



Summary of Persecution of the Church of Almighty God in 2019

The Church of Almighty God (CAG) is a new Chinese Christian church that has been subjected to the frantic suppression and severe persecution at the hand of the Chinese Communist Party ever since its founding in ninety ninety one.

In two thousand nineteen, the Chinese government continued to ramp up its efforts to persecute the CAG. According to incomplete statistics, *thirty two thousand eight hundred fifteen* CAG Christians were directly persecuted by the authorities simply because of their belief in Almighty God and their engagement in such normal church activities as attending gatherings and preaching the gospel.

Among them, *twenty six thousand six hundred eighty three* church members have suffered harassment, including being forced to sign « statements of guarantee » in which they had to swear to renounce their faith, being forced to be photographed or recorded on video, and having their biological data (fingerprints, blood samples, hair etc.) collected.

Among the *six thousand one hundred thirty two* members arrested that year, *four thousand one hundred sixty one* have been held in detention either for short or long periods, with *three thousand eight hundred twenty four* subjected to various forms of torture or forced indoctrination ; *one thousand three hundred fifty five* members were sentenced to jail, with twelve members sentenced to ten years in jail or more.

It is well documented that nineteen believers died as a result of persecution that year. At least RMB *three hundred ninety million* (about *fifty six point eight million* US dollar) was unlawfully seized, including both church money and personal assets.

In two thousand nineteen, the Chinese government launched a large scale campaign of blanket house searches and employed high-tech surveillance methods to track and monitor CAG Christians.

The Chinese government also carried out over *one thousand* arrest operations against CAG Christians, which resulted in at least, *six thousand one hundred thirty two* arrests in total throughout the year.

In Shandong Province, nearly one hundred arrest operations were initiated by the authorities after the believers had been homed in on and tracked for months through the Skynet and Sharp Eyes surveillance systems. During those operations, *nine hundred twenty four* believers were arrested, making up *sixty four point three per cent* of the *one thousand four hundred* arrests in the province in the whole year.

The authorities in Shanxi Province demanded local residents to install the « Yuncheng Eyes in the Sky » app. This was combined with other tactics such as the use of Skynet and door-to-door searches in an investigation that lasted several months. Then on September nine and ten, a coordinated arrest operation was carried out in the cities of Yuncheng and Linfen, during which at least *two hundred twenty six* CAG Christians were apprehended.

In two thousand nineteen, at least nineteen CAG Christians died amid the increasing persecution of the church perpetrated by the Chinese government authorities. Among the victims, the youngest was twenty one and the oldest was seventy five. Some of them died from brutal torture they endured during the detention ; some developed serious illnesses but were still held, and eventually lost their lives when their conditions worsened after being subjected to protracted periods of abuse and forced labor ; one died from falling off a building when besieged by the police and attempting to escape. Such examples abound.

In two thousand nineteen, the number of CAG Christians who have been sentenced to jail increased dramatically. At least *one thousand three hundred* CAG Christians were sentenced on the charge of « using a xie jiao organisation to undermine the enforcement of the law » for nothing more than religious activities such as gathering together, sharing the gospel, or keeping faith related literature at home. This is double the number that were sentenced in *two thousand eighteen*.

The convictions in Xinjiang were especially harsh. The ten court decisions published on China Judgments Online have documented that *one hundred seventeen* CAG Christians from this region have received sentences.

CAG Christians who have been sentenced and imprisoned are widely subjected to long term torture and forced indoctrination, twelve to twenty hours per day of forced labor and deprivation of their right to medical attention.

During the indoctrination, they were forced to study « transformation » materials drafted by the Chinese government on a daily basis, subjected to various form of torture, such as being deprived of food and water, made to hold painful positions (like sitting on a small stool) for periods of time and forced to take psychoactive substances.

Many were injured or disabled as a result. Five died from torture and deprivation of the right to medical attention.

The Chinese government has established lifelong control over the CAG Christians

registered in their files. If a Christian is discovered to have participated in any church activity, they will immediately be subjected to another arrest.

Additionally, the Chinese government continues to manipulate the media to fabricate and disseminate fake news in order to discredit the Church of Almighty God and « brainwash » the people. The Chinese government has issued large numbers of reward notices in an effort to incite people to hate and report CAG Christians. They use the policy of « guilt by association » to strip the CAG Christian's family members of rights relating to employment, recruitment to military, taking the civil exam, and so on, creating family pressure the force the Christians to give up their faith.

In two thousand nineteen, at least seven CAG Christians died from illness or were driven to suicide by extreme psychological pressure resulting from year-round surveillance, harassment and coercion by the Chinese government.

Multiple confidential Chinese government documents, thousands of verdicts sentencing CAG Christians published on the website China Judgments Online, as well as the well-documented cases concerning the CAG believers who died as a result of torture, and account of survivors of mistreatment, provide abundant evidences that the Chinese government has continued to intensify its systematic and large-scale persecution against the CAG.

The conditions under which the approximately *four million* of CAG Christians in mainland China struggle to practice their faith and lead a normal existence has worsened.

In the face of this imminent crisis, we are left with no choice but publicize all the accessible facts of persecution and to provide the relevant data and documentation for the international community and human rights institutions in the hope of garnering support.

Thank you for your attention.