steadily developed.

The channels and means for citizens to realize freedom of speech have been diversified day by day. In 2013 China printed 48.2 billion copies of newspapers, 3.3 billion copies of periodicals and 7.9 billion copies of books; some 229 million households had access to cable TV while 172 million households had access to cable DTV; radio programs covered 97.8 percent of the total population, and television programs covered 98.4 percent. In recent years China's news media have paid more attention to maintaining contact with the public, focusing on reporting real life, and playing their due role of press supervision. The public freely expresses its opinions through the news media, brings forward criticisms and proposals, and discusses state affairs and social concerns.

The Internet has become one of the most important channels for the public to express its opinion. Over the past two decades China has injected huge amounts of funds into Internet infrastructure construction covering the whole country and benefitting all people, and promoted Internet popularization and application. Internet development and popularization in China ranks top among developing countries. In 2013 the state continued to increase policy support for and funds in information infrastructure construction, popularized satellite communication, fiber optical communication, computer networks and other related technologies. The country implemented the "broadband China" strategy, and for the first time regarded broadband network as a strategic public infrastructure for national socioeconomic development in the new era. By the end of 2013 the number of netizens in China reached 618 million and the Internet coverage rate 45.8 percent; domain names totaled 18.44 million, websites 3.2 million and webpages 150 billion; Internet forum/bulletin board system (BBS) users numbered 120 million, blog and personal webpage users 437 million, social networking website users 278 million, network literature users 274 million, network video users 428 million, microblog users 281 million and instant messaging (IM) users 532 million. Cellphone IM users numbered 431 million and cellphone microblog users 196 million. By the end of 2013 there were 5,820 websites in China providing Internet education information services, 703 providing Internet news information services, 783 providing Internet cultural products, 282 providing Internet audio-visual programs, 292 providing Internet publishing services and 2,010 providing Internet BBS services.

Effective information acquisition is the premise for realizing freedom of speech. In China, people can obtain information through multiple channels. Open and procedure-based exercise of power, transparent legislation, government operations and judicature and other mechanisms have been further improved, which have continuously improved the effective provision of information about government work. The NPC and its Standing

Committee solicit public opinion on major draft laws; local people's congresses allow people to listen to legislation deliberations, and provide timely authoritative interpretations of adopted laws through media, including their own official websites, so as to ensure that people of all walks of life accurately understand the legislation background and purpose, and the principles and contents of the laws. The State Council focuses on advancing information disclosure in administrative approval, financial budget and final accounts, government-subsidized housing, food and drug security, land expropriation and house demolition, and other fields. The press spokesperson system has been further improved. In 2013 the Information Office of the State Council organized more than 50 press conferences centered on the Party's and the state's major conferences, decisions and work. Meanwhile, departments under the State Council and information offices under local governments held over 2,100 press conferences and briefings. More and more chief responsible persons of departments under the State Council and local governments have appeared at press conferences to actively respond to social concerns and release related information in a timely fashion. (more)

The Supreme People's Court issued the Several Opinions on Advancing the Building of Three Major Platforms of Judicial Openness and the Regulations for the People's Courts to Make Public the Judgment Documents on the Internet, so as to fully promote openness in trial procedures, judicial papers and adjudication enforcement, and to enhance public understanding of judicial decisions. The China Court's Live Trial website has been set up, on which people's courts at all levels have so far live-broadcast 45,000 court trials. The Jinan Intermediate People's Court live-telecast Bo Xilai's court trial through a microblog, which received extensive and positive attention. Internet information service websites of all kinds have greatly improved their service capability to ensure effective information acquisition by the public.

Chinese people enjoy extensive freedom of speech. Research and discussion in academic fields cover politics, society, culture and other aspects. Within the range allowed by the Constitution and other laws, the public can discuss political issues freely. Important government policies are widely discussed before and after being adopted, and opinions from all quarters can be fully expressed. The popularization and improvement of the Internet have dramatically expanded the space of freedom of speech. The public can express opinions through Internet forums, Netnews, blog/personal webpages, social networking websites, network literature, network videos, microblogs, IM and other Internet platforms. Netizens post an immense number of opinions all the time. According to statistics, Chinese netizens post and forward 250 million microblog messages and over 20 billion WeChat and other IM messages every day. According to the statistics about the texts posted by seven websites including Sina microblog and Tencent microblog, of the 20 top issues that received netizens' attention in 2013, the first 12 received over two million messages each, and the top one over 45 million messages. Netizens' attention, opinions and statements cover a wide range, including legal cases,

the people's livelihood, individual rights and interests protection, patient-hospital disputes, and combating corruption.

Effective realization of freedom of speech ensures that the public oversee the government. People can present social problems through news media, the Internet and other channels, forward criticisms and proposals to governments at all levels and supervise the behavior of civil servants. Many local government websites in China have a municipal mayor's mailbox or county head's mailbox to receive letters from the public. The central discipline inspection and procuratorial organs, Supreme People's Court and Supreme People's Procuratorate have set up offence-reporting websites for the public. The public's proposals for and criticisms of government work receive high attention of governments at all levels, and have become important references for them to improve their work and decision-making.

#### **V. Rights of the Person**

The effectiveness of a country's protection of its citizens' rights of life and health, of personal liberty, of personal dignity and other rights of the person is one important gauge of examining that nation's human rights protection effort. In 2013 China abolished the reeducation through labor system, waged special campaigns against human trafficking, searched for and rescued abducted and trafficked women and children, punished serious violations of its citizens' rights of the person in accordance with the law, improved the mechanism for preventing and rectifying unjust, false and erroneous charges, took various measures in ensuring the rights of suspects, defendants and detainees, and strengthened law-enforcement in key areas such as workplace safety, and food and drug production, effectively safeguarding the Chinese citizens' rights of the person.

With over 50 years of operation in China, the system of reeducation through labor played a positive role in protecting public security, maintaining social order, ensuring social stability, and educating and rescuing lawbreakers in certain historical circumstances. But over time its functions were gradually replaced with the implementation of laws such as the Law on Penalties for Administration of Public Security and the Law on Narcotics Control, and also with the improvements in the Criminal Law. Also, as the relevant laws became increasingly applicable in cases of reeducation through labor, the correction system played a lesser role over the years. Since March 2013 the system has been basically suspended in China. On December 28, 2013 the Standing Committee of the NPC passed a decision on abolishing legal provisions pertaining to reeducation through labor, putting an end to the system. It was also decided that persons who were receiving reeducation through labor as prescribed by law should be released and exempted from their remaining terms.

The rights of the person of women and children have been effectively protected. The

state has implemented China's Action Plan Against Human Trafficking (2013-2020). In 2013 China cracked 5,126 and 2,765 cases of abducted and trafficked women and children, respectively, and united 631 abducted children with their biological parents through the DNA database network of public security organs. The state has issued opinions on punishing crimes of sexually assaulting minors, in accordance with the law, and rigorously cracks down upon such crimes as sexually assaulting girls under the age of 14 and teachers sexually assaulting students. In 2013 criminal charges were pressed against 2,395 persons suspected of abducting and trafficking women and children.

Special emphasis has been given to the protection of the rights of the person of people with mental disorders. The Law on Mental Health came into effect May 1, 2013, and applies the principles of free will and restriction on involuntary hospitalization for patients with mental disorders. It is prohibited to use constraints and isolation and other protective measures as means for punishing mentally disturbed patients, and medical institutions are not allowed to force their patients with mental disorders to engage in production or other kinds of labor.

The state punishes crimes seriously undermining the people's sense of security and infringing upon the citizens' rights of the person. In 2013 China's procuratorial organs at all levels issued arrest warrants for 500,055 persons suspected of severe violent crimes, gang crimes, repeated crimes against property, and drug dealing. A total of 580,485 persons were indicted for criminal acts. People's courts at all levels concluded 250,000 cases of homicide, robbery, kidnapping, explosion, rape, trafficking of children and women, and gang-related organized crime, convicting 325,000 persons. (more)

Measures for preventing and rectifying unjust, false and erroneous charges have been further strengthened. In 2013 the Ministry of Public Security issued the Notice on Further Strengthening and Improving the Criminal Enforcement and Case Handling, and Effectively Preventing Unjust, False and Erroneous Charges and other related documents, in an effort to improve the system for preventing erroneous charges, reinforce supervision over law enforcement and case handling in an all-around, real-time manner that covers the whole procedure, and prevent unjust, false and erroneous charges at the source. The Supreme People's Procuratorate issued the Opinions on Diligently Performing Procuratorial Duties and Preventing and Rectifying Unjust, False and Erroneous Charges, and strives to improve the mechanism for identifying, correcting and preventing erroneous charges during the procuratorial phase and also the accountability system. It exercises strict supervision over case handling, to ensure that the facts are accurate, evidence genuine, procedures correct and laws applicable. In 2013 the Procuratorate supervised the withdrawal of 25,211 ineligible charges filed by organs of investigation; and rectified 72,370 occasions of misuse of coercive measures, collection of evidence by illegal means and extortion of confession by torture; decided against arrest on 100,157 occasions and against prosecution on 16,427 persons for lack



of evidence and for cases that did not constitute crimes. The Procuratorate protects the right of action of suspects and the right of practice of lawyers. In 2013 it supervised the correction of 606 cases of improper surveillance of suspects who were confined to designated residences, and 2,153 cases of obstructing the exercise of the right of action by defenders; strengthened the examination of necessity for detention, and advised the release of or change of coercive measures for 23,894 suspects. The Procuratorate attaches importance to protecting the legitimate rights and interests of detainees. In 2013 it supervised the correction of violations of law during the execution of penalties and supervision activities on 42,873 occasions, urged the closing of long-pending cases with suspects in prolonged detention, and supervised the correction of extended custody on 432 occasions. In 2013 the Supreme People's Court issued 548 judicial interpretations on the application of the Criminal Procedure Law—the most judicial interpretations to a law since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949. The exclusion of illegal evidence, the principle of no additional penalty for making appeals and other principles that protect the litigation right of defendants have been implemented with detailed measures. On October 9, 2013 the Supreme People's Court issued the Opinions on Establishing and Improving the Working Mechanism for Preventing Unjust, False and Erroneous Criminal Charges. Adhering to the principle of assuming innocence until proven guilty, the Opinions stipulate that the defendants should be acquitted in accordance with the law in case of insufficient incriminating evidence; confession extorted by torture or other illegal means should be excluded, as should confession obtained from interrogation sessions conducted at undesignated sites, from interrogation sessions the whole procedure of which is not videotaped, and from interrogation sessions in which the possibility of the use of illegal means cannot be ruled out. The Court ensures that innocent persons are not held criminally liable. In 2013 the people's courts at all levels acquitted a total of 825 defendants in accordance with the law, and ran retrials of unjust, false and erroneous charges discovered during appeal and quashed the original judgments in these cases.

Protection of the rights of the person of criminal suspects, defendants and detainees has been enhanced. In 2013 the Ministry of Public Security issued the Regulations on the Use and Administration of Areas and Sites for Law Enforcement and Case Handling by Public Security Organs, which stipulates the use and administration of areas for case handling, with a strict code for audio- and video-recording interrogation and inquiry sessions. The Ministry adopted a new version of the Standards for Building Detention Centers, vigorously promoted the use of social resources for detainees' medical care, and required all detention centers to be made open to the public to ensure a higher level of transparency of law enforcement. The people's procuratorates further improved synchronized audio- and video-recording system, effectively protecting the legitimate rights of suspects.

The state strengthened its efforts to defuse threats to people's security and health in their

work and life. The legislature improved relevant laws for dealing with key problems related to personal safety, and the Standing Committee of the NPC enacted the Law on Special Equipment Safety, strengthening supervision and control over the whole process of the manufacturing and installation, operation and utilization, maintenance and care, and examination and testing of special equipment. The Law established an identity management system, an accountability system of product quality, and a recall and scrap system for special equipment, strengthening supervision of special equipment safety in accordance with the law so as to protect the people's rights of life and property. Departments of law enforcement continued to strengthen their troubleshooting effort in focus industries and areas, defusing hidden dangers on 6.815 million occasions with a correction rate of 97.9 percent in 2013. More effort was put into the investigation of accidents and a time limit was set for the cracking of related cases under the supervision of relevant authorities, and 44 cases of serious and major accidents were investigated and handled. The average period for closing a case was 109 days shorter on a year-on-year basis, and investigation reports of accidents were made public in a timely manner. Procuratorial organs conducted immediate intervention in the case of serious and major accidents, and investigated cases of dereliction of duty, malfeasance, bribery and other power-abuse crimes behind fires and mining accidents, with a total of 1,066 persons investigated. The state attaches great importance to food and drug safety, and has issued relevant judicial interpretations for punishing crimes that harm food and drug safety in accordance with the law. In 2013 procuratorial organs at all levels pressed charges against 10,540 persons suspected of manufacturing and selling poisonous or hazardous food, adulterant drugs or drugs of inferior quality, and the Supreme People's Procuratorate set time limit to urge the handling of 785 cases of crimes that menaced food and drug safety. The people's courts at all levels concluded 2,082 relevant cases, with 2,647 persons convicted.

## **VI. Rights of Ethnic Minorities**

China has established the principle that all ethnic groups are equal and jointly participate in the management of state affairs on the constitutional, legal and systemic levels. The state respects the cultural differences and lifestyles of ethnic groups, and ensures the equal rights of ethnic minorities in politics, economy, culture, language and folk customs, religious belief and other aspects, with coordinated measures. In 2013 China's ethnic minorities and areas inhabited by ethnic minorities made new achievements and developments in various undertakings, and all ethnic minorities fully enjoyed and effectively exercised their basic rights.

The political rights of ethnic minorities are fully guaranteed. Areas inhabited by ethnic minorities in compact communities exercising regional ethnic autonomy enjoy autonomous rights in a wide range of areas, including legislative power, flexibility in the execution of relevant state laws and regulations, the right to use their own spoken and

written languages, personnel management power, financial management power, and the right of independently developing their special culture and education. The advantages of regional ethnic autonomy are best exemplified in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. Xinjiang is an ethnic autonomous area mainly inhabited by the Uygur people. It is China's only autonomous region with all three administrative levels of autonomous areas (region, prefecture and county). In other parts of Xinjiang inhabited by ethnic minorities, except the Uygur, in compact communities, there are five autonomous prefectures where the Kazak, Hui, Kirgiz and Mongolian people are concentrated; six autonomous counties where the Kazak, Hui, Mongolian, Tajik and Xibe people live; and 42 townships where various ethnic minorities live. Autonomous organs at all levels in Xinjiang formulate and implement autonomous regulations, local rules and regulations, and legally binding decisions in light of their actual conditions, ensuring the autonomous rights of ethnic autonomous areas.

All China's 55 ethnic minority groups elect deputies to the NPC and members to the National Committee of the CPPCC. The chairpersons or vice chairpersons of the standing committees of the people's congresses of all 155 areas where regional ethnic autonomy is exercised, as well as the heads of government of autonomous regions, prefectures, counties or banners are citizens of the ethnic group or groups exercising regional autonomy in the areas concerned. In the Tibet Autonomous Region the chairpersons of past standing committees of the people's congress and the heads of the people's government have all been Tibetans. Tibetan deputies and deputies from other minority groups to the NPC have always constituted the absolute majority among deputies of the region at all levels. In Tibet, of the 34,244 directly and indirectly elected deputies to the NPC at all four levels, 31,901 persons, or 93 percent, are from the Tibetan or other minority communities. Also, 82.05 percent of the total number of the Tibet Autonomous Region's officials are Tibetan or from other minority groups, and 80.06 percent of the total number of leading officials of counties and townships are Tibetan or from other minority groups.

The socioeconomic rights of ethnic minorities are fully protected. The state continues to increase funds in promoting socioeconomic development in areas inhabited by ethnic minorities, and significant achievements have been made in this regard. In 2013, with more transfer payments diverted to ethnic minority areas, the central government arranged 46.4 billion yuan of transfer payments to ethnic minority areas, up by 10.5 percent as compared with 2012. The state increased poverty-reduction funding by a large margin for the Inner Mongolia, Guangxi, Tibet, Ningxia and Xinjiang autonomous regions, and Guizhou, Yunnan and Qinghai provinces, which have large numbers of ethnic minority inhabitants. The central government appropriated 16.605 billion yuan as poverty-reduction fund, or 43.76 percent of the total volume from all sources, growing by 16.8 percent compared to 2012. In 2013 the state took concrete measures to implement three special programs, as stated in the Twelfth Five-year Plan, namely, supporting the

development of minority groups with small populations, vitalizing border areas and bring prosperity to their residents, and developing special undertakings for ethnic minorities. The state continued to increase support to ethnic minorities and areas inhabited by minorities, providing 1.45 billion yuan as specialized funds for the development of minority groups with small populations, 2.79 billion yuan as specialized funds for vitalizing border areas and bringing prosperity to their residents, and 400 million yuan as specialized funds for protecting ethnic minority villages with cultural significance. These funds increased by 13.1 percent, 50 percent and 53.8 percent, respectively, as compared to 2012. In 2013 the GDP of the Tibet Autonomous Region reached 80.767 billion yuan, growing by 12.5 percent over the previous year; the per capita net income of farmers and herdsmen was 6,578 yuan, increasing by 15 percent over the previous year and well into the 11th year of double-digit growth; and the per capita disposable income of urban residents reached 20,023 yuan, up by 11.1 percent compared with 2012. In 2013 the GDP of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region was 851 billion yuan, growing by 11.1 percent compared to the previous year; and the per capita GDP was 37,847 yuan, an increase of 9.7 percent. In 2013 the per capita net income of rural residents in Xinjiang reached 7,296 yuan, growing by 14.1 percent over the previous year; and the per capita disposable income of urban residents was 19,874 yuan, increasing by 10.9 percent over the previous year. The per capita total income of urban households was 22,388 yuan, up by 10.9 percent compared to the previous year and was 69.5 times more than that of 1978. In 2013 the per capita living space of Tibetan farmers and herdsmen and urban residents was 30.51 sq m and 42.81 sq m, respectively, and significant progress was made in various undertakings for improving the local people's lives. The housing project for farmers and herdsmen, in particular, was completed after eight years of incremental investment that totaled 27.357 billion yuan. The region's 2.3 million farmers and herdsmen of 460,300 households moved into solid and convenient houses, and a historic improvement was made in the working and living conditions of farmers and herdsmen. More progress was made in the building of supporting facilities in rural areas, including water, power, road, communications, gas, radio and television, and postal services. A total of 94.6 percent and 99.7 percent of Tibet's townships and towns respectively now have access to postal services and the road network, respectively, and 97.4 percent of incorporated villages have access to road transportation. The Motuo Highway opened to traffic in 2013, connecting China's last isolated county to the national road network. Construction of the Sichuan-Tibet highway network project began. The Qinghai-Tibet Railway transported a total of 2.199 million passengers and 4.052 million tons of cargo, and civil aircraft carried 2.73 million passengers. (more)

Ethnic minority cultures and cultural undertakings in areas inhabited by ethnic minorities prospered. By 2013 China had 32 publishing houses that publish books in the languages of ethnic minorities, and 13 electronic publishers produce audio-visual products in languages of ethnic minorities. In 2013 222 titles of periodicals, 99 types of newspapers and 9,429 book titles were published in languages of ethnic minorities. In 2013 a total of

73 radio stations in ethnic autonomous areas ran 441 programs, including 100 programs broadcast in ethnic languages; and 90 television stations ran 489 programs, including 100 programs broadcast in ethnic languages. There were also 50,834 cultural institutions of various types, including 653 libraries, 784 cultural centers, 8,153 cultural stations and 385 museums. The traditional cultures of minority groups are protected. The state established an experimental area for the protection of the culture and ecology of ethnic minorities living in southeastern Guizhou Province, effectively promoting the overall conservation of the intangible cultural heritage in ethnic minority areas. The state continues to strengthen the protection and development of traditional medicine of ethnic minorities. The state supports experienced elderly experts of ethnic medicine to set up offices to pass on their medical inheritance, and supports the establishment of inheritance offices for different schools of Tibetan, Mongolian, Zhuang and Hui medicines. A program for the categorization of ethnic medicine literature and the selection and promotion of medical techniques has been initiated, covering 29 ethnic groups in 11 provinces and autonomous regions. A total of 150 titles of important ethnic medicine literature has been sorted out and categorized, and 140 medical treatment techniques have been selected for promotion. By 2013 there were 199 hospitals nationwide that specialize in ethnic medicine.

People of ethnic minority groups in Xinjiang enjoy freedom of religious belief, and their customs and social mores are fully respected. In accordance with the Constitution and the Law on Regional Ethnic Autonomy, the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region promulgated the Regulations on the Administration of Religious Affairs of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Interim Regulations on the Administration of Venues for Religious Activities of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Interim Regulations on the Administration of Religious Staff of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Interim Regulations on the Administration of Religious Activities of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, and other government regulations, in an effort to protect normal religious activities and safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of religious groups and religious believers. The religious believers from ethnic minority groups in Xinjiang are entitled to conducting normal religious activities according to law in venues for such activities and in their homes, rights with which no one may interfere. Currently there are ten minority groups in Xinjiang that mostly believe in Islam, with a total population of around 13.7 million. There are 24,000 mosques with 290,000 staff members. In Xinjiang there are also 120,000 Buddhist believers, with 53 venues for activities and 326 staff members; about 60,000 Protestant followers and 374 clergymen; 6,000 Catholic followers, with 20 venues for activities and 25 priests; 1,000 Orthodox believers with three venues and two priests; and 300 Daoist believers with one venue for activities. Xinjiang has published and distributed the Koran, Sahih al-Bukhari, Tafsir al-Mizan, Selected Texts of Expostulation (a1-Wa 'z) and other religious classics and books in the Uygur, standard Chinese, Kazak and Kirgiz languages. The central government and governments at all levels of Xinjiang have developed a series of policies and regulations

to ensure that the customs of ethnic minorities in food and drinks, clothing, festivals, marriages and funerals are respected and given consideration. Each year governments at all levels in Xinjiang make special arrangements for the production and supply of meat, non-staple food and other necessities for the daily life of ethnic minorities ensuring the production and supply of special foods for these ethnic minorities, and lends special consideration to the ten groups dominated by Islamic believers. In Xinjiang, Moslems of all ethnic groups enjoy days off on the occasions of Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid al-Adha.

The cultural legacies of Tibet are effectively protected, and the local religion and traditional customs and social mores are respected. Currently Tibet has 4,277 sites of cultural relics. The Potala Palace, Norbulingka Summer Palace and Jokhang Temple have been included in the UNESCO World Heritage List; Lhasa, Shigatse and Gyantse have been entered on the national list of historical and cultural cities; and the Tibet Museum is a first-rank national museum. Seventy-six items on China's national intangible cultural heritage list are located in Tibet, 323 at the autonomous regional level, 76 at the city level and 814 at the county level. There are 68 recognized successors to their own intangible heritages in Tibet at the national level and 227 at the autonomous regional level, and 117 Tibetan Opera troupes. The epic Gesar and Tibetan Opera were included on the list of Masterpieces of Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity in 2009. The state actively protects and develops Tibetan medicine. Currently Tibet has 19 medical institutions that specialize in traditional Tibetan medicine, more than 50 county-level hospitals have a Tibetan medicine department, and the service network of Tibetan medicine has basically covered the whole region. The state respects the customs and social mores of the Tibetan people, and ensures that the ethnic communities of Tibet lead their lives in accordance with their traditional customs and engage in social activities in ways they prefer. The state respects the freedom of religious belief of all the people in Tibet, and ensures that they can practice their religions, conduct ceremonial activities, participate in major religious and folk festivals and engage in other normal activities of their own free will. Currently there are 1,787 venues for religious activities of various types in Tibet, with 46,000 resident monks and nuns, and 358 living Buddhas. Traditional religious activities, such as scripture study and debate, rank promotion, initiation, abhiseca (empowerment) and training, are conducted in an orderly manner, and traditional activities are held at major religious festivals. The living Buddha reincarnation system is a unique practice for the continuation of the living Buddha of Tibetan Buddhism, which is respected by the state. Since the Democratic Reform in Tibet in 1959, over 60 reincarnated living Buddhas have been certified and recognized by the state in accordance with historical conventions and following religious rituals. Many religious believers have sutra halls or small shrines set up in their homes, and they have the liberty to engage in religious activities such as turning prayer wheels, going on pilgrimages, and having monks and nuns perform religious rites. The Tibet Autonomous Region and all of its seven prefectures and cities have Buddhist associations, and the Tibet branch of the China Buddhist Association has a Buddhist academy and a sutra

printing house, and publishes Tibetan Buddhism, a journal in the Tibetan language. Religious cultural items, such as murals, sculptures, statues, Thangka paintings, scriptures, ritual items and shrines in Buddhist temples, are protected and renovated when this is needed. Large quantities of religious literature and classics are rescued, sorted out and published. The traditional sutra printing houses of different temples are maintained and developed. Currently there are 60 major sutra printing houses, such as the ones at Muru Nyinba Monastery and the Potala Palace. They print a total of 63,000 titles of scriptures annually, and there are 20 private bookstalls selling scriptures in Tibet.

Ethnic minorities have the right to use and develop their own spoken and written languages. The state takes concrete measures to ensure the legitimate use of ethnic languages in the administrative and judicial sectors, news and publication, radio, film and television, culture and education, and other areas. Ethnic minority students can use their own languages in the college entrance examination. China National Radio and local radio stations broadcast in 21 ethnic languages on a daily basis, and the coverage of radio and television broadcasts in ethnic languages in border areas has further increased. The state promotes bilingual teaching in ethnic areas. By 2013 bilingual teaching was done in the classroom in more than 10,000 schools around the country, and 29 languages of 21 ethnic minority groups were used together with standard Chinese-Putonghua. China has 15 institutions of higher learning for ethnic minority students, with approximately 240,000 students on campus. The state continues the preferential policy toward ethnic minority students in college admissions by lowering the admission scores for or granting extra scores to them, and by granting priority admissions to these students when they are competing with Han students under the same conditions. Special consideration is also given to students from ethnic minority groups with small populations.

The learning and use of the Tibetan language is protected by law. Both the Tibetan language and standard Chinese are used in the decisions and regulations passed at the people's congresses at all levels in the Tibet Autonomous Region, as well as in the official documents and public notices issued by people's governments at all levels and their subordinate departments. In judicial litigation the Tibetan language is used during trials when there are Tibetan parties involved, and the legal instruments are written in Tibetan in such cases. Both Tibetan and standard Chinese appear in the official seals, credentials, forms, envelopes, letter paper, writing paper, insignias of different entities, and are used in the signs and plaques of government organs, factories and mines, schools, train stations, airports, stores, hotels, restaurants, theaters, tourism spots, stadiums and libraries, and on street nameplates and road signs. Tibet has 14 journals and ten newspapers published in the Tibetan language. The Tibet People's Radio Station runs 42 programs broadcast in Tibetan (including the Kangba dialect), broadcasting 21 hours of news programs in the Tibetan language and 18 hours of radio programs in the Kangba dialect on a daily basis. The Tibet Television Station Satellite Television broadcasts around the clock in Tibetan. In 2013 the Tibet Autonomous Region published

780 titles of books written in Tibetan, printing a total of 4.31 million copies. For many Tibetan-language users, reading, listening to and watching domestic and international news and getting other information through the Internet, mobile phones and other platforms compatible to the Tibetan language have become part of their daily life.

In Xinjiang, there are 13 ethnic groups who have lived there for generations, and they use ten different spoken and written languages. During the performance of official business, organs of the autonomous region and the autonomous prefectures and counties use both standard Chinese and the local ethnic languages. The languages of the ethnic minorities are also widely used in the press, publication, radio, film and television. The Xinjiang Daily is published in the Uygur, standard Chinese, Kazak and Mongolian languages; the Xinjiang Television Station broadcasts in the Uygur, standard Chinese, Kazak and Mongolian languages; and the Xinjiang People's Publishing House publishes in the Uygur, standard Chinese, Kazak, Mongolian, Kirgiz and Xibe languages. More than 70 percent of the books and audio-visual products published by publishing houses in Xinjiang are in local ethnic languages. In 2013 subtitles in ethnic languages were added to 100 films and 5,975 episodes of TV series, and four TV dramas were made with ethnic minority themes.

## **VII. Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

China has 85 million disabled people. The Chinese government has developed its programs for disabled people in a planned way in accordance with the Law on the Protection of Disabled Persons, Program for Disabled Persons during the 12th Five-year Plan and the Outline of Development-oriented Poverty Reduction for Disabled Persons in Rural Areas (2011-2020). In the meantime, it also commits itself to the duties defined in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, actively implements the third Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons (2013-2022)-Incheon Strategy, and promotes the coordinated development of disabled people and socioeconomic progress, so that the protection of disabled persons in China has risen to a higher and more standard level.

Rehabilitation programs for disabled persons are being carried out in an orderly manner. The Chinese government has improved the work mechanism for disabled persons' rehabilitation, aiming to make sure that every disabled person has access to rehabilitation services. It encourages disability-rehabilitation entities and medical institutions to strengthen their ties so as to establish a three-tier rehabilitation medical system within which the two assume different responsibilities and cooperate closely with mutually complementary abilities. China has enacted the Standards of Screening for Disabilities Among 0-6 Year-old Children (Trial), and, according to which, the rehabilitation of disabled children is moved ahead by establishing an institution of early disability screening, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation. At the same time, community



rehabilitation is further developed. Rehabilitation services are provided to disabled people inside their communities and homes, with 2,862 community demonstration stations being supported. The role of parent-training schools is emphasized in China. In 2013, 1,131 disability rehabilitation entities conducted the training of the parents of disabled children. The Chinese government launched the "Project of Fostering Hundreds of World Top-notch Rehabilitation Experts, Thousands of Domestic Leading Rehabilitation Specialists and Ten Thousands of Young Rehabilitation Talents," training some 256,000 management and professional personnel at various levels and of various kinds nationwide in 2013, including 25,000 rehabilitation management staff, 55,000 rehabilitation specialists and 177,000 community rehabilitation coordinators.

A series of key rehabilitation projects is being carried out. By 2013 there were 901 city districts and 2,014 counties or county-level cities in China that provided community rehabilitation services. In the same year an additional 1.69 million disabled people enjoyed such services, and 7.468 million disabled people were rehabilitated to various degrees, among whom 746,000 received cataract surgery, 32,000 children with hearing impairments received hearing restoration or language training, and 153,000 children with intellectual disabilities, brain paralysis or autistic disorders received training guidance in rehabilitation institutions and their communities and families. The Chinese government helped 6,721 physically handicapped children from poor families and 418 disabled persons suffering from leprosy to receive surgery, and provided comprehensive rehabilitation services to 5.84 million patients with mental impairments, and provided remedial aid to 469,000 mentally impaired patients in poverty. A total of 1.283 million assistance devices were offered to people with disabilities, among which 329,000 were provided for free by the National Public Welfare Lottery Foundation.

The system of safeguarding and promoting disabled persons' access to education and employment is being improved, with the emphasis on the enrolment of disabled children who were registered as having not attended school. China has drawn up the Promotion Plan for Special Education (2014-2016), expanded the coverage of compulsory education, developed preschool education for disabled children in different ways according to different local conditions, accelerated the progress of disabled teenagers' senior high school-level education, centering on vocational education, and improved higher-learning education for disabled people. The Chinese government increased financial input, enhanced the quality and quantity of teachers, and further improved curriculum for disabled people. It continued to implement the Plan for Building Special Schools (Phase II), providing 800 million yuan of specialized funds to support the building of 27 normal colleges for special education and middle and higher-learning schools for disabled people. The central government provided another 55 million yuan of special subsidies to strengthen the special school building in ten central and western provinces. A national special disability lottery program was held, raising funds for 10,000 disabled children from poverty-stricken families to have access to preschool education and for 23

special middle or higher-learning schools to improve their teaching facilities and practical training centers. There were 7,538 disabled students enrolled by ordinary institutions of higher-learning in 2013. The government drew up the Opinions on Promoting the Employment of Disabled Persons in Proportion to Total Employment, increasing the skill training opportunities and job posts for disabled people. Over the year, 369,000 disabled people were employed and 480,000 received training in urban areas; in rural areas 856,000 received training in practical skills. The government encouraged and supported welfare enterprises so as to promote the employment of disabled persons and ensure their equal status in society. By 2013, there were 18,000 welfare enterprises in China, employing a total of 542,000 disabled people. (more)

The social security system for disabled persons is being further improved. The Chinese government has enlarged the range of disabled people's social welfare and raised their benefit level. By 2013 over 6.28 million disabled persons in both urban and rural areas received the minimum subsistence allowance, 4.014 million disabled persons in urban areas and 16.383 million in rural areas participated in the respective endowment insurance systems, and 944,000 disabled people were looked after by social services. The governments explored ways to provide poverty-stricken disabled people with living subsidies and severely disabled people with care subsidies. Some 15 provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the central government) established the system of granting living subsidies to poverty-stricken disabled people, and eight provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the central government) established the system of granting care subsidies to severely disabled people, benefiting over 6 million disabled people.

The development-oriented poverty alleviation for disabled persons is being strengthened. The Chinese government included poverty alleviation and development of disabled persons in relevant programs, and made disabled people a priority when carrying out poverty alleviation policies and measures. Poverty-stricken disabled people were included in the overall poverty monitoring, and a statistics system for development-oriented poverty alleviation for disabled people in contiguous poverty-stricken areas was set up. The assistance to and poverty alleviation for disabled people in agricultural sector was strengthened in a bid to increase their incomes. Local governments also supported disabled people by providing agricultural technology services or helping them found special cooperatives, strengthened the skill training in agricultural production and business management for disabled people in rural areas, assisted rural families with one or more disabled members to buy and use agricultural machines, and accelerated the improvement of conditions for the supply of gas to them for daily use by giving preferences and increasing subsidies. The renovation of dilapidated houses of poor families with one or more disabled members was given high priority, and the proportion of renovated houses of poor families with one or more disabled members in the total of renovated houses in the year was higher than the proportion of existing dilapidated

houses of poor families with one or more disabled members in all dilapidated houses. According to the Project Plan for Screening Illnesses Among Newborn Babies in Poverty-stricken Areas in 2013, local governments conducted screening for phenylketonuria, congenital hypothyroidism and hearing loss among 490,000 newborn babies in rural areas, and provided the sick babies with rehabilitation aids in 14 national contiguous poverty-stricken areas involving 200 counties in 21 provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the central government). In 2013 some 1.206 million disabled people in rural areas got rid of poverty and 122,000 rural families with one or more disabled members renovated their houses.

Access for disabled people is being improved. China has enacted the Regulations for Building a Barrier-free Environment, making efforts to remove environmental barriers in both urban and rural areas. In 2013 the Chinese government helped improve access for 136,000 families with one or more disabled members, and granted 657,000 disabled people fuel subsidies for motorized wheelchairs. In order to make disabled people's travelling more convenient, the China Civil Aviation Administration amended the Regulations of Air Transport for Disabled Persons (Trial), and the China Railway Corporation arranged special seats for disabled persons in every train, providing 48,000 special tickets for disabled persons and making 1,268 carriages barrier-free. Various cities and counties started to build a barrier-free environment. Some of the websites of 117 ministries and commissions as well as provincial governments claimed that they had become barrier-free in accordance with the Technical Norms for Designing Barrier-free Accessible Websites. China accelerated the R&D for assistance devices and began researching and laying down technical criteria for devices for the blind and screen readers. The Chinese government launched the "2013 Beautiful China Actions for Barrier-free Access to Government Information," improving the websites of various government departments, and began to build a barrier-free information system in the cities.

### **VIII. Right to a Clean and Healthy Environment**

Aiming to solve the environmental and ecological problems caused by the country's rapid economic growth, the Chinese government continued to promote ecological progress in 2013, constantly improving environmental protection systems and enhancing environmental management and ecosystem preservation. Focusing on solving the major environmental problems that seriously endanger people's health, it investigated and punished harshly illegal pollution and environmental crimes, so as to safeguard people's right to a healthy and clean environment.

The planning and mechanisms for protecting the environment and ecosystems is being furthered improved. China formulated and implemented a series of policy documents and plans for environmental protection, including the Prevention and Control of Environmental

Risks of Chemical Products, during the 12th Five-year Plan Period (2011-2015), Action Plan for Preventing and Controlling Air Pollution, Detailed Rules for the Implementation of the Action Plan for Preventing and Controlling Air Pollution in Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei and the Surrounding Areas, Plan for Monitoring and Early-warning of Heavily Polluted Weather in Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei and the Surrounding Areas, Work Plan for Preventing and Controlling Groundwater Pollution in the North China Plain, Opinions on Strengthening Environmental Protection and Management in Key National Ecological Function Zones, Methods for Assessing the Implementation of the Strictest Management System of Water Resources and Opinions on Accelerating Progress in Water Ecological Systems. With 135 newly issued items in 2013, China had a total of 1,499 items of national criteria for environmental protection currently in effect.

The Ministry of Environmental Protection of China has signed target responsibility agreements for preventing and combating air pollution with 31 provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the central government). The Chinese government has promoted the building of PM2.5 monitoring stations in key and model cities for environmental protection. It completed the assessment of environmental impacts of the western China development strategy in 2013, and launched the assessment of environmental impacts of the central China development strategies. Limitations on air pollutants were imposed for the thermal power, steel, petrochemical, cement, non-ferrous metal and chemical engineering industries as well as coal-fired boiler projects in key control areas. The Ministry of Environmental Protection and China Insurance Regulatory Commission jointly developed the Guidelines for the Pilot Projects of Compulsory Environmental Pollution Liability Insurance, stipulating that enterprises connected with heavy metals, enterprises that had been insured according to local regulations and other high-environmental-risk enterprises must take out environmental pollution liability insurance. The second stage of experiments in environmental function zoning was launched in ten provinces (autonomous regions), and the experiment for ecological red-line demarcation technology was launched in Inner Mongolia, Jiangxi, Guangxi and Hubei. The state set up an inter-ministry coordination mechanism for preventing and controlling air pollution and a cooperative mechanism for preventing and controlling air pollution in Yangtze River Delta areas and Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei and the surrounding areas. The liability and assessment system for water resources management was put into effect. Inspection teams for the implementation of the strictest management system of water resources was set up in 31 provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the central government), with the local government head assuming responsibility. The targets of the "three red lines" (for water resources exploitation, water efficiency and pollution in water-related zones) were further divided and assigned. China began devising the Plan of Water Resources Protection, finished the measurement of assimilative capacities of major rivers and lakes, and proposed a phased schedule for emission limitations.

Funds used for environmental protection is being increased. The Chinese government provided some 338.3 billion yuan in 2013 for conserving energy and protecting the environment, seeing a 14.2 percent year-on-year growth. The Plan of Capability Development in Environmental Monitoring during the 12th Five-year Plan Period was drawn up and implemented. The central government put 1.6 billion yuan into a pilot project for protecting the environment and ecosystems of lakes with good water quality. The State Council reviewed and passed the Overall Plan for Protecting the Environment and Ecosystems of Lakes with Good Water Quality (2013-2020). The transfer payment for key ecological function zones reached 42.3 billion yuan, covering 492 counties. The central government also spent 2.5 billion yuan on combating heavy metal pollution, the first portion of five billion yuan used to support air pollution control in Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei, Shanxi, Shandong and Inner Mongolia, and six billion yuan used to improve the comprehensive environment in rural areas.

Environmental protection measures are being furthered enhanced. In 2013 China set up 21 national nature reserves. Some 16 provinces (autonomous regions), including Hainan, Heilongjiang and Anhui, launched the Ecosystem-friendly Province (autonomous region) Project and over 1,000 cities (counties) launched the Ecosystem-friendly City (county) Project, with a total of 55 national-level ecosystem-friendly cities (counties) and 2,986 national-level ecosystem-friendly townships being set up. In addition, 46 cities (districts) launched the Water Ecosystem-friendly City Project. China's urban green areas reached 2,367,842 ha, covering 39.59 percent of the total urban land, with the per capita green area in public parks being 12.26 sq m. When 496 monitoring stations in 74 cities gave real-time updates of monitoring data of six pollutants, including fine particles (PM2.5 particles), a second batch of 116 cities were also building pollutant-monitoring stations and began providing real-time updates. The state deepened the prevention and control of water pollution in key basin areas. In order to strengthen water resources protection in basin areas, it launched the projects to enhance water resources monitoring capacity, established 14,000 national monitoring stations in water-consuming units, water function zones and provincial borders, and achieved online water-quality monitoring in 175 key drinking water source areas, so as to put water quality of over 70 percent of water volumes used with permission, 80 percent of key water function zones and all major inter-provincial and boundary rivers under surveillance. The state formulated the Management Measures of Water Function Zones, enhancing classified and categorized supervision and management. Among 577 water-quality monitoring sections in China's seven major river systems, 66.7 percent of water sections were graded in categories I-III, and 10.8 percent were graded as inferior category V, an increase of 2.6 percentage points and a decrease of 1.5 percentage points, respectively, compared with 2012.

Aiming to prevent and control air pollution, projects of emission-reduction by means of updating facilities are being greatly boosted. The large-scale smog in China's central and eastern areas since 2013 has caused great concern of the public. The State Council

issued the Action Plan for Preventing and Controlling Air Pollution in September 2013, imposing 35 concrete measures, including reducing the emission of air contaminants, upgrading the industrial structure, speeding up enterprises' technical transformation, optimizing the energy mix, and applying strict criteria for energy conservation and environmental protection. China established a joint prevention and control system for regional pollution, promptly reacted to severe pollution days, mobilized the whole of society to participate in the actions of maintaining clean air, promoted air pollution control and reduced smog. In 2013 the desulfurization facilities of the active thermal power generating units with a capacity of 34 million kw were retrofitted to increase capacity, and the ratio of generating units with desulfurization facilities came to account for 90 percent of all generating units in China's coal-fired thermal power stations. A capacity of 205 million kw were retrofitted with generating units with NOx reduction facilities in the year, reaching 50 percent of China's total thermal installed capacity. The gas bypass of desulfurization facilities of thermal power generating units with a capacity of 203 million kw was cancelled, with the capacity of desulfurization generating units without gas bypasses accounting for 46 percent of the total thermal power installed capacity. Cement clinker plants with a capacity of 570 million tons were retrofitted with NOx reduction facilities, accounting for 50 percent of the total capacity. The emissions of four major pollutants-organic pollutants (measured by chemical oxygen demand), ammonia nitrogen, sulfur dioxide and NOx-decreased by 2.93 percent, 3.14 percent, 3.48 percent and 4.72 percent, respectively, compared with 2012, with the emission of NOx dropping below the 2010 reduction benchmark for the first time. The daily sewage treatment capacity in towns (including both incorporated towns and industrial parks) increased by 11.94 million tons in 2013, and 84.8 percent of the garbage in cities at all levels was made harmless after treatment.

Specialized environmental-protection inspections are being conducted, and environmental crimes are being cracked down on. Some 1.83 million law-enforcement personnel were sent to inspect 710,000 enterprises in 2013, investigating and dealing with 6,499 cases of environmental violation and illegal activities, and handling 1,523 cases within a set time limit under the supervision of higher authorities. The central government paused project environmental approvals of 16 cities in the provinces that had failed the 2012 examination of the implementation of the Plan for Preventing and Controlling of Heavy Metal Pollution during the 12th Five-year Plan Period. More than 300,000 tons of chromium slag was treated in the year, almost equal the total discharged volume, and 17 batches of solid waste were prevented from illegal entry. The revised Civil Procedure Law, which went into force January 1, 2013, established the environment-related public interest litigation system, stipulating that law-designated governmental organs and organizations can legally challenge activities that damage the public interest, such as those polluting the environment and those infringing consumers' lawful rights and interests. According to the Interpretation of Several Issues Concerning the Application of the Law in the Handling of Criminal Cases of Environmental Pollution

jointly issued by the Supreme People's Court and the Supreme People's Procuratorate in June 2013, environmental crimes will be harshly punished, and the environmental regulatory authorities' misprisions in environmental monitoring will be liable to extra punishment. In 2013 public security organs all over China filed 779 environmental cases and roped in 1,265 criminal suspects; people's procuratorates at all levels charged 20,969 suspects with major contamination accidents, illegally mining or illegally felling trees, investigated 1,290 officials for work-related crimes in projects concerning environmental monitoring, pollution control and ecosystems restoration, and required related government departments to fulfil their statutory duty of supervision according to law by means of prosecutorial advice and urging them to bring to light illegal conduct; people's courts at all levels accepted and heard 134 environmental cases, with 104 concluded, and applied criminal sanctions to 139 persons. Moreover, the Supreme People's Court announced such typical cases of environmental-pollution crimes as the Zijin Mining Group's pollution spill at the Zijinshan Gold and Copper Mine, pollution accidents of Chengjiang Jinye Industry and Trade Co., Ltd. in Yunnan, a pollution accident of Yunguang Chemical Industry Co., Ltd. in Chongqing, and the dumping of hazardous substances by Hu Wenbiao and Ding Yuesheng.

#### **IX. Foreign Exchanges and Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights**

In 2013 China continued to take the initiative in exchanges and cooperation with other countries in the realm of human rights. It played a constructive role in the UN's human rights bodies and endeavored to promote the sound development of human rights on the international stage.

Participating in UN multilateral human rights conferences. Chinese delegations attended the relevant meetings of the Third Committee of the 68th Session of the UN General Assembly and the Committee on Non-governmental Organizations, and the 22nd to 24th sessions of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC), and participated in the 15th to 17th sessions of the HRC's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Team. In those meetings, China played a constructive role by stating its views on human rights policies and proactively participating in reviews and discussions of human rights issues.

Passing the UPR second cycle. China passed its second UPR in October 2013 at Geneva. Representatives of the most of the 137 states participating the review fully acknowledged China's achievements and progress in human rights, supporting China in further promoting and protecting human rights based on its actual conditions. With an open mind and in a serious manner, the Chinese government positively responded to the suggestions and opinions raised by other countries' representatives during the review, accepting 204 opinions (81 percent of all the opinions) concerning over 20 fields, including poverty reduction, education and the judiciary. The review report of China's second UPR was adopted by the HRC March 20, 2014.

Attaching great importance to the implementation of international human rights conventions. China has joined 26 international human rights conventions, including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. In 2013 China submitted to the Committee Against Torture (CAT) the sixth report of its implementation of the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. China's consolidated report of the third and fourth implementations of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and first report of implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict passed the review of the Committee on the Rights of the Child without a hitch.

Taking an active part in UN activities concerning human rights. On November 12, 2013, China was elected with 176 votes an HRC member state for 2014-2016. China continued to support the work of the UN's Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), promising to raise its donations to the OHCHR to US\$800,000 each year from 2014 to 2017. It received a visit from the HRC's working group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice. The Chinese government actively participated in and promoted the intergovernmental process of the UN General Assembly on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system, and attended several rounds of multilateral unofficial negotiations and seminars to set forth its position and assertions on improving the human rights treaty body system. Chinese experts were elected as members of the HRC Advisory Committee and CAT.

Increasing mutual understanding through dialogues and communication on human rights. China held human rights communication and discussions with Russia and Pakistan, and human rights dialogues with the United States, the European Union, Germany and other countries. It sent legal experts to hold dialogues with their US counterparts, conducted technical cooperation projects on human rights with Australia and received a visit from the European Union's Special Representative for Human Rights. It also sent a delegation to attend the 13th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Informal Seminar on Human Rights. The China Society for Human Rights Studies and the China Foundation for Human Rights Development jointly held the sixth session of the Beijing Forum on Human Rights. Focusing on "Constructing an Environment for Sustainable Human Rights Development," the forum discussed in a broad and profound way the relationship between human rights and the rule of law, social progress and regional security.

Working closely with other countries, China will continue to spare no efforts to promote the healthy development of human rights worldwide.



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DISPATCHES: *A look at human rights in the news today*

[ALL DISPATCHES »](#) [1]

## **Dispatches: China's Repression Isn't Public Order** [2]

July 8, 2014



[3]

Sophie Richardson [3]

[4]

Peacefully holding aloft banners calling for an end to corruption. Peacefully protesting outside government buildings. Peacefully gathering to commemorate historical anniversaries. These efforts have in recent months led to activists in China being charged – and in some cases sentenced – for such “crimes” as “gathering a crowd to disrupt social order.”

Zhang Shaojie, a pastor in Henan province, was sentenced on July 4 to a shocking 12 years in prison on this charge and on a second charge of “fraud” after attending church meetings and assisting congregants to seek redress in disputes with local officials. The fact that his church was registered with local authorities, and that no aspect of his conduct presented during legal proceedings could remotely be construed as threatening public order, seems to have made no difference.

Interest in Christianity has surged across China [5] in recent years. Official statistics suggest there are 23 million practitioners, while other surveys suggest there may be three times as many. But as that interest grows, authorities appear to be increasing their efforts to limit their religious activities.

Some of the strategies to limit Christians' ability to practice their faith have been presented as land disputes, including the May 2014 razing of a massive church in Zhejiang province. But as reported by the New York Times [6], that demolition was the direct result of a provincial policy decision to limit Christians' “excessive religious sites” and “overly popular” activities. Severe restrictions on the freedom of religion are already well-known to Tibetan Buddhists [7] and Uighur Muslims [8].

The Chinese government has multiple objections to religious freedom: authorities dislike organizations outside the immediate control of the party-state, and dislike individuals' adherence to alternative beliefs. And these play out in an environment in which the government has moved to limit the already narrow space for the freedom of expression, the rule of law, the ability of independent organizations to operate, and the right to a fair trial.

Increasing social grievances and violence across China do not diminish the state's obligation to provide public order. But its tactics – of crushing opportunities for peaceful free expression, practice of religion, and organizing – are utterly inimical to that goal. Pastor Zhang, and all others spuriously charged with “disturbing public order,” should be released immediately.

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**Source URL:** <http://www.hrw.org/news/2014/07/08/dispatches-china-s-repression-isn-t-public-order>

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# Global Economics Monthly: July 2014

## China: The Long and Short of Economic Reform

Author: Robert Kahn, Steven A. Tananbaum Senior Fellow for International Economics

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Accessed 17 July 2014

### Overview

**Bottom Line: China looks on track to meet this year's growth target, but at the cost of delayed reform and growing imbalances. Should markets care?**

Recent news on the Chinese economy is good: second-quarter growth of 7.5 percent beat market expectations. Though government officials warned of a possible future slowdown, they remain confident that the economy will achieve its 7.5 percent growth target this year. Although gross domestic product (GDP) is far from a perfect measure of economic activity in China—in fact Beijing has been trying to downplay its importance for markets—other indicators of activity, such as manufacturing, exports, and use of raw materials, similarly show an economy that has been resilient to domestic and external shocks. Put aside questions about the accuracy of official statistics and the economy's forward momentum, easy credit conditions and the capacity of policymakers to provide additional stimulus all point to the target being met. Most private forecasters agree.

Though the markets are appropriately buoyed by the notion of a resilient Chinese economy, there are a number of reasons for concern over the next five years. In recent years, and notably since the Great Recession, extraordinarily high and rising levels of investment fueled by easy credit and a free-spending government have been the primary driver of Chinese growth. As a share of the economy, Chinese investment in 2013 rose to about 50 percent of GDP, more than double that of industrial countries and well in excess of other major emerging markets. This investment overshooting reflects a range of distortive policies at both local and central government levels, and has resulted in rising bad debts and massive excess capacity in real estate, construction, and manufacturing. These imbalances continue to build, and though the government has large financial buffers to address any future crisis, the scale of the adjustment that will ultimately be needed grows with each passing year.

*Investment overshooting reflects a range of*

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capacity.***

The government's latest economic reform strategy was launched with great fanfare at the third plenum of the eighteenth Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in November 2013. Ambitious and comprehensive, Beijing's roadmap promised to reduce the role of the state in the economy and address government-fueled distortions over the longer term. Measures included efforts to reduce regulatory and administrative burdens and reform taxation, and make more land available for commercial purposes. Demographic, migration, and land policies were at the core of the economic reform effort, as was an effort to impose hard budget constraints on state and local governments. The announcement was generally embraced at the time by both analysts and markets as having the potential for meaningful improvements in China's land, labor, and capital markets, as well as its capacity to boost sustainable long-term economic growth. It was always anticipated that reform would be gradual, but observers hoped to see material economic reforms by now.

Much has been written on the reforms that followed. The government has taken initial steps to address land reform, tightened oversight of the non-bank "shadow" financial system, begun the process of liberalizing conventional banking markets, and improved the rule of law. Separately, parallel discussions with the United States through the Strategic and Economic Dialogue (the most recent of those discussions took place just last week) have signaled a commitment to advance bilateral investment and trade cooperation, and China's bilateral trade and investment negotiations with a range of countries have generally liberalized market access. But, overall, the first half of 2014 has seen the promise of reform more than its delivery. Indeed, since the plenum, for all the changes that have taken place, growth still remains reliant on the old model of easy credit and fiscal stimulus. From this perspective, the "rebalancing" of the Chinese economy from an export-driven, manufacturing- and investment-focused model to a more consumption-based and domestic demand-driven model, where markets are allowed greater freedom to allocate resources, remains a long-term goal.

The slow pace of reform, and the sense that the government has stepped back from earlier reform efforts aimed at cracking down on excessive financial leverage in the shadow financial sector and reining in undisciplined lending policies, likely reflect a broad range of political and economic concerns, including concerns about the pace of economic growth, social stability, and a slumping real estate market burdened by massive excess capacity. After an initial tightening, overall macroeconomic policy appears to have been loosened in support of growth and to avoid financial distress. In June, for instance, both the central bank and the banking regulator relaxed lending rules, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises and agriculture. Though described as selective, the overall effect of the change was significant, according to Xinxin Li of the Observatory Group. And, though talk is hawkish, moral suasion appears to be encouraging lending and perpetuation of the same distortive practices that lead to the financial problems in the first place. It likely will require a substantial improvement in construction and real estate markets before the authorities would consider tightening again.

Herein lies the conundrum. Although some structural reform can be growth-supporting in the short term, most of it is not. Most of the reform agenda will be disruptive in the short term, as it means recognizing losses, imposing hard budget constraints, and shifting resources away from currently profitable uses to more efficient purposes. Such shifts are easier to handle when growth is strong, but in the current environment, where the government is consolidating political power and slowing growth raises concerns about social stability, the political pressure to go slow on reform is profound. It is not surprising, therefore, that the government has slowed the pace of reform. In this environment, imbalances—including high debt levels, particularly among state enterprises and local governments—are bound to keep rising. Specific reforms will probably take months if not years to be rolled out.

***Since the plenum, growth still remains reliant on the old model of easy credit and fiscal stimulus.***

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has argued in the past that strong growth provides the space for accelerated reform, but of course the opposite may be true: political demands for a particular growth target can limit the scope of reforms that slow growth in the short term. But delaying reform may make the eventual adjustment much more difficult. Even the IMF, in its most recent statement on China, highlighted that vulnerabilities and challenges present a risk of a sharp growth slowdown over the medium term, if not properly addressed.

#### ***The Reform-Growth Dilemma: A Broader View***

***Most of the reform agenda will be disruptive in the short term, imposing hard budget constraints, and shifting resources away from currently profitable uses to more efficient purposes.***

The dilemma between growth and reform has recently been highlighted by, among others, economist Michael Pettis. He criticizes the idea that there is an accepted growth model, or "Beijing consensus," that can neatly explain China's growth performance in recent years. Pettis instead points to a tension between the government's desire to provide a growth-supportive environment today through improved "social capital" (the legal framework, the financial system, the nature of corporate governance, taxes, political practices and traditions, and other incentives to create value today) and the desire to create incentives for individuals and businesses to use resources efficiently and productively over the longer term. Rent-seeking behavior reinforces and creates inertial pressures for the former and against the later.

Long-term reforms are difficult to implement, Pettis points out, because they often require a dismantling of the distortions and frictions that create rent for the elite, thus undermining the ability of the elite to capture a disproportionate share of the benefits of growth. Liberalizing reforms are likely to be resisted by elites that have benefitted from their absence, unless supported by sufficient wealth or productivity to raise all boats. In Pettis's view, what China needs now is another set of liberalizing reforms that create

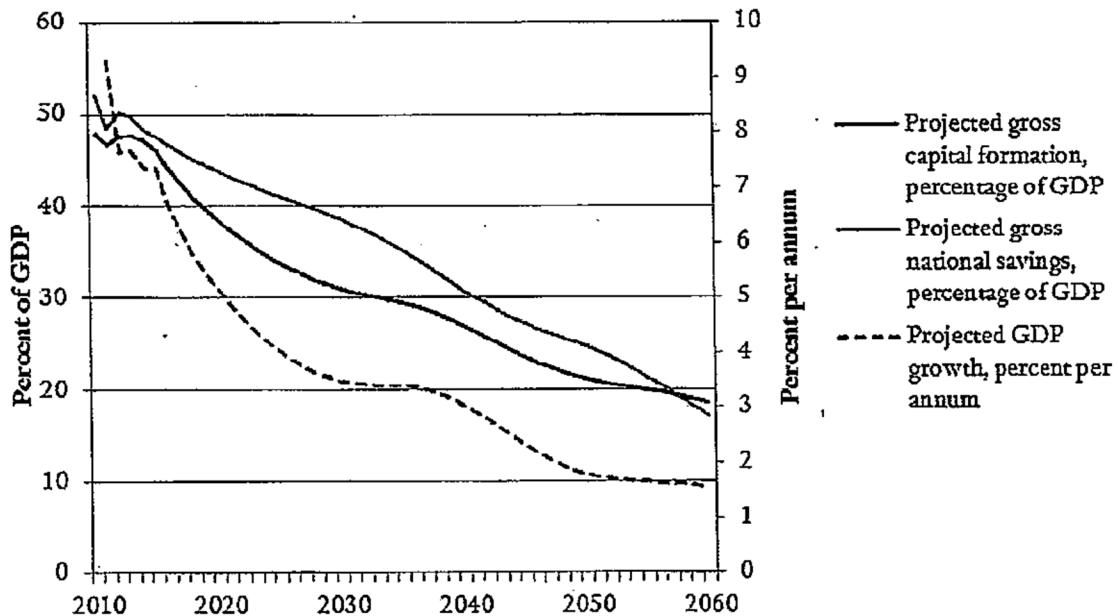
incentives for Chinese individuals and businesses to change their behaviors in ways that generate long-term productivity and growth. These must include changing the legal structure, predictably enforcing business law, changing the way capital is priced and allocated, and other factors that determine incentives. But, in Pettis's view, these reforms will likely be resisted by elites until debt levels are high enough to create a greater sense of urgency.

*Less Time Than We Think to Take Action*

At the end of the day, the incentives to push pack the inevitable and necessary rebalancing of the Chinese economy should raise concerns that the adjustment to come will be more difficult and disruptive in terms of financial distress and effects on labor markets in China. Market forecasts are more sanguine, with most analysts seeing a steady reduction in trend growth to somewhere in the range of 5 to 6 percent. (Figure 1 shows the OECD's long-term forecast for China, which illustrates the optimistic, soft-landing scenario.)

Figure 1: Softlanding for the Chinese Economy?

**China's projected capital formation, savings rate, and growth, as percentage of gross domestic product (GDP)**



Source: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Statistical Database

Such a soft landing provides a politically acceptable pace of job growth and allows reform to proceed in line with political realities. I am not so sure. The rapid rate of debt accumulation cannot be sustained for long, forcing the government to tap large (but politically contentious) reserve funds and fiscal buffers. Predicting the exact timing of crises is difficult; when crises happen, they happen in a day. The above

analysis suggests that the political incentives are strongly tilted toward delaying reform until a crisis presents itself and that the rapid growth of imbalances will threaten the growth model faster than the authorities expect. All of this indicates that the markets' comforting assumption of a soft landing may be unfounded.

Uighur Human Rights Project - <http://uhrp.org/about>

Uyghurs (alternatively spelled Uighurs, Uygurs, etc.) are ethnically and culturally a Turkic people living in the areas of Central Asia commonly known as East Turkestan. The area is vast, constituting one-sixth of the total land area under the control of the People's Republic of China. The Uyghurs have a rich cultural history going back almost 4,000 years. Before embracing Islam in tenth century, Uyghurs believed in Buddhism, Manichaeism and Nestorian Christianity. Today, Uyghurs practice a moderate form of Sufi Islam and lead predominantly secular lives.

#### **Background**

East Turkestan has a rich and distinctive history, enhanced by its position along the Silk Road bridging mainland China and the ancient Arabic, Persian and European cultures to the west. Since 1949, East Turkestan has become a nuclear testing ground for the Chinese military, it is home to large numbers of Chinese military and paramilitary units, and it is the site of numerous forced labor camps administered by the Chinese authorities.

The population of approximately 19 million includes several Turkic-speaking Muslim ethnic groups, of which the Uyghurs, numbering more than eight million, are the largest. As a result of Chinese government policies, the percentage of ethnic Chinese in East Turkestan has grown from four percent in 1949 to more than 40 percent at present, constituting some 7.5 million people.

Much like Tibetans, Uyghurs in East Turkestan have struggled for cultural survival in the face of a government-supported influx of Chinese migrants, as well as harsh repression of political dissent and any expression, of their distinct identity, however lawful or peaceful.

Reports from East Turkestan document a pattern of abuse including political imprisonment, torture, and disappearances. With only a few extremely rare exceptions, Uyghurs continue to be the only population in China consistently subjected to executions for political and religious offenses. Mosques are summarily closed and the Uyghur language is banned from use in schools. Uyghurs are subjected to compulsory unpaid labor on infrastructures, such as oil or gas lines to transfer East Turkestan's resources to mainland China.

Trapped in a Virtual Cage: Chinese State Repression of Uyghurs Online, Uyghur Human Rights Project, 16 June 2014, <http://uhrp.org/press-release/trapped-virtual-cage-chinese-state-repression-uyghurs-online.html> - Accessed 29 July 2014

The internet is used as a tool of state propaganda and a medium to root out peaceful opposition. Internet users in Xinjiang, especially those from the Uigher community, face directed censorship, denial of access and targeted detentions.

Internet culture among Uighers post-2009 turned much more circumspect with self-censorship the predominant characteristic of online expression.

the Chinese government has often conflated peaceful dissent with the crimes of terrorism, endangering state security or "splittism." Online peaceful dissent is no different and Chinese officials have targeted Uyghurs with these charges for their Internet activity.



Salkin contributor, Gulmire Imin, received a life sentence for “splittism, leaking state secrets and organizing an illegal demonstration;” Diyarim founder and webmaster, Dilshat Perhat was handed five years imprisonment on “endangering state security charges;” Xabnam webmaster, Nijat Azat was sentenced to ten years imprisonment for “endangering state security;” and founder of Uighurbiz, Ilham Tohti is currently facing charges of “splittism.” All of these cases fell far short of international standards of due process.

Chinese censors regularly fail to delete overtly racist and discriminatory posts by Chinese Internet users directed at Uyghurs while contributions to websites by Uyghurs displaying opposition to government policy lead to censorship and on frequent occasion criminal charges. Uyghur people face discrimination while using Chinese social media sites like Sina Weibo, WeChat and Renren including obstacles to signing up, posting content, and even searching for Uyghur names.

#### **Internet controls**

Forms of Internet control range from the macro-level (such as blocking access to the entire Internet), to micro-level tactics such as the tailored censorship of specific websites or search terms. At the macro-level, Internet access has been disabled in East Turkestan, most significantly for a period of roughly ten months from 2009-2010.

Connection speeds can also be slowed down to render the Internet unusable, known as “Web throttling,” which has been observed throughout China, especially during politically significant moments. The Chinese government blocks unwanted foreign content. The system of automated filtering of foreign websites is termed the Golden Shield Project, or colloquially referred to as the “Great Firewall.” In this system, entire website domain names or Internet protocol (IP) addresses can be blocked. This layer of censorship targets a wide range of foreign websites, including media and social media, any websites with political messaging deemed inappropriate by China’s government, and pornographic websites.

Another targeted censorship mechanism is TCP (transmission control protocol) connection blocking, which restricts content even though the actual website itself is not blocked. Filters embedded in the Internet backbone, as well as provincial networks, monitor all traffic for certain keywords; a list which is constantly evolving and expanding in response to new censorship directives.

As with TCP blocking, a list of keywords is maintained and posts are filtered, so that those containing the blocked words will register an error message or result in a severed connection.



THE CHURCH OF ALMIGHTY GOD

# **2017 ANNUAL REPORT ON THE CHINESE COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT'S PERSECUTION OF THE CHURCH OF ALMIGHTY GOD**

<https://tr.kingdomsalvation.org>

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## **2017 Annual Report on the Chinese Communist Government's Persecution of the Church of Almighty God**

The Church of Almighty God (CAG), also known as Eastern Lightning, has long been one of the most severely persecuted Chinese house churches by the Chinese Communist government. Since its establishment in 1991, the CAG has continued to endure the brutal repression and persecution of the Chinese Communist government. In 1995, the CCP government used trumped-up charges such as “fraud in the name of religion, Qigong” and “deification of their leading members” to condemn the CAG as an “evil cult” and brutally repress and persecute the CAG. According to rough statistics, in just the two short years between 2011 and 2013, the number of Christians of the CAG illegally arrested, detained and sentenced by the Communist Party reached 380,380 people, of which 43,640 people were subjected to various methods of torture at the hands of kangaroo courts, including 13 people who were persecuted to death. As of now, there are already 44 well-documented cases of Christians of the CAG killed by the Communist Party. (For details, see “A Brief History of the CCP’s Persecution of the Church of Almighty God.”) In 2017, the repression of the CAG by the Communist Party continues to escalate.

### **The CCP Government Increases Suppression of Religious Beliefs**

In 2017, the CCP government issued a “Two High” (Supreme People’s Court and Supreme People’s Procuratorate) judicial interpretation and passed a new “Regulations on Religious Affairs” to further restrict the public right to freedom of religion and increase the suppression and persecution of religious beliefs.

In January 2017, the Supreme People’s Court and the Supreme People’s Procuratorate jointly released the “Interpretation of the Supreme People’s Court

and the Supreme People's Procuratorate on Several Issues concerning the Application of Law in the Handling of Criminal Cases involving Sabotaging the Enforcement of Laws by Organizing and Utilizing Cult Organizations,"<sup>1</sup> which was officially implemented on February 1, 2017. This "Interpretation" sets out definitions, sentencing, and procedures for determining propaganda materials in relation to so-called "cult organizations," and stipulates severe punishment for seven types of free religious activities, including preaching in schools or education and training institutions, preaching to minors, public servants engaging in religious activities, and so forth. The issuance of this document has expanded the scope of criminal law and involves the deprivation of citizens' political rights and restriction of personal freedom, and provides more legal bases for the Communist Party to increase the conviction and punishment of Christians of house churches such as the CAG.

On August 26, 2017, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang signed the newly revised "Regulations on Religious Affairs,"<sup>2</sup> with the regulations set to be implemented on February 1, 2018. The new regulations pay much more attention to the management of religious institutions, and significantly increase the restrictions of the staging of religious activities in unregistered spaces. In addition, the regulations provide clear prohibitions against religious education and training and foreign exchanges that have not been officially approved by the government, and add many bans and supervisory provisions related to the finances, publications and online propaganda of religious affairs. The new regulations endow government departments and the State Administration for Religious Affairs with extreme surveillance and administrative powers and provide a powerful legal basis for the future suppression, persecution and

<sup>1</sup> "Interpretation of the Supreme People's Court and the Supreme People's Procuratorate on Several Issues concerning the Application of Law in the Handling of Criminal Cases involving Sabotaging the Enforcement of Laws by Organizing and Utilizing Cult Organizations": [http://www.spp.gov.cn/zdgz/201701/t20170126\\_179794.shtml](http://www.spp.gov.cn/zdgz/201701/t20170126_179794.shtml)

<sup>2</sup> The newly revised "Regulations on Religious Affairs": [http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/content/2017-09/07/content\\_5223282.htm](http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/content/2017-09/07/content_5223282.htm)

prohibition of religious beliefs. In particular, the religious activities, religious education, and overseas religious activities of house churches have all been completely throttled on the face of the regulations.

### **The CCP Government Issued Orders to Launch Special Household Survey Operation, Further Expanding Scope of Persecution**

On January 14, 2017, Zhou Qiang, president of the Supreme People's Court of China, mentioned the need to deepen the struggle against evil cults during the National Supreme People's Court Chief Justice Forum, asking to increase punishment efforts against the CAG.<sup>3</sup>

Since early 2017, the Chinese Communist government has launched a full-scale special household survey in Mainland China ("Door-knocking Operation"), knocking on every door of the homes and households to search for the members of so-called "evil cults," and conducting a "blanket" and "dragnet" inspection. According to the internal instructions of the Chinese Communist Party,<sup>4</sup> the purpose of this operation is to gain a comprehensive grasp of the systems, numbers, and direction of activities of the members of so-called "evil cults," while also implementing an operation to hunt down those who have escaped and the sharing of an "evil cult members information management system" ("database"), thereby creating a management and monitoring network and a "single account book" on all the details of evil cults. This operation has subjected Christians of the CAG to persecution on an even larger scale.

Based on incomplete statistics from the start of the 2017 to September 30 of the same year, at least 3,362 Christians of the CAG were subjected to the

<sup>3</sup> Zhou Qiang's speech at the national meeting of the presidents of the higher people's courts on January 14, 2017: <http://m.news.cctv.com/2017/01/14/ARTIWqum00Madv43F96Mcqh170114.shtml>

<sup>4</sup> The "2017 Main Work Points of the Leading Group of the Henan Provincial Party Committee for Preventing and Dealing with the Problem of Evil Cults": <https://drive.google.com/file/d/12AZJu0PgNq8jheNJM6uQaBOneLlaY5CC/view>

persecution of the Communist Party in Mainland China's 32 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities: 2,122 people were placed under residential surveillance, including having their personal information collected, being threatened into writing "letters of guarantee," being forced into being photographed, video recorded, monitored, and having their fingerprints, blood samples and hair collected; 204 people had their homes illegally searched; 1,036 people were illegally arrested. Among the statistics of those persecuted this year, documented cases include 57 people sentenced to imprisonment, 25 people subjected to torture, 12 people being forcibly indoctrinated, and 592 people subjected to short-term or long-term detainment. (Attachment: "Selected 2017 Cases")

As the Communist government is currently carrying out a full-scale investigation and making wanton arrests of Christians of the CAG, 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 Christians of the CAG arrested and persecuted this year, the above statistics are only the tip of the iceberg.

### **The CCP Government Expands "Overseas United Front" Work, Seeks to Legalize Its Persecution of the Church of Almighty God**

Ever since the "May 28 McDonald's Murder Case" in 2014, Christians of the CAG have been forced to flee to various overseas countries to seek asylum and escape the increasingly brutal arrest and persecution of the CCP government. The Communist government followed by extending its operations of capturing and persecuting Christians to foreign countries and strengthening



its "Overseas United Front" work, the focus of which is to persecute the CAG in other countries. In 2017, the Communist government on the one hand strictly controlled domestic residents leaving the country and deepened checks on overseas Christians of the CAG and their family backgrounds, seeking to use their families to threaten Christians into returning to China. The CCP forced some relatives of the fugitive Christians abroad to apply for passports, organized them to manufacture public opinions abroad, framing, slandering, discrediting, and attacking the Church of Almighty God, instigating the masses that do not know the truth to rise up and oppose the Church of Almighty God, restricting the survival space of the fugitive Christians, and attempting to force the Christians to return to China to continue enduring its persecution.

At the same time, the Communist government invited experts, academics, journalists, and overseas Chinese leaders of Western countries and continued to disseminate fake information to smear and condemn the CAG, aiming to use influential individuals in the West to speak for them suppressing and persecuting the CAG.

The "2017 Main Work Points of the Leading Group of the Henan Provincial Party Committee for Preventing and Dealing with the Problem of Evil Cults" issued by the Communist Party on April 5, 2017 proposes taking full advantage of foreign channels friendly to the Communist Party overseas, and mobilizing quite influential experts, academics, journalists and overseas Chinese leaders, etc. in Western countries to advocate their cause.

In June and September of the same year, the Communist Party held separate international anti-cult academic conferences in Henan and Hong Kong. The core issue of the conferences was to discuss the Communist Party's definition of "evil cults," and why the Communist Party condemns the CAG as a cult

organization. The Communist Party invited several renowned European and American religious experts and academics to the conference and utilized rumors such as the May 28 McDonald's Murder case to continue smearing the CAG, seeking to confuse Western scholars into agreeing with the Communist Party's condemnation of the CAG and legalize its move to persecute the CAG, thus thoroughly eradicating the CAG.

Accordingly, Professor Massimo Introvigne, the managing director of Italy's Center for Studies on New Religions (CESNUR) who was twice invited to the Communist Party conferences conducted an in-depth study of the McDonald's Murder in Zhaoyuan city. In the end, he concluded: The May 28 Zhaoyuan murder case was completely unrelated to the CAG, and none of the perpetrators were ever members of the CAG. He also published an article summarizing his research related to the May 28 Murder in the September-October 2017 issue of "The Journal of CESNUR."<sup>5</sup> Not long after, David G. Bromley, a prominent American professor of Religious Studies and Sociology at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA, jointly investigated all documents provided by the Communist Party in relation to the McDonald's murder together with professor Massimo Introvigne and once again indicated that the perpetrators were "members of a different, independent group" and not the CAG. The results of the research of these religious experts shatter the Communist Party's defamatory rumors that the Zhaoyuan murder was an act of the CAG.<sup>6</sup> Media outlets such as the European Federation for Freedom of Belief,<sup>7</sup> Italy's Counseling Center SRS (Sectes, Religions, Spirituality),<sup>8</sup> and

<sup>5</sup> "Cruel Killing, Brutal Killing, Kill the Beast": Investigating the 2014 McDonald's "Cult Murder" in Zhaoyuan:

[http://cesnur.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/tjoc\\_1\\_1\\_6\\_introvigne\\_ter.pdf](http://cesnur.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/tjoc_1_1_6_introvigne_ter.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> Lü Yingchun - Zhang Fan Group: <https://wrlrels.org/2017/10/16/lu-yingchun-zhang-fan-group/>

<sup>7</sup> Persecuting the Church of Almighty God as "Xie jiao" in China:

<https://freedomofbelief.net/articles/persecuting-the-church-of-almighty-god-as-xie-jiao-in-china>

<sup>8</sup> SRS: <http://www.dimarzio.info/en/articles/religious-minorities/496-the-church-of-almighty-god.html>

South Korea's Prime Business Journal (프라임 경제)<sup>9</sup> and NBN News<sup>10</sup> have also reported objectively on the May 28 Murder case. The real truth behind the May 28 incident is gradually becoming known and accepted by the world.

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9 "중국 맥도날드 살인 사건을 아시나요"... 어느 종교 단체의 눈물: <http://www.newsprime.co.kr/news/article.html?no=381479>  
10 NBN: <http://www.nbnnews.co.kr/m/view.php?idx=105951>

## **Attachment I: Selected 2017 Cases**

### **(1) Twice Arrested, the Whereabouts of a Christian in Kaifeng City, Henan Province, Are Yet Unknown**

Cheng Xiaodong (female, 56, Weishi County, Kaifeng City), a Christian member of the Church of Almighty God, was reported to the police by an informant for believing in God. On October 22, 2012, after spending the evening on preaching the gospel, she was arrested by four policemen from the local police station on the way home.

At the police station, Cheng Xiaodong was interrogated by three policemen: "When did you start believing in God? Who induced you?" When Xiao Dong did not answer, the police blew pepper spray at her. She was violently beaten by three policemen afterward, resulting in multiple contusions. A policeman fiercely said to her, "Let you feel how it is to have your skull and bones cracked!"

In the evening of October 23, at 8:00, Cheng Xiaodong was moved to the detention center in Kaifeng by four policemen. After she spent 38 days in the detention center, two policemen from the police station again interrogated her, "What do you believe in? Tell us, or we will let you rot in here. Let your son collect your corpse!" Finally, the police accused Cheng Xiaodong of "participating in a cult and disrupting public order" and detained her for 11 months at the detention center. She was released on September 25, 2013.

Upon Cheng Xiaodong's release, she learned that her house was searched after she had been arrested. In order to evade arrest, her Christian husband fled overnight to Kaifeng City in the bitter winter over a 100-kilometers trek and began to lead a fugitive life. Not until she was released did her husband dare to

return home. During that period, Cheng's family spent RMB6,500 to smooth things out for Cheng Xiaodong with the authorities.

After being released, Cheng Xiaodong was under the surveillance of the CCP police. From time to time, the police made Cheng Xiaodong report to the Public Security Bureau and police station. They even made Cheng Xiaodong's son and daughter-in-law monitor her movements. In the years following her release, the couple's rights to believe in God and assemble were completely deprived by the persecution of the CCP.

On May 17, 2017, the police again broke into Cheng Xiaodong's house and took her away forcibly. She has not returned home since then; her whereabouts and fate are still unclear ...

**(2) A Christian in Handan City, Hebei Province, Was Hunted for Preaching the Gospel and Placed on the Wanted List. His Family Members Were Implicated. His Son Was Taken Away by the Police, Whose Whereabouts Have Been Unknown To-date.**

At about 11 am on December 17, 2012, Meng Zhenghao, a Christian member of the Church of Almighty God in Handan City, Hebei Province, was driving in his van with a 65-year-old Christian (carrying a baby) on their way to a village to preach the gospel. On the way, Meng Zhenghao was tailed by four policemen in a police vehicle from the township police station. At the same time, three policemen were led by the township mayor in a sedan to intercept him in the front. Subsequently, two policemen led by the township police station chief in a vehicle also participated in the arrest. The township mayor let the police put bricks, wooden blocks and other obstacles on the road, and

dispatched two trucks to block the road. Surrounded and intercepted by the mayor and police, Meng was forced to stop. The police station chief grabbed Meng by the collar and gave him two hard slaps on the face. Three policemen rushed over, pushed Meng on the ground and handcuffed him from behind. The police forcibly lifted Meng up and pushed him inside the police vehicle without producing any credentials and took him to the police station. Two policemen even fiercely smashed the windshield of Meng's vehicle with wooden sticks.

The police ordered Meng Zhenghao to sit on a torture-rack. He was interrogated by a 30-year-old plainclothes policeman: "What are you doing here? What is in your vehicle?" Meng honestly told the police that there were personal belongings inside. The police then started to search Meng's van where the older Christian wanted to protect the evangelical items. But the police forcefully wrested the baby out of her arms, dragged her off the vehicle and took three MP5 players, books on belief in God and forty copies of evangelical materials, Meng's ID card, vehicle license, driver's license and RMB35,000 in cash from the van. When some elderly Christians in the church heard that all the evangelical materials and personal belongings carried by Meng were confiscated by the police, they went to the police station and reasoned with the police, demanding that they release Meng and return the seized items. The station chief only agreed to release Meng but refused to return his belongings, and denied the fact of having seized RMB35,000 from Meng. The Christians present were angry when they heard that. An elderly Christian with hemiplegia again demanded that the police return Meng's money, but she was pushed in the snow by a 35-year-old policeman, causing her to have a hemiplegic stroke. Seeing what was happening, the police reluctantly let Meng drive the older Christian to see a doctor, trying to seize the moment to send them away. However, Meng insisted on recovering his money and belongings. Several

elderly Christians also demanded the police station to return the belongings of Meng. Daunted by the people's escalating anger, the station leaders were forced to return some of Meng's personal belongings but forcibly kept Meng's identity information and fingerprints. Eager to send the older Christian to see a doctor, Meng did not count the money, just to find that of the RMB35,000, RMB3,900 was missing when he returned home. It turned out that the police had blatantly robbed Meng of his money.

About 1 am the next day, more than 30 policemen surrounded the courtyard of Meng Zhenghao. Six of them climbed over the wall and proceeded to ransack the house without showing any credentials. They did not find any faith-related items. Because Meng was not at home, they had to give up. But the police did not stop going after Meng. Later the police suspected that a relative of Meng was a Christian member of the Church of Almighty God. They used the same method to break into his home by climbing over the wall in the middle of the night. At that time, the three women in the house thought that the intruders were robbers and screamed in horror, "Help! Robbers!" One of the intruders said they were policemen but didn't produce any credentials before ransacking the house. They pulled blankets and clothes from the closets, scattering things all about and creating a mess. They swaggered off after no evidence was found.

Since then, in order to evade the CCP police's arrest, Meng's wife had also been forced to flee with a pair of children (Christians). In July 2013, the police repeatedly went to Meng's hometown to arrest him without success. They also went to the home of Meng's younger brother's family and asked him about the whereabouts of Meng and his mobile phone number. They coaxed his younger brother and 70-year-old mother, saying, "It will be alright if you take out some money to have Meng's record cleared." They also monitored his brother's

mobile phone afterward. In September 2013, the police brought the two children (7 and 9) of a Christian who was acquainted with Meng to the police station for interrogation about Meng's whereabouts. Meng was forced to relocate, his 13-year-old son dropped out of school and stayed at home, and her daughter could not go to work. In 2014, a relative of Meng who worked at the Public Security Bureau informed Meng that the police had posted a warrant with an offer of reward online for his arrest. In August 2016, Meng heard from his mother that the provincial authorities had frozen his household account. Since Meng's family had a joined household account, Meng's brother was restricted from getting a car loan, registering his household, and using his cash-advance cards, causing trouble to the normal life of his entire family. The police even inquired about Meng's whereabouts with his cousin but to no avail. Listening to his mother, Meng indignantly said, "In China, one's belief in God is really a crime that implicates his entire clan!"

It was reported that on the evening of March 28, 2017, the police entered the house at night and arrested Meng Zhenghao's 17-year-old son and brought him to the County Public Security Bureau. After the provincial task force took him away, his whereabouts are still unknown to-date. Since the arrest in 2013, Meng's family have been living a displaced and homeless life in order to evade arrest by the Chinese Communist government. So far, he has been unable to care for his old mother or inquire about the news of his son, agonizing over his shattered family and homelessness.

**(3) In Heze City, Shandong Province, Six Christians Were Arrested, Five of Whom Were Extorted for RMB 155,000.**



On March 10, 2017 at about 3 pm, in Heze City's Mudan District, three Christians by the names of Zhang Qiulan (female, 53), Li Lanying (female, 74) and Wang Xiuli (female, 60) who were congregating at the home of a local Christian Tian Aiju (female, 71) had been reported by informants. Several plainclothes policemen from the local Public Security Bureau broke into the house without producing any identification and ransacked Tian Aiju's home on the pretext of "unlawful gathering." They seized Tian Aiju's books on belief in God, two MP5 players, her identity card (all unreturned), and then escorted the four of them to a guesthouse.

Inside the guesthouse, the police interrogated them separately. The police questioned Zhang Qiulan about "for how many years she had believed in God, who preached the gospel to her, how many churches there were, who the leaders were and so on" without results. The other three people were also interrogated one by one but to no avail.

Due to her old age, Li Lanying was released on the day of her arrest.

On March 11, the police escorted Zhang Qiulan and the other two to the local detention center.

On the same day, unaware that Tian Aiju had been arrested, Li Qing (female, 33) and Zhang Meilan (female, 61), Christian members of the Church of Almighty God living in Heze City, went to her place for some reason. Three plain-clothed policemen stationing at Tian Aiju's home forcibly arrested Li and Zhang and took them to a guesthouse. Inside, the police reprimanded Li Qing, "Your belief in God is counter-revolutionary!" Li Qing retorted, "We believe in the only true God who created all things in heaven and earth, and we believe in God without participating in politics. The Constitution of the People's Republic of China explicitly stipulates that Chinese citizens enjoy the right of religious

freedom. Why do you prohibit people from believing in God?" The police quibbled, "The freedom of belief refers to believing in the Three-Self Church!" The interrogation did not yield any results. During that period, Li Qing's husband hired a defense lawyer for her, but the lawyer was in cohort with the CCP police. They coerced Li to write a guarantee that she would no longer believe in God, which she angrily rejected. During her interrogation, the police arranged for someone to search the home of Li Qing, seizing a total of fifteen copies of faith-related materials (unreturned). On March 12, the police charged Li Qing with the offense of "using a cult organization to undermine the implementation of the law" and escorted her to the detention center.

On March 16, the police ordered Wang Xiuli's family to pay a fine of RMB 27,000 (without receipt) and released her.

On March 17, the police ordered Tian Aiju's family to pay a fine of RMB 25,000 (without receipt) for the release of Tian Aiju on bail pending trial.

At about 9 am on March 18, the police fined Zhang Qiulan for RMB 40,000 and ordered her family members to spend a total of over RMB 10,000 on gifts (both without receipts) for her release on bail pending trial.

On March 23, after failing to interrogate Zhang Meilan, the police fined her for RMB 12,000 and ordered her family to spend a total of RMB 8,000 on gifts (both without receipts) and released her on bail pending trial.

As of April 2, since Li Qing's arrest, her family had spent for her early release from prison, RMB 3,500 in lawyer's fees, the sum of RMB 2,000 to feast the officials and buy them gifts, and a fine of RMB 28,000 (all without receipts) for Li Qing's release on bail pending trial.

**(4) A Christian Couple in Nanchong City, Sichuan Province, Was Arrested. The Husband Was Sentenced and the Wife Placed Under 24-hour Monitor, Losing Her Personal Freedom Completely.**

Liu Jiayu, female, 43, Nanchong City, Sichuan Province, a Christian member of the Church of Almighty God.

In the evening of March 20, 2014, at 9 o'clock, six plainclothes policemen knocked on the door of Liu Jiayu's home on the ground of overhauling the water pipes. When the door was opened, they stormed in and ransacked the house, seizing the books on belief of God, MP4 players, TF cards, a notebook computer, a printer, electrical repair tools and other items (all unreturned to date). Subsequently, the police took Liu Jiayu and her eldest daughter to the China West Normal University guesthouse in Nanchong City for secret interrogation (the Chinese Communist government has leased a total of 23 rooms on the first and second floors of the guesthouse under armed guard. A Christian is confined in each room, guarded by four to five people).

Liu Jiayu's daughter was released on the evening of March 21. At the same time, her husband was arrested (sentenced to 4 years and 6 months' imprisonment and currently is still in a forced labor camp).

On March 23, when Captain Du of a detachment of the State Security Brigade was interrogating Liu Jiayu, he triumphantly said, "This time we are implementing a large-scale arrest of your Church of Almighty God. It is an extended secret tracking program that has lasted for more than a year since the end of 2012. Before the arrest operation, we even posted propaganda notices on the walls of all the communities about the impending spot-check of household accounts. Those unaware of the truth really thought that we were spot-checking household accounts while it was actually the civilian police from the police

station verifying the residence addresses of believers in God in their area of jurisdiction in order to execute foolproof arrests. Our arrest operation was dubbed 'Thunderclap 3-Shock and Awe,' the Special Task Group on No. 14 Case supervised by the Ministry of Public Security mobilizing several hundred people from the public security bureaus of the province, city and county, and the municipal and prefectural State Security Brigade, armed police, SWAT, and civilian police. Under the unified operations of the public security units throughout the province, more than 40 people of your Church of Almighty God were arrested overnight on charges of 'subversion of state power.'" After being continuously interrogated by the police for 9 days, Liu Jiayu was sent on the 29th to the Legal Education Center (an indoctrination base) for indoctrination. After admission, Liu Jiayu was supervised by two accompanying instructors around the clock. Every day they interrogated Liu Jiayu about her belief in God, forcing her to read blasphemous negative propaganda materials and telling her menacingly, "Your belief in God is forbidden by the country. If you do not work with us and tell us everything you know, we will send your children to the orphanage!" Liu Jiayu had been indoctrinated and coerced by the police for more than 30 days. She had been incarcerated at the detention center for more than two months, during which the task force of the State Security Brigade and Provincial Public Security Department came to fetch her for interrogation every two or three days. Due to the arrest of Liu Jiayu and her husband, their family was unsupported. Their eldest daughter was forced to drop out of school to work and two young children were left unattended at home. Under the pressure of public opinions, the CCP police reluctantly released Liu Jiayu on bail pending trial.

On December 9, 2015, the court sentenced Liu Jiayu to imprisonment of three years, suspended for four years, on charges of subversion of state power and “using a cult organization to undermine the implementation of the law.”

On January 16, 2017, Liu Jiayu was summoned to court by telephone and issued a notice of execution of criminal cases which stated, “Your original sentence of three years imprisonment, suspended for four years, has been nullified for re-sentencing. The second adjudication is likewise three years imprisonment, suspended for four years, effective from January 5, 2017 to January 4, 2021. You have to serve another four years of extra-prison term.” She was taken to the Justice Bureau where the bailiff forcibly attached on her a pair of electronic handcuffs with positioning and eavesdropping functions (watch-like shape) and warned her, “From now on, this gadget must be worn 24 hours a day, even when you are taking a bath. If it is removed, it will automatically alert the police. If you leave the central district of Nanchong City, it will automatically alert the police too!” Liu Jiayu was also ordered to send a text message to the Judiciary Bureau once a week, attend a meeting at the Judiciary Bureau each month, write and submit an ideological report to the Judiciary Bureau on the 20th or so of each month, and volunteer for 8 hours of labor service at community correctional institution.

Liu Jiayu has completely lost her personal freedom and normal church life. She is living with pains and sorrows under the torment of the CCP police. Liu Jiayu’s daughter has also been living in fear of the police suddenly storming in and taking her mother away again.

**(5) Mother and Daughter in Xiamen City, Fujian Province, Were Arrested and Monitored by the Chinese Communist Government for**

### **Believing in Almighty God.**

Chen Yi (pseudonym, female, 44), a Christian who lived in Tong'an District, Xiamen City, Fujian Province, was arrested by the Chinese Communist police in December 2012 for preaching the gospel. After her release on the same day, on a day of May 2013 at about 8:30 am, she was taken by two civil servants to a hotel room for indoctrination in an attempt to make her renounce her faith. Thereafter, from January 2014 to the 6th of the first lunar month in 2017, government officials had gone to Chen Yi's house every year to spy on her whereabouts for at least eight times.

In July 2014, the CCP resumed arresting the believers in God who had been arrested in the past. Chen Yi was forced to take refuge in a hideout. The village party secretary Lee, several village cadres and town government officials had been looking for Chen at her home and coercing her husband to lure her back under the pretext of building a house at home. Every few days, they went to Chen Yi's workplace to inquire about her whereabouts. As a result, she was dismissed by her work unit two months ahead of schedule as stipulated in her employment contract.

Over the past few years, the Chinese Communist government has been monitoring and harassing Chen Yi frequently, causing her to completely lose her personal freedom. Even her teenage daughter was not spared by the CCP. In the morning of August 17, 2016, when Chen Yi's daughter Chen Ying (pseudonym, 17) was doing homework in a rental house, she heard a burst of rapid knock on the door at about 10 am. When the door was opened, four plainclothes policemen entered. One of the policemen was filming Chen Ying with a video camera. After presenting his credentials, the captain asked, "Who is renting this house here? Do you live here alone? Does anyone come to meet

you here for belief in God?" Then they searched around the room, found Chen's mobile phone, charger, U disk (learning aid), a testimonial article, an MP5 player (the mobile phone and charger were later returned, but not the other items). The police made Chen point at the MP5 player and took pictures. They questioned her again, "Do you know what you believe in? You believe in Almighty God. That is prohibited by the state." Chen retorted, "Doesn't the law say freedom of belief?" The policeman said, "When you go to worship in the temple and the churches regulated by the government, it is permitted. Believing in Almighty God is prohibited." Chen was taken to the police station afterward. At about 3 pm, a policeman brought an arrested Christian member of the Church of Almighty God for Chen Ying to identify. He demanded, "Is she your leader?" She did not admit. Since Chen Ying was under 18, until 11 o'clock at night, they made her sign a "decision of administrative penalty" and released her.

On March 27, 2017, after 4:00 pm, the dean of school told Chen Ying to withdraw from school voluntarily. The teaching director said, "Now the state attaches great importance to this matter. Believing in Almighty God is against the law and forbidden by the state." At that time, Chen was only a month shy of graduating, but she was forced to withdraw from school.

On April 17, 2017, a town government employee brought three policemen from the local police station to Chen Yi's house to inquire about matters related to believing in God. He also asked for Chen's mobile phone number and demanded that she turned on the phone 24 hours each day.

Due to persecution by the Chinese Communist government, Chen Ying's father who initially had not objected to the mother and daughter's faith was extremely distraught. He worried that his younger daughter who was going to

school would be implicated by her mother and sister's belief in God. The arrest and monitor by the Chinese Communist government had cast a shadow over Chen Ying's young mind. The mother and daughter felt anguished and depressed. Chen Yi's husband was overwhelmed; he often took to alcohol for relief. Chen Yi's originally tranquil home was led into turmoil under the menace of the CCP.

**(6) Four Ordinary Christians in Zhoukou City, Henan Province, Were Arrested for Congregating. One Was Tortured and Forced to Flee and Another Was Illegally Detained.**

Zhang Ming, male, 48, Xiangcheng resident; Tang Rong, female, 53; Huang Ying, female, 56; Zhao Beibei, female, 16; all three people were Huaiyang residents. All four people are Christian members of the Church of Almighty God.

On March 28, 2017, past 9 am, the four people were gathering at a meeting place in a village in Huaiyang County. Three policemen from the local police station suddenly arrived in a white van. They stormed into the house and ransacked the place (without showing any credentials), seizing over twenty books on belief in God, one MP5 player and four 32G memory cards. Zhang Ming tried to escape but he was captured by the police and forcibly handcuffed. The four people were pushed into the police car and taken to the local police station. After 11 am, they were transferred to the National Security Brigade of Huaiyang County Public Security Bureau.

At the National Security Brigade, the police made Zhang sit on a torture-rack. At eleven thirty, the police searched the four Christians and interrogated



them separately. A letter, a 32G- and a 16G-memory card were seized from Zhang Ming.

At 2 pm, the captain and a policeman interrogated Zhang Ming. The captain trumped up some charges to frame Zhang, forcing him to admit. When Zhang staunchly refused, the captain was enraged. He walked up and stepped on Zhang's toes, grinding them with his heel. Other policemen on site took turns to slap Zhang and whip his face with a belt for a few dozen times. When they finished, the captain maliciously said, "If you don't admit it, I will make you drink the 'lao hai' (slang for heroin), inject you with heroin, make your body feel like being bitten by bugs all over. When we want you to admit something, you have to admit it. Otherwise we will kill you and send your body to the crematorium. No one will be the wiser when you are turned into ashes! The central government ordered us to treat you who believe in Almighty God cavalierly. We can beat you to death with no one to answer for it!" He then put the leg of a wooden chair over Zhang's toes with a policeman standing on the chair, rocking it back and forth. Tens of minutes later, the wooden chair was replaced with an iron one. The policemen took turns to stand on the iron chair and continued to crush Zhang's toes for tens of minutes while slapping his face repeatedly. Zhang felt that his head was spinning and his eyes seeing stars. He was in so much pain that he screamed, "Just go ahead and kill me!" The policeman said venomously, "That's wishful thinking! When you are here, you wish you were dead than alive!"

The police continued to interrogate Zhang Ming and forced him to admit to unfounded charges. Zhang refused. The captain said fiercely, "When I say something is yours, you must admit that it is yours. I will keep on beating you until you admit it." Then he brought in all kinds of torture instruments: pliers, awls (with barbs), electric batons, and belts. Again, the captain beat Zhang's

face dozens of times with a belt. Zhang's mouth and face were bleeding. They removed Zhang's shirt and viciously struck his back with the belt buckle (an iron ring) dozens of times. He threatened, "If you don't admit it, I will clamp your tongue with the pliers and keep jabbing it with the barbed awl until you do!" Later, the captain tried to clamp Zhang's tongue with the pliers. Zhang Ming dodged. The captain wrapped the belt around Zhang's neck, held his head still on the torture-rack, and gripped his mouth and face with the pliers. With the electric baton, he jolted Zhang's shoulders, arms and legs dozens of times. Zhang Ming howled in pain. But the police did not stop. They continued to shock him, perversely relishing Zhang Ming's ordeal. Zhang's entire body was jolted numb by the electric baton, covered with scars and bruises (the electric burnt left by the baton did not heal for more than 20 days). It was until 11 pm when the police stopped the interrogation and let Zhang Ming sleep on the torture-rack overnight.

About 8 am the next day, the captain and two other policemen found some negative materials from the CCP in the computer to indoctrinate him. Zhang argued in pain, "Doesn't the state provide for freedom of belief?" The policeman arrogantly said, "The freedom of belief is true as long as it is within the scope prescribed by the state. Do you know what this place of ours is? You see our plaque that reads 'State Security Brigade'? Our job is protecting the state, and the state pays us wages to beat you!" At about 10 o'clock, when the policeman could not find Zhang Ming's name on the Internet, he stepped on Zhang's toes again (Zhang was unable to walk with his toe injury which only slightly recovered in more than ten days) and struck Zhang's face with the sole of a sports shoe. Zhang's teeth were beaten loose and blood was flowing out of his mouth. The policemen scolded as they were striking Zhang, "You need to lick the blood on the floor!" (Zhang's face was cracked and a layer of skin

came off his gum). At about 11 o'clock, Zhang asked to use the toilet. The police said, "Don't expect to use the toilet before you answer my questions. Just urinate and defecate on the floor and lick it up afterward!"

At around 6 pm, the captain asked, "Who was the one that preached the gospel to you? How many people do you lead? Where does the church keep its money? (No response.) Just these twenty-something books and cards of yours are enough to send you to prison for three to seven years." The captain followed by coercing and tempting Zhang, "I won't sentence you now. I will release you tomorrow to find your top leaders. After you return, say you have escaped while going to the toilet. I will give you three months to infiltrate the Church of Almighty God to be an undercover agent. If you cannot fulfill the task in three months, we will publicize your affairs in your own village so you can neither face the community outside nor survive. We will also spread the word among the believers of God that you have betrayed your church so they will expel you. As long as you work with us, we will make you an official and give you a lot of money. If you run away, we will catch your son when we can't catch you. With all the security cameras out there, you can't run away even if we give you a long head-start. Even if you go abroad, we still can bring you back!"

When interrogating Tang Rong, a policeman grabbed her by her hair and fiercely said, "For how many years have you believed in God? What is the name of that man we arrested? Is he your leader? Whose MP5 players and cards are these? Who downloaded these stuff for you? ..." There was no response. The policeman angrily picked up a file, beat Tang's face with it repeatedly and fiercely stomped on her thigh several times while cursing, "I will kill you if you don't tell me!" Tang was stunned and traumatized by the beating. Her head was spinning and her eyes were swollen into a slit. Tang was

unlawfully detained for fifteen days. She was made to pay RMB 140 as living expense. The police also threatened her, "if you believe in God again when you are out, we will arrest you!"

When interrogating Huang Ying, a police officer asked her, "Where are you from?" Then he picked up a book and used it to rain blows on her eyes and forehead, causing her to be dazzled. He also pressed on Huang Ying's forehead and punched her hard in the eyes, beating her head numb and senseless. The policeman ferociously asked, "When did you start believing in God, and for how long? Who preached the gospel to you? How did you know each other?" He followed by blurting out the names of several Christians for her to identify. Huang did not oblige. The interrogation did not yield any results. Since Huang Ying was ill, the police reluctantly sent her back at 1 o'clock in the early morning and demanded RMB 140 from her family as a fee for measuring her blood pressure.

On March 29, at 3 pm, Zhao Beibei was picked up by her family. Before she left, the police threatened her, "If you believe in God again, we will send you straight to prison when we catch you." Zhao was asked to call the police once a month.

On April 1, at 2 pm, two policemen of the State Security Brigade sent Zhang Ming home and assigned him a mobile phone. Afterward, the police called Zhang every few days and asked if anyone in the church had contacted him. They urged him to perform well and infiltrate the Church of Almighty God.

After Zhang Ming was released from custody, the whole family dared not speak aloud. His daughter was so scared that she couldn't eat for a few days. She did not dare to congregate or read God's word. Later, his son and daughter

were afraid to stay at home. They were forced to work away from home. Zhang and his wife were often highly tense. They were so scared that they couldn't fall asleep at night. They often had nightmares that the Public Security Bureau's people were coming to arrest them. In order to evade the CCP's arrest, persecution and harassment, Zhang and his wife were forced to flee their home. Their family was thus split by the CCP and they were forced to live in displacement.

**(7) The Home of an 80-year-old Man in Chongqing City Was Ransacked by the Chinese Communist Government. He Fell Unconscious During a Indoctrination Session.**

Guo Hua, male, 80, resident of Jiangjin District, Chongqing, a Christian member of the Church of Almighty God.

On March 23, 2017, at 11:00 plus, six people including policemen and the head of the village committee suddenly came to Guo Hua's rental house and ransacked about without presenting any credentials. Then the police took Guo into the police car and escorted him home and seized a total of 4 MP5 players, a tablet computer and many copies of books on belief in God, faith-related and evangelical materials. Later, they forcibly confiscated Guo's mobile phone and took him to a hotel for secret interrogation and indoctrination.

The next day, during interrogation at the police station, Guo Hua experienced a relapse of stomach conditions and lack of blood supply to the brain. The police ignored Guo's conditions and forcibly escorted him to the interrogation room at the police station for questioning. The policeman told Guo to disclose everything about his belief in God. Due to their dissatisfaction with Guo's answer, they threatened, "Do you know what place this is? This is

the Public Security Bureau. Don't think you can play dumb because you are old. I tell you, it is the communists' world nowadays. Whoever disobeys the Communist Party won't end up well." Then they transferred Guo to a hotel (their indoctrination base). The police forced Guo to watch defamatory videos of the Church of Almighty God as part of the indoctrination program. They forced Guo to fill out a form to deny and betray God. Guo refused. Under the coercion and threats of the police, Guo experienced a sudden black-out before his eyes, his hand that was holding the pen began to tremble all over. He barely managed to write down his home address before he suddenly collapsed on the bench and fell unconscious.

Fearful of liability, the police called up Guo's children to send Guo to the hospital. After examination, Guo's sudden fainting was due to cerebral vascular obstruction caused by fear. At this point, the police had no alternative but to stop the indoctrination that had lasted for five days and released Guo temporarily. Afterward, the elder Guo Hua said with indignation, "The Chinese Communist government's persecution of those who believe in God is too evil. Even an 80-year-old elder like me was not let off!"

**(8) A Christian in Pizhou City, Jiangsu Province, Was Arrested for No Apparent Reason. His Home Was Searched and He Was Interrogated Naked and Tortured.**

Wang Chuan (pseudonym), male, 47, a resident of Pizhou City, a Christian member of the Church of Almighty God.

On January 3, 2017, at 11:00, six policemen came to Wang Chuan's home in a white sedan. After entering the house, a policeman ordered Wang not to move while the others started to search all over, even the stairs were

overturned. An MP3 player and a TF card were seized. The police pursued the source of Wang's MP3 player, then forcibly handcuffed him and brought him to a hotel in the city for interrogation. About 1 o'clock in the afternoon, Wang was escorted to a hotel room where there were a torture-rack, electric batons and other instruments of torture. Wang was petrified after looking at them. Subsequently, the police stripped Wang naked to conduct nude-interrogation. The two policemen from the State Security Branch interrogated Wang on "what his duties were at the church and how many children he has" He threatened, "If you don't honestly confess, I will lock you up for 3-5 years." When the police learned that Wang's eldest daughter was attending a university in Nanjing. They made a call to Nanjing and demanded that Wang's children not be allowed to attend universities. He followed by asking "For how many years have you believed in God?" and "Who preached the gospel to you?" Wang did not answer. The policeman angrily ordered Wang back facing the torture-rack. The policeman reversely handcuffed Wang's hands on the two loops of the torture-rack and pulled his legs forward by over 1 meter. His body was suspending in mid-air. The policeman bellowed, "I will make you unable to walk for half-a-month." Wang was tortured two times like this until he collapsed on the ground, his arms hurting like they were broken.

The next day, the police escorted Wang Chuan to the Public Security Bureau, and then transferred him to the local detention center on January 5. During his detention, the police brought photos of other Christians to Wang for identification. He refused. Later, Wang's family spent money on pulling some strings. The police released Wang on January 9 at 12:00.

**(9) A Christian in Xuzhou City, Jiangsu Province, Was Arrested and**

### **Interrogated Under Torture for Believing in God.**

On March 22, 2017, at around 8 p.m., a Christian Wang Chen (female, 48) who lived in Xuzhou City was reported by an informant for believing in God. Three policemen, headed by the deputy director, broke into Wang's house and escorted her to the police station. The deputy director asked, "Do you believe in Almighty God? Why do you believe?" After Wang Chen answered, the police coaxed her, "You look so smart; how did you do such a foolish thing? Who were you gathering with? Who are the leaders of the church? Where did these books come from? (After Wang was arrested, the police returned to her house and seized dozens of books on belief in God and an MP5 player which was later returned) You tell me everything and I will send you home by 12 o'clock tonight." When Wang contended with them, the police threatened her again, "Your son is performing well in the government. If you do not tell honestly, it will affect your son's future. Everyone there likes him. If you believe in God, the government will ruin his future. The government will even intervene in the future of your children and grandchildren. They will not be able to serve in the military or civil service in the future. Think about it!" Wang retorted: "Why are you not arresting those who embezzle and bribe, who commit rape and prostitution? Why are you arresting us who believe in God instead?" The police bellowed, "The way you behave, don't expect to go home today." Then they put Wang in handcuffs and locked her up in an iron cage.

On the morning of March 24, the police escorted Wang Chen to the Public Security Bureau where they pressed her with questions such as "Who are your leaders?" and "What are the sources of these books?" Since she did not reply, the policeman slapped her twice on the face furiously, making her feel dizzy. The policeman viciously treaded on and twisted her toes with their feet in hard leather shoes. Wang burst into cold sweat from the pain, and her toenails



almost came off (the pain in her toes persists to date). At 8 p.m., the police brutally pushed Wang on a charged torture-rack. The electric shock jolted her instantly. Her breathing quickened and she passed out. Sweat streamed down her face. The shock caused her to urinate in her pants. When Wang came to half an hour later, the police continued the interrogation without giving her a chance to catch her breath. They shocked her repeatedly. Wang was limp and gasping for breath from the electric shock. She felt like dying. The interrogation lasted until 4 a.m. or so. Concerned that they might have a dead body on their watch, the police opened the torture-rack. Wang Chen fell unconscious on the floor. On the morning of March 25, the captain of the State Security Brigade said, "It is against the law to believe in Almighty God. The government doesn't permit it." Wang was then taken to a detention center and detained for 7 days on charges of "believing in a cult." She was released on the morning of March 31 after paying the living expense of RMB 140.

In the four months following her release, the police visited Wang Chen 6 times at her home. The captain of the National Security Brigade lured her, "If you turn in the believers of Almighty God, I won't mistreat you." Wang Chen resolutely refused. Due to the police's pressing and persecution, Wang Chen was still unable to attend meetings normally at the publication of this report.

#### **(10) A Christian in Yichun City, Jiangxi Province Was Arrested 6 Times and Detained 4 Times.**

Gu Ziyang (female, 59, Yichun resident) had actively pursued after believing in the Lord Jesus. She became a gathering point preacher.

##### **First arrest: for Ms. Gu's belief in the Lord Jesus**

One morning in April 1997, due to an informant's report of her belief in God, Ms. Gu was brought to the police station while transplanting seedlings in the rice field. Upon arriving at the police station, she was questioned by four policemen about her religion. When Madam Gu told the police that she believed in Jesus, Christianity, the police condemned her, "No, you believe in a cult!" Then, they followed by uttering some arbitrary comments that turned black-and-white on its head. When Madam Gu angrily refuted, the police threatened, "You are being dishonest. Today I will send you to prison for several years. See how you will handle it." Later, the police modified their remarks and asked Madam Gu to pay a fine of RMB 50, required her to pay it in 10 days, and let her go home. Ten days later, when the police came to her home to collect the fine, they tried to put her in jail, but failed.

**The second persecution: After accepting Almighty God's work in the last days, Madam Gu was arrested and detained for 40 days.**

On September 14, 2009, at about 8 p.m., Madam Gu was having dinner at home. Suddenly, four policemen broke in, seizing many books of God's word, a CD player, and more than 20 discs. The police took her to the police station in handcuffs by police car.

After getting off the car, the police reversely cuffed Madam Gu's hands to the window in the office. A policeman took out an offering receipt she had when she believed in the Lord Jesus and forced her to identify the name on the receipt. Madam Gu said she did not know the person. The police threatened to make her suffer if she did not tell. When the policeman saw that the interrogation was getting nowhere, he viciously slapped her several times on the face, causing her to be dazzled. Madam Gu said, "Even if you beat me to death, I still don't know anything." The policeman walked away angrily. After

that, another policeman let her off the window and reversely cuffed her hands to a chair while shackling her right foot to a 50 kilograms steel wheel, making her lose her balance and unable to move her foot. The police repeatedly pressed her for the whereabouts of the money to no avail. Two hours later, another policeman removed the handcuffs and shackle, helped her to a chair and persuaded her to end the suffering by telling them what they wanted. Madam Gu said nothing. At about 1 o'clock in the early morning, several policemen took turns to interrogate her continuously, shifting every two hours. Then they reversely cuffed her hands to the window to let her freeze in the cold wind. A young policeman came to investigate the status of her belief in God. She did not give a definite answer. The policeman responded by ferociously crushing her toes. Madam Gu cried out in pain. She was tortured until 3 o'clock in the morning when another group took over the interrogation. The interrogation still did not produce any results. A policeman maliciously stuffed a burning cigarette butt into Madam Gu's nostril. Seeing her uncomfortable expression as the glowing end of the cigarette was approaching her nose, the policeman laughed out loudly, "Call your God to pull the cigarette butt out!" Madam Gu had to snort several times to expel the cigarette butt. After that, she was handcuffed to the window until 4 p.m. the next day. The police sent Madam Gu to a detention center in unlawful imprisonment for 40 days.

**The third persecution: While preaching the gospel, Madam Gu was arrested, and she was detained for 15 days.**

On November 2, 2012, at 8 p.m., Ms. Gu and two Christians (stories reported separately) were reported by village cadres and arrested when they were preaching the gospel in a village. At the police station, a policeman with an electric police baton guarded them, forbidding them to speak and move around. A few hours later, several policemen went to search Madam Gu's

home. Seeing that no one was home, they jumped through the window and broke into the house like a band of bandits and searched everywhere. They turned her house upside down, seizing many books on belief in God, three MP3 players, and a CD-ROM disc. It was past 1 a.m. in the morning when the policemen returned to the police station. After 3 o'clock in the morning, the police conducted an interrogation on Madam Gu's personal information and the status of her belief. At about 5 p.m. the next day, the police charged Madam Gu and the two others with the offense of "disrupting public order" and sent them to the detention jail for fifteen days in custody.

**The fourth persecution: Madam Gu was arrested at a gathering.**

In the afternoon of August 3, 2016, between 4 and 5 p.m., Madam Gu's gathering with the couple Qiao Shan (female, 60s) and Guo Gang (pseudonym, male, 60s) was reported by an informant. The police seized more than 20 books on belief in God on site. Madam Gu and Guo Gang were dragged into a police car and taken to the police station. Then the police escorted Madam Gu home for a search where they seized many books on belief in God, an MP5 player and a set of materials of belief in God. Then they brought Madam Gu back to the police station for interrogation. During the period, they deprived her of food. At 11 o'clock at night, feeling cold and hungry in the air-conditioned room, she started to vomit incessantly. After 12 o'clock, the police reluctantly released her.

**The fifth persecution: Madam Gu was detained for 10 days for no apparent reason.**

On August 4, 2016, at 8 o'clock in the morning, Madam Gu went to get something at Qiao Shan's home. Barely had she entered the house did a police car stop at the door. When the interrogator saw Madam Gu, he angrily

demanded, "Why are you here?" Gu said, "I came for a bike." The police stopped her from leaving. Then three policemen pulled Gu and Qiao into the police car and took them back to the police station where the police directly sent them to the detention jail without trial for a 10-day detention under the charge of "unlawful belief in God."

**The sixth persecution: Madam Gu was arrested at home for no apparent reason and detained for 10 days.**

On July 21, 2017, at about 4 p.m., five policemen once again broke into Madam Gu's home. Upon entering, the police raided the premises and searched everywhere, seizing an MP5 player and a TF card. Afterward, the police questioned Gu what she was doing just now. She replied that she was watching the video about Sichuan earthquake. The police said they had evidence that Gu still believed in God at home. So they dragged her into the police car. An over-70-year-old neighbor denounced the police, "What are you arresting her for? She is just raising chickens and ducks at home every day without breaking the law." Despite people's criticisms, the police forcibly brought Madam Gu to the police station. In the interrogation room, the police again questioned about her personal information and the source of the seized player and card. More than an hour into the interrogation, the police coerced her to sign a statement of confession, and forced her to take the player in her hands and took a picture of her. In the evening, the police sent her to the detention center and illegally detained her for 10 days. During this period, a female police officer spoke with Madam Gu in attempt to find out how many people believed in God, where the church was, and other things such as where people were gathering. Madam Gu said nothing about it. Upon her release from prison, a policeman forcibly grabbed her hand to sign her name on a blasphemous document.

Because of the CCP's incessant persecution and arrests, Madam Gu was deprived of her right to believe in God, perform her duty and assemble normally. In order to evade the police's tracking and stalking, she could only believe in God at home. Even at home, her belief in God is restricted in many ways, making her feel extremely anguished and depressed.

**(11) A Christian in Jiaozuo City, Henan Province, Was Arrested for Three Times and Detained Once and His Residence Placed Under Monitor Permanently Because of His Belief in God.**

**The First Arrest**

On September 30, 2014, at about 10 am, while Liu Jie (male, 45), a Christian member of the Church of Almighty God in Jiaozuo City, Henan Province, was working in his unit, he was taken to the local police station by four plain-clothed agents from the local State Security Brigade.

The police took Liu Jie to an office and said, "Someone has reported that you believe in Almighty God! Let us go to your house and see if there are any books on belief in God. If so, you will have a lot to explain!" Then the police forced Liu Jie to hand over the front door keys, left a policeman behind to guard Liu Jie, and sent the rest straight to Liu Jie's house by car for a search.

Upon arriving at Liu Jie's home, two policemen asked Liu's wife Wang Xin (female, 45, Christian) for her name, age, work unit, whether she believed in Almighty God, and made her sign her statement. During the search, when they saw three Christians in Liu's home, the police called for backup immediately and continued the search. From a Christian's bag they seized an ID card, handwritten religious hymns, and personal notes. The police interrogated the

four separately in situ. During the incident, a policeman even interrogated Liu's daughter who had just returned from school, "When did the people in your family come here? Where did they come from and what did they do?" The daughter said she did not know. In the afternoon at one o'clock, the police took Wang Xin and the other three to the police station. Afterward, two policemen returned to search Liu Jie's house without finding anything.

When Wang Xin and the other three were taken to the police station, one took a chance and escaped. Because the police did not find any evidence of belief in God in Liu's home and the interrogation was fruitless, at four o'clock in the afternoon, the police reluctantly released the four people.

Before they left, the police specifically told Liu Jie, "Don't talk about this event outside!"

### **Second Arrest**

On October 10, 2014, at about 9 am, Liu Jie, who was at work in his unit, was called to the leader's office. Upon entering, he saw the two policemen from the State Security Brigade who arrested him last time. The leader said to Liu Jie, "You go with them to the police station." Liu Jie was forcibly escorted by them to the police station. There the police made Liu Jie compare handwriting and released him afterward.

### **Third Arrest and Detention**

On October 18, 2014, at around 10:30 am, five police officers (plain clothes, two women and three men) of the local State Security Brigade came to Liu Jie's home in two private cars. On the grounds of speaking with Liu Jie about something, they took him to the local police station. Before leaving, the police intimidated his wife, "We are coming for you next time!" (On Oct. 21,

2014, his wife was forced to flee from home to escape the arrest of the Chinese Communist government. She has remained homeless to-date).

At the police station, Liu Jie was interrogated by three police officers. A police officer asked, "How did you start believing in Almighty God? Who preached the gospel to you? Where do you meet? Where are your books? Talk now!" Liu Jie said nothing. Another policeman intimidated Liu Jie, "People in your conditions should be sent to jail. If you don't speak, we will let you take the iron chair! Damn, pull out your belt ...!"

Then the police produced a piece of material with the signature of the church leader and the real name of Liu Jie. They lured Liu Jie, "You know about these people, right? Which church do you belong to? Do you belong to the Church of XX (location name)?" When the interrogation produced no results, the police charged him with the offense of "believing in a cult and disrupting public order" and detained him for 10 days at a detention center.

At the detention center, the police once again threatened Liu Jie, "If you believe in God again, we'll send you to jail the next time, and then you will lose your job!"

On October 28, 2014, Liu Jie was released from detention.

After his release, the local police station instructed the leader of Liu Jie's unit to ask Liu to submit a situation report every day about where he goes and does every day and so on. Since then, Liu Jie has lost his freedom (only one year later did he secretly participated in congregation). To better monitor Liu Jie, the police installed a monitor on the doorway facing the staff's living building where Liu Jie lives for twenty-hour monitoring.

In the afternoon of March 17, 2017, two female police officers (plainclothes) from the police station inspected Liu Jie's home with an excuse.



In the afternoon of March 28, 2017, at four o'clock, four policemen once again went to Liu Jie's home, asked about his belief in God and took his pictures.

On June 16, 2017, Liu Jie was summoned to the police office of his unit by the police from the police station. The police questioned him about his wife's whereabouts without results. Since the police had repeatedly gone to his unit to look for Liu Jie, his colleagues began to reject and isolate him in fear of being implicated, making him feel awkward in the unit.

(Note: In the above cases, pseudonyms are used to avoid retaliation.)

## **Attachment II: A Brief History of the CCP's Persecution of the Church of Almighty God**

### **A. The Long History of the CCP's Persecution of the Church of Almighty God**

Since the Chinese Communist party took power in 1949, Christianity and Catholicism in mainland China have been subjected to the sweeping suppression and persecution by the CCP government. In order to control the Christian and Catholic house churches, the CCP forced them to join the Three-Self Church which is under official control, as well as designated all non-official religious groups not controlled by the CCP as cults, labeled the Bible as a cult book. Many house churches were forcefully outlawed, countless Christians were arrested and imprisoned, tortured and sentenced to labor reform, with at least tens of thousands of Christians being murdered by the CCP. The CCP promotes a freedom of religious belief to the outside world, it has also signed many UN conventions, yet internally, it secretly suppresses and brutally persecutes religious beliefs. The internal policy of the CCP is to completely eliminate and eradicate all religions, establishing China as an atheist region, to ensure the permanent dictatorship of the CCP.

Since the Church of Almighty God was established in 1991, we have been brutally suppressed and persecuted by the CCP government. Christians from the Church of Almighty God have been arrested, sentenced, and cruelly tortured by the CCP police due to gatherings and evangelism, which sometimes would result to death. For example: Cheng Yi, male, from Henan Province, originally a co-worker from the Local Church, who accepted Almighty God's gospel of the kingdom on March 12, 1991. On March 27, twelve people including Cheng Yi travelled to Heilongjiang Province for a gathering, and on

their return trip they were arrested by the police and escorted to the local police station. During their detention, the police employed various means to torture Cheng Yi. They forced him to sit cross-legged on the cold concrete ground under a temperature of minus five degrees Celsius, while continuously pouring cold water on his head, body and in his shoes. If Cheng Yi only moved a little, the police would punch and kick him. This torture went on for 40 days. On April 8, the Heilongjiang provincial government paraded the twelve Christians including Cheng Yi with signs around their necks, based on the charges of "anti-party, counter-revolution, anti-human, anti-government, and overthrowing the regime." After a detention of 48 days, Cheng Yi was transferred to Henan Province for re-education through labor for two years, while the other eleven Christians were sent back to their respective hometowns to be detained. While inside the forced labor camp, Cheng Yi suffered from inhumane abuse and contracted jaundice and hepatitis. Not only did the prison forbid any treatment, it also forced him to perform excessive labor, and he was not allowed to eat or sleep if he could not complete the allotted labor.... After two years of prison life, Cheng Yi was severely devastated both physically and mentally, and he has completely lost his ability to perform labor. After he was released, Cheng Yi was arrested two more times. His condition gradually deteriorated, and he passed away in March 1996, at an age of 46.

## **B. The CCP Condemned the Church of Almighty God as a Cult and Brutally Suppressed It**

In 1995, the Chinese Ministry of Public Security issued an official document to label the Shout, the Church of Almighty God (Eastern Lightning), All Ranges Church etc. as cults, and frantically suppressed, arrested and persecuted them subsequently. In 2000 and 2005, the Ministry of Public

Security of China issued Gong Tong Zi (2000) No. 39 and Gong Tong Zi (2005) No. 39, condemning 14 cults with convoluted charges such as “fraud in the name of religion, Qigong,” “deification of their leading members,” which included the Church of Almighty God and other Christian house churches. In February 2002, the Center for Religious Freedom of the Hudson Institute released the Report Analyzing Seven Secret Chinese Government Documents, which analyzed the seven secret documents suppressing religions issued by the CCP between April 1999 and October 2001. Of which, the bulk of the content was policies banning the Church of Almighty God (Real God, Almighty God, Eastern Lightning).<sup>11</sup> The report shows that Since these Chinese security officials are ignorant of the Bible, they misinterpret the basic Christian claim that Christ is in the believer, and falsely accuse a group of “deifying its leader.” More particularly, this officially atheist state and its officially atheist security officials are setting themselves up as the arbiters of true religious doctrine and, on this basis, imprisoning and torturing religious believers.

Thereafter, in order to ban the Church of Almighty God, the CCP frantically suppressed and persecuted the Church of Almighty God in the name of combatting cults. The CCP leadership convened many emergency meetings to formulate and release many secret documents. They adopted various dastardly means: using television, broadcast, newspaper, the internet and other media to slander, frame and discredit the Church of Almighty God; arbitrarily searching and raiding the homes of the Christians from the Church of Almighty God, imposing fines and seizing properties; employing high-tech methods for monitoring and tracking, performing dragnet and blanket searches, investigating high and low, deploying large-scale and secret arrests on numerous occasions, using torture, even resulting in the death of Christians

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<sup>11</sup> Report Analyzing Seven Secret Chinese Government Documents: <https://www.org/articles/7453/>  
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from the Church of Almighty God through torture and beating. According to incomplete statistics, merely within the two short years from 2011 to 2013, there were 380,380 Christians from the Church of Almighty God in mainland China who have been detained and imprisoned for belief and evangelism by the CCP using charges such as “subverting state power” and “disturbing public order.” Of which, 111,740 were illegally fined or blackmailed, with a cumulative amount reaching approximately 243,613,000 yuan; the homes of 35,330 were raided, with at least one billion yuan (including the money of the church and private properties) being forcibly confiscated by the Public Security organizations and their subsidiary units or pocketed by the CCP police during the raids; 43,640 suffered various tortures in kangaroo courtrooms, with some suffering disabilities from such tortures and being subsequently unable to take care of themselves; some were injected with drugs that caused schizophrenia; 13 people were killed during this period; the whereabouts and fates of many more are yet unknown. To date, there are 44 people who have been killed by the CCP that have been well documented. Some of these cases are listed in Ironclad Evidence of Chinese Government’s Arrests and Persecutions of God’s Chosen People from the Church of Almighty God.<sup>12</sup>

### **C. The CCP Painstakingly Formulated the “May 28 McDonald’s Murder Case”<sup>13</sup> and Used It to Openly Escalate the Suppression of the Church of Almighty God**

Although the CCP has exhausted all means to frantically suppress and persecute the Church of Almighty God, the gospel of the kingdom of Almighty God still managed to rapidly spread in mainland China, which worried the CCP

<sup>12</sup> Ironclad Evidence of Chinese Government’s Arrests and Persecutions of God’s Chosen People from the Church of Almighty God: <https://www.godfootsteps.org/proofs/>

<sup>13</sup> Exposing the Truth Behind the May28 McDonald’s Murder Case in Zhaoyuan, Shandong: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1ldwPFwAb5SYfjDOgFNJHZKWhqcYDA8mn>

even more. In order to completely ban the Church of Almighty God, the CCP once again resorted to its usual trick of framing people, painstakingly formulating the "May 28 McDonald's murder case" to frame the Church of Almighty God, using it as the basis for its open suppression to manufacture public opinion. On May 28, 2014, a murder occurred in a Shandong Zhaoyuan McDonald's restaurant. Three days after the murder has occurred, without the case having undergone trial, the three CCTV programs with the highest ratings, Xinwen Lianbo, Focus Report and Oriental Horizon, have publicly fingered the murderers as believers of the Church of Almighty God, blatantly condemning and discrediting the Church of Almighty God. On the same day, the Ministry of Public Security publicly announced special rectification actions on the Church of Almighty God on the ground of the "May 28 McDonald's murder case," unfolding a still more brutal overall suppression and persecution of the Church of Almighty God, even all of the Christian and Catholic house churches. According to media reports, as of June 11, at least 1,500 innocent Christians from the Church of Almighty God were arrested.<sup>14</sup>

On June 16, 2014, the Cult-Busting Office of the CPC Central Committee held a national teleconference to carry out nationwide special rectification actions against the Church of Almighty God, the "One-Hundred-Day Campaign." This has escalated the suppression of the Church of Almighty God to an urgent political matter, putting forward "severe punishment," "continuous conversion," "full-scale investigation" and other working key points, as well as distributing this document to cities everywhere. Subsequently, the CCP mobilized 10 million yuan, to be awarded to those units and individuals demonstrating outstanding achievements in suppressing the Church of Almighty God as well as those from the public who have provided

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<sup>14</sup> A report from Radio Free Asia (RFA) on June 11, 2014:  
<http://www.rfa.org/mandarin/yataibaodao/shehui/xq-06112014102204.html>

information.<sup>15</sup> To this end, the Church of Almighty God was met with an unprecedented religious persecution.

According to internal sources from the CCP, on July 15, 2014, the CCP held a special conference at the Great Hall of the People in Wenzhou, Zhejiang Province regarding the crackdown of the Church of Almighty God. The Chief of Staff of Nanjing Military Region, Minister of Logistics Department of Nanjing Military Region, Director of Shanghai Munitions Agency, Deputy Mayor of Wenzhou City, Secretary General of Wenzhou Municipal Government and other senior CCP officials, as well as representatives from the Garrison Command of Wenzhou Military District, armed police, traffic police, reserve force and the frontier forces altogether over 300 people attended the meeting. In August 2014, the CCP carried out a large-scale mobilization of armed police and regular forces to frantically arrest the Christians of the Church of Almighty God.

Immediately, a large number of Christians from the Church of Almighty God were arrested, sentenced, their house raided, imprisoned, tortured, even disabled and killed. At least 500,000 Christians were forced to flee and were displaced.... According to reporting of the CCP official media, Xinhua Net, between June 16, 2014 and August 19, 2014, close to a thousand Christians from the Church of Almighty God were arrested;<sup>16</sup> during this period, there were at least 6 people who have died from such persecution that were well documented;<sup>17</sup> in a report on China's religious freedom by the international human rights organization Freedom House in 2017, it claimed that the CCP's persecution of Christians has surged by the end of 2014. An analysis of

<sup>15</sup> Document on the Nationwide Teleconference Held by the CCP 610 Office on June 16, 2014: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hF-R3XJS8g-A9O8KwyqSLIVdE7HXyGTt/view>

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.chinanews.com/gn/2014/08-19/6509108.shtml>

<sup>17</sup> Reports of two cases of Christians of the Church of Almighty God dying as a result of being arrested and persecuted by the CCP: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1s9qvpMDdT5ZRVg5H8tM6DVf2CJWDxk4T>

numerous judgments by the Chinese courts showed that 80% of these court decisions pertained to Christians of the Church of Almighty God, and their arrests and imprisonments were due to the peaceful exercise of their right to freedom of belief and expression, not because of their involvement in violence against others. Even today, the public announcement of the 2014 “One-Hundred-Day Campaign” and reports of the CCP’s arrest of Christians of the Church of Almighty God can still be seen on the internet.<sup>18</sup>

On August 21, the Intermediate People’s Court in Yantai, Shandong Province held a high-profile public hearing of the “May 28 McDonald’s murder case.” During the trial, Zhang Lidong and the other accused have made it clear that they were not members of the Church of Almighty God and had no relationship with the Church of Almighty God.<sup>19</sup> However, the CCP kept on using the Zhaoyuan case to continually discredit, condemn and suppress the Church of Almighty God. Facts have proven that the “May 28 McDonald’s murder case” was painstakingly fabricated by the CCP and used to escalate the suppression and persecution of the Church of Almighty God and other house churches of mainland China, it is also a foreshadowing of the CCP’s religious policy to publicize the “Sinolization of Christianity.” This measure by the CCP is exactly the same as the suppression of the Tiananmen Square Protest of 1989 patriotic student movement.

#### **D. Escalation of The CCP’s Persecution of the Church of Almighty God and the Extension of Its Black Hands Overseas**

After the “May 28 McDonald’s murder case,” the CCP hyped it up at home and overseas, framing and discrediting the Church of Almighty God,

<sup>18</sup> [http://www.xingtai.gov.cn/gkgl/jrxt/xtgk/lxx/201410/t20141030\\_138570.html](http://www.xingtai.gov.cn/gkgl/jrxt/xtgk/lxx/201410/t20141030_138570.html)  
<http://211.142.151.245/html/ff8080811e38d751011e42d5dd1a0159/2015062512363496.html>  
[http://www.puan.gov.cn/xxgk/jcgk/zcwj/xzwj/201610/t20161027\\_1255683.html](http://www.puan.gov.cn/xxgk/jcgk/zcwj/xzwj/201610/t20161027_1255683.html)  
<sup>19</sup> “Court Statements of the Defendants in Zhaoyuan Murder: I Am God”:  
<http://news.sina.com.cn/c/2014-08-22/123730728266.shtml>



while at the same time, brandishing the banner of “anti-cult” to blatantly suppress and persecute the Church of Almighty God. The measures it employed primarily include: amending the criminal law, raising the sentencing penalties, providing legal basis for escalating the persecution of the Christians from the Church of Almighty God; holding numerous meetings, issuing documents to ban the Church of Almighty God, arranging specific measures for arresting Christians; some Christians from the Church of Almighty God have escaped from China in order to evade the increasingly severe persecution, therefore the CCP commenced its so-called “overseas anti-cult battle,” extending its black hands overseas.

### **1. Amending the Criminal Law, Raising the Sentencing Penalties, Providing Legal Basis for Escalating the Persecution of the Christians From the Church of Almighty God**

In March 1997, Article 300 of the Criminal Law was amended by the Fifth Session of the Eighth National People’s Congress,<sup>20</sup> providing stipulations for organizing and making use of cults to commit crimes, which became the main basis for subsequent convictions and punishments of so-called cult members by the CCP. In August 2015, at the Sixteenth Session of the Twelfth National People’s Congress Standing Committee, People’s Republic of China, People’s Republic of China Criminal Law Amendment (IX) was approved.<sup>21</sup> This amendment increased the penalties imposed on groups that are classified as “cult,” increased the statutory maximum sentence from the original 15 years imprisonment up to life imprisonment, as well as provided additional penalties such as fines, confiscation of property, and deprivation of political rights. The amendment act has become an important legal weapon for the CCP to suppress

<sup>20</sup> <https://kknews.cc/society/48x4jx.html>

<sup>21</sup> People's Republic of China Criminal Law Amendment (IX):  
[http://www.npc.gov.cn/npc/xinwen/2015-08/31/content\\_1945587.htm](http://www.npc.gov.cn/npc/xinwen/2015-08/31/content_1945587.htm)

religious beliefs. Since the implementation of this act, the persecution of the Church of Almighty God has been once again intensified.

On December 9, 2012, a Christian from the Church of Almighty God, Zeng Lingying, was detained for criminal offenses by the Public Security Bureau of Aksu City, Xingjiang, for evangelism. Later he was released on bail. On September 23, 2016, Zeng Lingying was once again detained by the Shaya County Public Security Bureau on suspicion of organizing and using a cult to undermine the law, and his arrest was approved on October 28 of the same year. On January 11, 2017, the Aksu Intermediate People's Court sentenced Zeng Lingying to 12 years in prison for using a cult to undermine the law, with 4 years deprivation of political rights, and a fine of 5,000 yuan.<sup>22</sup>

## **2. Holding Numerous Meetings, Issuing Documents to Ban the Church of Almighty God, Arranging Specific Measures for Arresting Christians**

In March 2015, in the report on the work of the Supreme People's Procuratorate at the Third Session of the Twelfth National People's Congress, Cao Jianming, the president of the Supreme People's Procuratorate, put forth the policy to severely punish the Church of Almighty God, as well as placed the struggle against cults as one of the main tasks.<sup>23</sup> In the working report given at this session, Zhou Qiang, president of the Supreme People's Court, said "We should actively participate in the anti-cult struggle and punish according to the law the crimes of using cults to undermine the law."<sup>24</sup> In March 2016, in his working report delivered at the Fourth Session of the 12th NPC, Zhou Qiang emphasized once again the active participation in the anti-cult struggle.<sup>25</sup>

<sup>22</sup> A Christian Zeng Lingying was sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment:  
<http://zhengfa.fznews.com.cn/html/46/2017-02-14/11422415660.shtml>

<sup>23</sup> Cao Jianming's Report at the Third Session of the Twelfth National People's Congress:  
[http://www.spp.gov.cn/gzbg/201503/t20150324\\_93812.shtml](http://www.spp.gov.cn/gzbg/201503/t20150324_93812.shtml)

<sup>24</sup> Zhou Qiang's Report at the Third Session of the Twelfth National People's Congress:  
[http://www.npc.gov.cn/npc/dbdhhy/12\\_3/2015-03/20/content\\_1930946.htm](http://www.npc.gov.cn/npc/dbdhhy/12_3/2015-03/20/content_1930946.htm)

<sup>25</sup> Zhou Qiang's Report at the Fourth Session of the Twelfth National People's Congress:  
<http://lianghui.people.com.cn/2016npc/n1/2016/03/13/c403052-28194909.html>

The Office 610 of the CCP carried out the “2015 Deterrent” and “2016 Deterrent” to crack down on the Church of Almighty God, conducting a comprehensive investigation of Christians in the Church of Almighty God by going through case files, house-to-house investigation as well as tracking church members. Many Christians from the Church of Almighty God were arrested, and the tortures persisted.

On October 24, 2016, Yang Jun (male, 46 years old) and Li Mei (female, 47 years old), Christians from the Nanjing Church of Almighty God in Jiangsu Province were arrested by the State Security Brigade Police, on charges that “believing in Almighty God is a violation of national law, a disruption of the social order.” The couple was escorted to the Nanjing Pukou Tangquan town police station, and that afternoon they were transferred to the Pukou District Shixing Hotel basement for a secret trial. The police implemented inhumane beating torture and drug abuse on the couple, resulting in multiple injuries to Li Mei, bilateral pubic fracture, unconsciousness, frequent hallucinations, causing a variety of serious illnesses. Yang Jun sustained beating that prevented him from straightening his back, one of his ribs was broken, with scapular ligament injuries on both sides, and due to drug abuse, he had numerous hallucinations and was talking to himself, only regaining full consciousness until early February of 2017.

### **3. Some Christians From the Church of Almighty God Were Forced to Escape From China in Order to Evade the Increasingly Severe Persecution, Therefore the CCP Extended Its Black Hands Overseas to Continue Arresting and Persecuting Christians.**

(1) On June 16, 2014, the CCP Office 610 held a nationwide teleconference on the special rectification of the Church of Almighty God. The meeting stated that all localities must step up their efforts to build up their

secret forces overseas, continually improve the intelligence and operational capabilities abroad, to investigate the Church of Almighty God in South Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan and so on.

Example: On May 18, 2015, when a Christian of the Church of Almighty God named Li Zhenyuan returned from South Korea to Yanji City in China, he was arrested by the Yanji police. The police presented movies and choir videos produced by the Church of Almighty God and compelled Li Zhenyuan to identify pictures of actors and spectators in the films. They also beat him and stripped him of his clothing, and hung him from a metal pole by his wrists. After cruelly torturing him for six days and six nights, the CCP police also threatened Li Zhenyuan by his family members and compelled him to return to South Korea to act as an undercover informant and to provide a list of personnel names, membership numbers, information on the church, and circumstances of the upper-level leadership of the Church of Almighty God in South Korea. Li Zhenyuan was forced to agree to the CCP's demands, and took the opportunity to return to South Korea, which was his only chance to escape harm at the hands of the CCP government.<sup>26</sup>

(2) Around June 2015, the CCP Office 610 asked all localities to conduct investigations into members of the Church of Almighty God that have left the country (including those who have left China before 1999) by means of online investigation, overseas investigation and special crackdown, in order to comprehensively, accurately and systematically get a hold of the basic situation. This included the activities carried out overseas, the work units of their relatives within China, and so on. Analysis and review were conducted on each member, and in combination with their ties within China, special working

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<sup>26</sup> Li Zhenyuan's Experience of Being Arrested After Returning to China:  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WwPeb-JK51V7LMkZi67Rs94a7syvBLO8/view>  
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plans were formulated based on the one-on-one policy.<sup>27</sup> Zhang Fu, a Christian of the Church of Almighty God, was one of the victims of the CCP plan.

In February 2015, Zhang Fu escaped persecution to South Korea due to his belief in God. In May of 2016, the CCP incited Zhang's wife, surnamed Tian, into coming to South Korea with an agent of the CCP. They ensnared Zhang Fu into visiting a hotel, and while he was asleep they took the opportunity to steal his passport and cell phones. They wanted to force Zhang Fu to return to China, but at the last minute he succeeded in a thrilling escape at the airport. In August of 2016, the CCP again incited Ms. Tian into returning to South Korea to create trouble for the Church of Almighty God together with some people of unknown identity. They made use of foreign media to manufacture public opinion and force Zhang Fu to return to China, and they spread disparaging rumors about the Church of Almighty God.<sup>28</sup>

Since the establishment of the Church of Almighty God in 1991, the CCP has never ceased persecuting the Church. This is only an overview of the CCP's suppression of the Church of Almighty God throughout the years, which is only a small portion of what we are able to find out. In 2017, the CCP continually escalates its crackdown on the Church of Almighty God, intensifying its persecution of Christians.

<sup>27</sup> The CCP's Document on "Two Investigations, One Project":

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/113O03yibctfQxUHVtXFM0bAiXdL0ksS>

<sup>28</sup> Christian Zhang Fu's Overseas Experience of Making a Narrow Escape From the CCP's Abduction:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1G3VfdcAe3aYwfGWOB-U6rbbgAY5n9Ax8>

Source: <https://npcobserver.com/2017/11/05/a-guide-to-supervision-system-reform-redux/>

## A Guide to Supervision System Reform (Redux)

The NPCSC decided last Saturday to extend "pilot" reforms of the state supervision (or anti-corruption) system nationwide. The decision is nearly identical in substance to the NPCSC's December 2016 decision to first implement supervision system reforms in Beijing, Shanxi, and Zhejiang. The decision on Saturday again prescribes the composition, duties, and powers of the supervision commissions, and lists the legal provisions that will no longer be enforced across China, effectively repealing them. The contents of the Saturday decision are described below, with additional details.

**"Pilot" sites.** Mainland China.

**Hierarchy.** Supervision commissions will be established at each of the three levels of local governments: provincial-level, municipal-level, and county-level. Each supervision commission is responsible to and supervised by its higher-level supervision commission and the people's congress and its standing committee at the same level.

**Composition.** Each supervision commission will be composed of a chairperson, several vice-chairpersons and members. The chairperson will be elected by the people's congress at the same level, while the others will be appointed and/or removed by the standing committee of the people's congress at the same level at the recommendation of the chairperson.

**Relationship to existing institutions.** The powers of the following bodies will be transferred to the supervision commissions:

- Within the people's governments: supervision departments (bureaus) and corruption prevention bureaus;
- Within the people's procuratorates: departments that investigate corruption, bribery, dereliction of duty, and malfeasance; and those responsible for preventing crimes abusing public office (职务犯罪).

**Jurisdiction.** The supervision commissions will supervise all persons holding public offices and exercising public powers (行使公权力的公职人员) within the corresponding administrative regions, including:

1. Public servants in Communist Party organs, people's congresses, administrative organs, political consultative conferences, courts, procuratorates, democratic

- parties (民主党派), and federations of industry and commerce (工商联); as well as other public servants who are managed with reference to the *Civil Servant Law*;
2. Personnel who perform public service in organizations that administer public affairs as authorized by laws or regulations or lawfully entrusted by State organs;
  3. Managerial personnel in state-owned enterprises;
  4. Managerial personnel in State-run educational, scientific research, culture, medical and health, and sports institutions; and
  5. Personnel in mass self-government organizations—that is, urban residents' committees and villagers' committees—who manage community affairs.

**Duties.** The supervision commissions will have the duties to supervise, investigate, and punish (处置). More specifically, the duties to:

- *Supervise and inspect* persons holding public offices (公职人员) in their lawful performance of duties, fair exercise of powers, clean governance, and ethical conduct;
- *Investigate and punish* those suspected of corruption, bribery, abuse of power, dereliction of duty, power rent-seeking, tunneling (利益输送), playing favoritism, squandering state-owned assets, and other illegal and criminal conduct;
- *Transfer* those suspected of official crimes to procuratorial organs for prosecution.

**Powers.** The supervision commissions are authorized to take the following measures when fulfilling their duties: conducting interviews and interrogations, making inquiries and searches, freezing [assets], retrieving [data/evidence], seizing and searching, conducting inquests and inspections, appraising, and detaining (谈话、讯问、询问、查询、冻结、调取、查封、扣押、搜查、勘验检查、鉴定、留置; We welcome better translations.)

**Legal provisions suspended.** The following legal provisions are suspended nationwide (effectively repealed):

1. *Administrative Supervision Law*: Its entirety
2. *Criminal Procedure Law* (translations courtesy of China Law Translate, subject to modifications.)
  - Article 3

*... The people's procuratorates are responsible for ... investigating cases directly accepted by the procuratorates. ...*

- Article 18

*... The people's procuratorate will file and investigate crimes of*

*bribery and corruption; crimes of dereliction of duty by state workers; crimes of state workers abusing their power to effect an unlawful arrest, the coercion of confessions through torture, retaliation, or illegal searches that violate citizen's personal rights and crimes that violate citizen's democratic rights. When it is necessary for the people's procuratorate to directly accept cases of state workers abusing their authority to carry out other serious crimes, the people's procuratorate may file and investigate the crime following a decision by a people's procuratorate of the provincial level or above.*

.....

- Article 148

.....

*After filing a case, the people's procuratorates may adopt technical investigative measures to be carried out by the organ designated in regulations, as is necessary for the investigation of major corruption or bribery cases as well as for crimes of abuse of public office to violate citizen's personal rights, upon completion of strict procedures.*

*With approval, the necessary technical investigative measures may be employed for the pursuit of a fleeing suspect or defendant that has been declared wanted or has been approved or decided to be arrested.*

- Part 2, Chapter II, Section 11

### **Section 11: Investigation of Cases Directly Accepted by the People's Procuratorate**

**Article 162:** *The provisions of this Chapter [i.e., Chapter II] apply to investigations in cases directly accepted by the people's procuratorates.*

**Article 163:** *In cases directly accepted by the people's procuratorates that meet the requirements of Articles 79 and Article 80, paragraphs 4 and 5, of this law, where arresting or taking the suspect into custody is necessary, the people's procuratorate shall issue the decision and the public security organs shall implement it.*

**Article 164:** *Persons taken into custody in a case directly*



*accepted by the people's procuratorate shall be interrogated within 24 hours of having been taken into custody. When it is discovered that a person should not have been taken into custody, they must be immediately released and given a proof of release.*

**Article 165:** *When the people's procuratorate finds it necessary to arrest a person taken into custody in a case it directly accepted, it shall issue a decision within 14 days. In special circumstances, the time for making an arrest decision may be extended by one to three days. Those who do not need to be arrested shall be immediately released; if continued investigation is necessary and the requirements for release on guarantee pending trial or residential surveillance are met, they may be released on guarantee or put under residential surveillance.*

**Article 166:** *In cases where the people's procuratorate has completed an investigation, it shall issue a decision to prosecute, not prosecute, or withdraw the case.*

- 3. *People's Procuratorate Organic Law*
  - Article 5, item 2

*The people's procuratorates exercise the following powers:*

.....

*(2) Investigating criminal cases they directly accept;*

.....

- 4. *Procurators Law*
  - Article 6, item 3

*Procurators have the following duties:*

.....

*(3) Investigating criminal cases directly accepted by the people's procuratorates as stipulated by law;*

.....

- 5. *Organic Law of Local People's Congresses at All Levels and Local People's Governments at All Levels*
  - Article 59, item 5

*A local people's government at or above the county level shall exercise the following functions and powers:*

.....

*(5) to . . . conduct administrative work concerning . . . supervision . . . within its administrative area;*

.....

6. All other supervisory duties now carried out by administrative supervision organs will be transferred the supervision commissions.

**List of open-source material referenced in the 2017 DFAT Country Information Report on China**

*Disclaimer: This is not an exhaustive list. It does not include classified reporting, protected sources or materials that were consulted but not relied upon in the report.*

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