

United Nations Human Rights Council

Universal Periodic Review

China

Religious Freedom in China : The case of the Church of the Almighty God

Joint Submission by

Center for Studies on Freedom of Religion Belief and Conscience (LIREC);

Association for the Defense of Human Rights and Religious Freedom (ADHRRF)



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1. Introduction

1.1 The situation of religious freedom has been worsening in China between 2014 and 2018. China has been identified as a Country of Particular Concern (CPC) by the U.S. State Department for 19 consecutive years. This submission focuses on The Church of Almighty God (CAG), a Christian movement that is being seriously persecuted by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). Our submission relies on interviews with members of CAG in various countries, as well as on documents published by the Chinese government, international scholars, and CAG itself.

1.2 CAG is a Christian Church that emerged in China in 1991, following the appearance and work of a woman born in China recognized by her followers as God Incarnate, Almighty God, the second coming of Jesus Christ. The utterances of Almighty God are collected in *The Word Appears in the Flesh*, and in other collections. As of 2005, more than 1,000,000 believers from Protestant and Catholic churches had converted to CAG. Some unbelievers also turned to Almighty God in addition. Statistically, CAG has about 3,500,000 members in Mainland China today. CAG has been declared an “authentic Christian Church” by some renowned scholars of religious studies in the West, although its theology is certainly different from the traditional churches (Folk 2018).

1.3 Like other Christian and non-Christian groups, CAG suffers the most serious persecution at the hands of the CCP. Fourteen religious groups, including Christian groups such as CAG and the Shouters, were identified as “cults” and repressed and banned by the CCP from 1995 on, and millions of CAG Christians were persecuted subsequently (Irons 2018). According to the CAG itself, in the span from 2011 to 2013 alone, over 380,000 CAG Christians were arrested, among whom 43,640 were tortured and sentenced to jail penalties by kangaroo courts (The Church of Almighty God 2017). The human rights of CAG Christians were seriously violated.

1.4 After the May 28 McDonald’s Murder in Zhaoyuan, Shandong in 2014, falsely attributed to CAG, the authorities of the CCP openly justified and escalated their arbitrary arrests and persecution of CAG Christians. As a result, the situation became more severe for CAG Christians. In 2017, invited twice by China Anti-Cult Association, Western experts on new religious studies, including Dr. J. Gordon Melton, distinguished professor of American Religious History at Baylor University, Waco, Texas, Dr. James T. Richardson, professor emeritus at the National Judicial College, University of Nevada, Reno, Dr. Massimo Introvigne, managing director of the Center for Studies on New Religions, Torino, Italy, and Dr. Holly Folk, associate professor of religious studies at Western Washington University, Bellingham, Washington, visited China and came to the conclusion that CAG was not associated with the May 28 McDonald’s Murder. However, the CCP authorities continue to use the murder case to justify and escalate their persecution of CAG (Introvigne 2017a).

1.5 Based on the fact that China has signed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, this report largely focuses on the CCP’s violation of the human rights of CAG Christians.

2. Denial of the Dignity, Physical Freedom and All Foundational Human Rights of CAG Christians

2.1 The CCP’s persecution of CAG Christians is a serious violation of human rights and disregard for the Chinese laws themselves. Throughout China, orders delivered to the police officers incite them to conduct a policy of discrediting CAG Christians to the utmost, destroy them economically, and eradicate them physically by “beating them to death with no one to answer for it.” CAG Christians have suffered various punishment such as arbitrary arrests, beating, electric shocks, long-time deprivation of sleep, forced running/standing/half squatting, scalds, frostbites, laying salt on wounds, soaking in the water, hanging/suspending, dog-bites, starving, feeding with shit/urine/mustard oil/chili oil/poison, injection of mental drug, toothpick-stabbing in fingers/toes, fingernail-peeling, tooth beating-off, suffocating, etc. For female CAG Christians, horrific punishments, including stripping naked, raping and forced abortion, were applied. Some members were pushed down off the buildings, which led to their death, while some were found to be dead with some of their organs disappeared. The CCP even uses all kinds of means of high pressure against CAG Christians and their relatives, such as deprivation of property, opportunities for education and profession, limitation of going abroad, revocation of the endowment insurance and adequate standard of living, etc. Documents about tens of thousands such cases are posted by CAG on the Web page <https://www.godfootsteps.org/proofs/>, which is continuously updated.

2.2 The Chinese authorities’ denial of the dignity, physical freedom and all foundational human rights of CAG Christians is in violation of most provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, especially Articles 1, 2, 22, 28, 29 and 30.

3. Denial of the Right to Life

3.1 As of March 2018, we have examined 44 cases regarding CAG Christians who were proven to be dead due to the Chinese police's violence and mistreatment, among which at least 15 CAG Christians died in abnormal circumstances due to the CCP authorities' arbitrary arrests and detention between 2014 and 2018. CAG Christians were tortured to disability or psychosis in a large quantity. Some couldn't help themselves out of the pressure except by committing suicide. No sign is found to show the fact that the authorities of China have investigated the cases concerning CAG Christians' death in custody or the related persecutors have been punished accordingly. On the contrary, the CCP regime often stops people from investigating the cause of the victim's death. Family members of the victims who made requests of investigation incurred subsequent revenge, including detention, beating and imprisonment.

3.2 Here we mention only one case among those who died in abnormal circumstances:

Ms. **Gao Cuiqin**, a CAG Christian, age 53, was a resident of Huantai County in Zibo, Shandong Province. In the early hours of 15 July 2014, Gao was arrested by police officers from the State Security brigade of Public Security Bureau in Huantai County due to her belief in Almighty God, and later transferred to the Detention Center in Huantai County for interrogation. On 17 July, Gao's family was informed by the local Public Security Bureau that she had died of a sudden heart attack. But Gao's family reported that she had no history of heart disease. On 18 July, Gao's family went to prepare her remains for her funeral. They reported that Gao's face was purple, her back was dotted with red spots, and her armpits were black and blue. Gao's family requested to see the video recording of the interrogation, but the police refused. A man, who claimed to have been in the Public Security Bureau for many years, analyzed the body and concluded that the circumstances of her death corresponded with being jabbed with an electric baton with extremely strong electric currents. [See **Affidavit A**]

3.3 That the authorities of China persecute CAG Christians to death breaches Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human rights.

4. Slavery/Servitude

4.1 Hundreds of thousands of CAG Christians were sent to jails and farms built with the purpose of reformation through labor. They were imposed with forced labor in an extreme inhuman condition there. They were usually forced to work 15 hours a day, some even worked up to 20 hours, with no holidays all year round, and no pay. Long-term persecution, slavery and mental torment led CAG Christians to extreme physical and mental damage and in some cases permanent disability or death was the result.

We mention a typical case concerning a CAG Christian, Mr. HUANG Weidong. He was sentenced to 4 years of imprisonment due to believing in Almighty God. During his imprisonment from 2012 to 2016, he was forced to do the overload labor of picking peppers every day (25 KG of dry peppers or 65 KG of fresh peppers). He choked constantly and sometimes suffocated because of the unbearable spiciness, and gradually developed obsolete pneumonia. For fear that he would be punished for his unfinished work, Huang seldom took time off to drink water or go to the toilet. As a rule, the mealtime was only 5 minutes. And he was assigned to take a 4-hour night shift of guard stand, which led to the insufficiency of rest and sleep. That Huang had to do overload labor for more than 15 hours a day and had meals lacking nutrition, i.e. half a steamed bun (100g) for a meal, resulted him in serious iron-deficiency anemia (the quantity of hemoglobin in his blood is only 3g/dl). His feet began to be swollen, and he felt difficult to breathe and walk subsequently. The guards, however, still forced him to do hard labor, which gradually aggravated his disease to pulmonary heart disease of Level III, with abdominal dropsy and edema. In October 2016, Huang Weidong was released upon completion of his jail terms, but he became completely disabled. [See **Affidavit B** and Huang's **Certificate of Diagnosis** during his detention]

4.2 The Chinese authorities' persecution of slavery or servitude of CAG Christians is in violation of Articles 4 and 24 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

5. Torture and Cruel, Inhuman, and Degrading Treatment (CIDT)

5.1 China submitted the sixth report on implementing the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment after the last Review. However, China has not passed laws to regulate the definition of torture up to now, so that no effective mechanisms of supervision or measures against torture have been enforced yet. Furthermore, extralegal directives from the CCP have instead implicitly encouraged the police

officers to continue the use of torture. Criteria for promotions and bonuses for prison guards are established to create an incentive to torture Christians, which has continued the unabated use of torture on Christians. The use of torture against CAG Christians by the CCP remains widespread and systematic as of 2018.

5.2 The use of torture is aimed at forcing CAG Christians to renounce their faith, sign “Statements of Pledge,” “Statements of Confession,” “Statements of Break-up,” “Statements of Denouncement and Criticism,” etc., as well as to extract information on other CAG Christians and the whereabouts of both CAG Christians and church money. Reports of abuse, including photographs and first-hand accounts, continue to be received from contacts in China every day.

5.3 Two examples are given below for understanding of the ill treatment CAG Christians have gone through.

Case 1: Ms. **Rao Jianxing**, born in 1996 in Jiujiang City, Jiangxi Province, joined CAG in 2003. On August 21, 2015, she was forcefully escorted to Ningzhou Police Station because of believing in Almighty God. The police officers slapped her viciously across the face for more than 500 times, which resulted in the teeth in her upper jaw loosening (later, she began to lose her teeth gradually and installed 13 dentures). The police officers also had her arms wrenched behind her back in the “airplane cuffs,” and tied one end of rope to the links of her handcuffs, another to the rail under the “tiger bench”, then the policemen ruthlessly trampled the middle of rope. The pain made her pass out several times. The police woke her up using water and continued to interrogate her. Two pieces of flesh were torn off from her wrists due to the teeth of the cuffs. The police officers also slapped her face with the sole of a slipper and stamped on her toes with their leather shoes. They had been interrogating her for three days and ended up with no results. On April 15, 2016, Rao was sentenced to 22 months in prison on the charge of “sabotaging the implementation of the laws by utilizing evil religious organizations” by the local court. [See **Affidavit C**]

Case 2: Mr. **He Linbo**, age 42, native of Henan Province, was a top leader of CAG when he was wanted online in October 2017 for believing in Almighty God and being active in CAG. On November 26, 2017, he was arrested by the police during a security check at the Shihezi City Train Station in Xinjiang Autonomous Region. After being arrested, he was escorted to the local police station for interrogation and subject to brutal torture. The police officers whipped Him on his hands, back, legs, chest, tops and bottoms of his feet, with a finger-sized electric cable and a thinner copper wire. Then they fed him mustard oil and forced him to do half squats. Later, he was transferred to a hotel for secret interrogation. The police handcuffed him to a tiger bench and deprived him of sleep for seven days and nights to forcibly convert him. In the early hours of December 18, he escaped from the hotel while the guarding police were asleep. [See **Affidavit D**]

5.5 The Chinese authorities’ torture and persecution of CAG Christians violates Articles 3 and 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

6. Deprivation of Right to Legal Protection and Fair Trials

6.1 CAG Christians were systematically sentenced without fair trials. Vague definitions of “evil cults” (*xie jiao*) are provided by the CCP, and the CCP convicts and determines the prison term on CAG Christians by using the judicial interpretation of Article 300 of the Criminal Code from the “Two Supreme.” Such a vague legal rule makes any legal defense impossible (The Supreme People’s Court and Supreme People’s Procuratorate of the People’s Republic of China 2017).

6.2 The Chinese judicial system also assists the CCP to persecute CAG. The trial of the CAG Christians in court exists in name only, because CAG Christians are deprived of their rights to conduct their own defense. In some cases, when CAG Christians insisted on conducting their own defense, the judges turned a blind eye on the police officers’ beating the CAG Christians before them. Most family members of CAG Christians were not notified of the trial process and forbidden to attend the hearings. CAG Christians who were injured after suffering the torture were refused parole. Most CAG Christians were threatened to be imposed with supplementary imprisonment for appealing against the previous judgment. Some CAG Christians were sentenced without trial. Some cases violated the Constitution, that is, the CAG Christians in the second instance were penalized additionally without reason or cause.

6.3 The Chinese authorities’ deprivation of CAG Christians’ right to fair trials violates Articles 6, 7, 8, 10, 11 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

7. Arbitrary Detention and Imprisonment

7.1 CAG Christians were continuously subject to arbitrary detention and imprisonment without due process from 2014 to 2018.

7.2 CAG Christians were detained on charges like “endangering social order,” or “sabotaging the implementation of the laws by utilizing evil religious organizations,” only because they peacefully participated in religious activities. Many of them were sentenced to long-term imprisonment, i.e. to the maximum term of 14 years as recorded. Hundreds of judicial documents published by the Chinese State prove this fact (See the official website of Judicial Opinions of China <http://wenshu.court.gov.cn/>).

7.3 Some examples may be useful to understand the situation of these CAG Christians.

Case 1: Mr. **He Zhexun**, a CAG Christian, was sentenced to 14 years in prison due to organizing meetings and doing work for the Church, and now he is still in custody (Introvigne 2017b).

Case 2: In August 2014, Ms. **Li Huaxian**, another CAG Christian, was arrested due to spreading the Gospel and keeping on her home over 2,000 pieces of Gospel materials. In December 2014, she was sentenced to 8 years in prison. [See Criminal Verdict of Li Huaxian: <https://goo.gl/y3XwGQ>]

Since the McDonald’s Murder Case in 2014, the numbers of CAG Christians being arrested arbitrarily surged upwards. The international human rights organization Freedom House reported that eighty percent of those arrested between 2014 and 2016 as members of “heterodox religions” (i.e. *xie jiao*) were members of The Church of Almighty God (Cook 2017).

7.4 In 2017, the persecutions were further intensified, and the CCP arrested CAG Christians simultaneously in different provinces (see Huzhou Government Network 2017). At least 583 CAG Christians were arrested in Zhejiang Province alone from July 2 to 10 in 2017, and the number amounted to 638 as of early October 2017. At present, the overwhelming majority are still imprisoned, their family members are not allowed to visit them, and the details of their detention are unknown.

7.5 The Chinese authorities’ arbitrary detention and imprisonment of CAG Christians violates Article 9 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

8. Incitement of Hatred

8.1 Since 2014, the CCP has continually trumped up rumors to defame CAG and incited people’s hatred against CAG, with the aim of making the persecution national. The most typical case is the May 28 McDonald’s Murder Case in Zhaoyuan, Shandong Province in 2014. The CCP published fake news through all media and Internet platforms domestically and internationally, which blamed the case on CAG Christians to incite Chinese populace hatred and discrimination against CAG. There were also 20,000 media webpages of different languages connecting CAG Christians to the McDonald’s Murder Case.

8.2 After the murder case, the CCP embarked on a nationwide campaign known as the “Hundred-Day Battle” and began to cruelly persecute CAG. The CCP authorities stated: “Firmly grasp the typical case of May 28 McDonald’s Murder to launch a powerful offensive against CAG in public opinions, a wide range of social forces must be mobilized to actively participate in the anti-cult struggle.” In mainland China, there hung posters and slogans of conviction and suppression on CAG in all villages. Every local authority arranged for a performance team to pay visits door-to-door in villages to spread the hate speech against CAG. They also set up the system of whistleblower rewards and grassroots control, neighbor supervision, five-hood joint prevention, etc., in order to incite people to report CAG Christians (Kaiwind 2017).

8.3 In 2017, some leading Western scholars and specialists on religions studied several accusations of the CCP against CAG. As mentioned earlier, their conclusions were that CAG has no connection with the May 28 McDonald’s homicide. The CCP authorities did utilize this murder case to escalate the persecution against CAG (Introvigne 2017a). At present, no accusations of the CCP against CAG have been verified (Introvigne 2018). Several studies and reports by scholars and specialists on religions have been published on academic journals and encyclopedias of religion documenting the Chinese practice of spreading fake news against CAG.

8.4 The Chinese authorities’ trumped-up rumors and incitement of populace hatred against CAG violate Article 7 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

9. Deprivation of Privacy Rights

9.1 The police, without producing any credentials, has repeatedly broken into and raided CAG Christians' families, monitored and tracked Christians and their families arbitrarily. CAG Christians' telephone calls, cell phones calls, networks were monitored, and their private mails and parcels were opened and checked. Their houses were put on monitors and taps. All these methods seem to be commonly used.

9.2 The situation has gotten worse especially in 2017. The CCP conducted special household investigation ("Door-knocking Operation"). The anti-*xie-jiao* unit known as the 610 Office started sharing the information of CAG Christians with Public Security Bureau through Information Management System ("database"), in order to "be able to discover, control, and dispose [of them]." These methods severely abuse the CAG Christians' privacy, subjecting them to being arrested any moment (The Office of the CCP Henan Provincial Committee 2017).

9.3 According to the statistics included in the 2017 annual report published by CAG, there were 2,122 cases of CAG Christians put under residential surveillance during the period January to September 2017.

9.4 The Chinese authorities' abuse of the privacy rights of CAG Christians violates Article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

10. Destruction of Families

10.1 During 2014-2018, the CCP's monitoring, arrest, and persecution has caused at least 500,000 CAG Christians to flee their home, and several hundred thousand families have been torn apart. Many children have been separated from their parents and deprived of their schooling. Husbands and wives have to live in different places. The CCP has fabricated many fake news to discredit, frame, defame CAG, so some of CAG Christians' families or spouses bar them from following their faith, and their marriages have been led to disharmony or broken.

10.2 The CCP threatens CAG Christians' families with the loss of career, education opportunity, pension payments, subsistence allowances, etc., which intensifies the conflicts of and results in the breakage of their families. Many CAG Christian women have been, while in custody, forced to have an abortion, and some mothers in lactation were separated from their newly-born babies.

10.3 The Chinese authorities' destruction of CAG Christians' families violates Article 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

11. Deprivation of the Rights to Freedom of Movement, and the Rights to Seek Political Asylum

11.1 In order to prevent the released CAG Christians from practicing their belief, Chinese authorities have forbidden them from leaving their cities. They are asked to report to the local Public Security Bureaus every week or month. They are required to report to the local Police if they want to leave their cities (See **Affidavit B and C**).

11.2 Because the persecution of the CCP has intensified since 2014, many CAG Christians have fled to seek asylum abroad. In many of the documents issued by the CCP, persecution of CAG Christians overseas is set as one of its main tasks. In 2015, the CCP has ordered to confiscate or revoke the exit-entry certificates of CAG Christians living in China. They are forbidden to leave the country (although some managed to escape anyway). The CCP have started investigating CAG Christians, put those identified into the black list, and set up effective control system (The CCP Xiangkou Town Commission Office 2015). Many CAG Christians have been investigated and arrested just because of applying for a passport.

11.3 The CCP has deployed all kinds of methods to investigate and harass CAG Christians who have fled overseas. The CCP has developed precise strike plans according to their domestic relationships. It has coaxed and coerced their families to give interviews and orchestrated demonstrations in the countries where they are seeking asylum, manipulated the overseas medias to discredit CAG, and blocked their asylum applications through all sorts of interference.

11.4 The Chinese authorities' deprivation of CAG Christians' rights to freedom of movement, and the rights of seeking political asylum violates the Articles 13, 14 and 15 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

12. Deprivation of the Right to Freedom of Religion and Belief, Expression, Peaceful Assembly, and Association

12.1 CAG Christians, for the mere fact of holding or attending meetings, preaching, writing articles, printing books, accessing the Internet, and making videos, and so on, have been convicted according to the prevailing interpretation

of Article 300 of Criminal Law by the “Two Supreme.” The police have arrested, and courts have severely sentenced, CAG Christians only for the fact that they are the members of CAG or they possess several books of CAG.

12.2 We mention some specific examples.

Case 1: Ms. **Wang Xiaojun**, a CAG Christian, was arrested in 2014 because she downloaded articles and materials from CAG websites, and shared them through programs such as Sina Weibo, Sina Blog, Tencent Qzone, 360 cloud drive. Convicted of “sabotaging the implementation of the laws by utilizing evil religious organizations,” she was sentenced to 4 years of imprisonment in July 2014. [See Criminal Verdict of Wang Xiaojun: <http://bit.ly/2F4L4e0>]

Case 2: In August 2016, 36 CAG Christians were arrested for shooting videos for CAG. They are still in custody.

12.3 The main aim of the CCP’s persecution of CAG Christians is to force them to renounce their religion and belief. CCP’s methods include arbitrary detention, forcible conversion, cruel torture, deprivation of subsistence rights. A great number of CAG Christians have been tortured to the point of being disabled, and many have died of unnatural deaths while in custody.

12.4 The Chinese authorities’ deprivation of CAG Christians’ rights to freedom of religion and belief, expression, peaceful assembly, and association violates Articles 18, 19 and 20 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

13. Deprivation of Basic Economic, Social, Culture and Individual Development Rights

13.1 From 2014-2018, Chinese authorities have continued to confiscate the businesses and properties of CAG Christians and their families. Their properties have often been pocketed by the police officers. For example, on March 10, 2017, five Christians in Heze City, Shandong Province were blackmailed by police officers for RMB 155,000.

13.2 CAG Christians and their families have been fired at will, and thus lost their source of living. Their endowment insurance and basic living security have been deprived of. They have been discriminated by their companies or institutes. Their rights to educational opportunities, career promotion, further education have been denied.

13.3 Deprivation of basic economic, social, culture and individual development rights of CAG Christians in China violates Articles 17, 23, 25, 26, and 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

14. Conclusion

14.1 From 2014 to 2018, Chinese authorities have been abusing the human rights of CAG Christians in a massive and systematic way, and this confirm the opinion of several NGOs that regard China as the worst human right abuser in the world.

14.2 The persecution of CAG Christians is an egregious example of extreme persecution against Christians and members of minority religions in the world today, which is one of the most serious humanitarian crisis in the world.

15. Recommendations

15.1 Recommendations for the United Nations Human Rights Council and its member states:

- Immediately stop China from abusing human rights of CAG Christians.
- Require China to release all currently imprisoned CAG Christians.

15.2 Recommendations for the member states of United Nations:

- Get to know and pay attention to the fact that the CCP persecutes CAG Christians.
- Fulfill the obligations of the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees.
- Provide the basic humanitarian protection to CAG Christians who fled to the countries where they presently are.

15.3 Recommendations for the Chinese government:

- Truly abide by the signed Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

- Immediately cease the persecution against CAG and other religious movements and Christian House Churches.
- All CAG Christians currently imprisoned must be released.
- Respect the human rights of CAG Christians and their families.
- Disclose the truth of May 28 McDonald's Murder in Zhaoyuan, Shandong Province.
- Withdraw all the fake news using this and other cases to slander CAG and investigate the legal liability of the relevant persons.

Enclosures

Affidavit A (Zhang Liang)

Affidavit B (Li Qiubo)

Affidavit C (Zhu Dongping)

Affidavit D (Yang Tianying)

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AFFIDAVIT

I, Liang Zhang, currently living in Flushing, New York City, NY, MAKE OATH AND SAY THAT:

1. My name is Liang Zhang, born on December 11, 1969 in Zibo City, Shandong Province, China, My America ID number 444261454. I currently live in Flushing, New York City, New York, having escaped from China in the year 2015.

2. I have been since the year 2011 a member of the Church of Almighty God, a Christian church whose members are severely persecuted in China.

3. I hereby declare that I am personally aware of the circumstances of Gao Cuiqin (alias: Zhang Ping) who was arrested, persecuted and tortured to death by the CCP in China for the sole reasons of being a The Church of Almighty God Christian, reading Almighty God's word at home and attending church meetings.

4. I list the name of the person whose circumstances I am personally aware of here below, indicating "(alias: Zhang Ping)" when revealing the real name of the person would expose her or her family to retaliations in China. I am prepared to supply the real name to the appropriate authorities, provide confidentiality is assured: Ms. Gao Cuiqin, a native of Huantai County, Zibo City, Shandong Province, China, indicating the alias Zhang Ping when needed.

5. For Ms. Gao Cuiqin, these are the facts known to me personally through interaction with the local residents and some brothers and sisters in my sub-region. After having come to America, I received some detailed information about Sister Gao Cuiqin from her relatives and close friends, including her being arrested and tortured which led to her death, as well as the Cremation Certificate issued for Sister Gao.

I list her circumstances I am personally aware of here below:

Early morning on July 15, 2014, around 6:30 AM, Gao Cuiqin was at home making breakfast when six plainclothes police officers (four male and two female) burst into the Gao family home, led by Gong Yuebing, deputy captain of the Shandong Huantai County Public Security Bureau (PSB) National Security Brigade. Gao's mother-in-law and sister-in-law were standing in the home's entrance at the time. The police forced Gao to accompany them to the local PSB due to her belief in Almighty God, without producing any documentation. After registering her, she was transferred to the Huantai County detention center. Around noon that same day, the police returned to Gao's home and demanded that her mother-in-law pay for Gao's living expenses while detained. She did not comply.

Emergency personnel with Huantai County Shengjie Hospital disclosed that around 11:00 AM on July 17, the police called Shengjie Hospital requesting an ambulance for a medical emergency. A doctor rushed

to the scene, but seeing that the patient had already been dead for some time, did not bring her to the hospital. The police made another phone call to the Huantai County Branch of the Shandong Qilu Hospital, and emergency personnel took the victim to the hospital.

At 1:00 PM on July 17, Zhao Xuepeng, the director of the Suo Town, Huantai County Police Station called Gao Cuiqin's husband, Mr. Liu. He said that Gao Cuiqin was in the hospital and urged him to go, but the police did not tell him over the phone that she was already dead.

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

At 6:00 PM that evening, after Gao's husband Liu met with the police, he inquired into his wife's condition, but received no response from the police. He was taken to the hospital where he saw two tubes in his wife's nose and a flat line on the ECG. Her head was twisted at an angle and her neck was tilted up; her body was stiff. It was clear that she had been dead for a while, but the doctor was still using an external pacemaker, pretending to try to save her. According to Liu, he overheard a doctor present state that when his wife had arrived at the hospital, she showed no signs of life. Liu then took a photo of his wife's body.

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

According to Sister Li Min (an alias), another Christian who was held in the same detention center along with Gao Cuiqin, around 5:00 AM on July 16, she heard the sound of the impact of iron shackles from the adjacent room where Gao was being interrogated. After that, everything was silent.

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

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

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

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

Many of our fellow town residents were outraged when they learned that Sister Gao had been beaten to death by the police because of her belief in Almighty God, and many said: "How could the police beat such a good honest person to death? Wasn't it just her faith? Why don't they beat the people who do evil things like commit murder and arson?"

I declare that the above circumstances are true, that I know them from direct contacts with the persons concerned and other reliable witnesses, and that my only aim is to make the truth of the cases known to all the interested parties.

STATE OF NEW YORK

CITY OF NEW YORK CITY

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME
on the 15th day of March, 2018

Signature Cindy Lin (Seal)

NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission expires: 05-01-2021

Liang Zhang

(Signature)

CIN CINDY LIN
NOTARY PUBLIC-STATE OF NEW YORK
No. 0116357948
Qualified in Queens County
My Commission Expires 05-01-2021

AFFIDAVIT

I, Li Qiubo, currently living in Italy, MAKE OATH AND SAY THAT:

1. My name is Li Qiubo, born on August 24, 1966 in Shihezi City, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Chinese passport number E42662204. I currently live in Milan, Italy, having escaped from China in the year 2016.
2. I have been since the year 2009 a member of The Church of Almighty God, a Christian church whose members are severely persecuted in China.
3. I hereby declare that I am personally aware of the circumstances of one of my brothers in the Church whose name is HUANG Weidong (his alias is MA Jun), and who was born on July 21, 1969, in Shihezi City, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, China. We are from the same Church. In March 2012, I met HUANG for the first time. At that time, some brothers and sisters came to my home to have meetings together. Just one month before Brother HUANG was arrested, he came to my home to have meetings with other believers many times.
4. On September 7, 2012, Mr. HUANG was arrested by the CCP police for being a member of The Church of Almighty God and organizing meetings for believers. On the same day, I heard about this from my church leader.
5. He was sentenced by Intermediate People's Court of Shihezi City in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, China, to a prison term of 4 years because of being a member of The Church of Almighty God and organizing meetings for believers. He was detained in Beiye Prison in Agricultural Eighth Division from October 30, 2013 to October 29, 2016. His crime was described as "organizing and using a Xie Jiao organization to undermine law enforcement" and the provision of Article 300 of the Chinese Criminal Code was applied.
6. When I was still in China, I had heard about his experience from sisters who had contacted HUANG Weidong's family. During his detention, he was subjected to cruel and inhuman practices. After I came abroad, I have read his experience written by himself and seen his medical certificate, which allowed to know more details about his persecution.

The prison guards forced HUANG Weidong to do high-intensity labor every day (removing the pedicles of over 20kg of chilies). Because the task load was too heavy, HUANG Weidong had no time to drink water or go the restroom. For each meal, he was only given half a steamed bun (100g) and had to finish in 5 minutes. In the evening, HUANG Weidong had to stand guard for 4 hours. Due to over 10-hour high-intensity labor every day and lack of

LI QIUBO

nutrition, HUANG Weidong's health deteriorated gradually. In January 2014, he started to experience dizziness, nausea, fever and edema in the lower limbs. He had passed out twice. In April, his condition became worse; when the symptoms developed into generalized edema and shortness of breath, he was finally allowed to see a doctor. He was clinically diagnosed of having pulmonary heart disease, obsolete pneumonia and severe iron-deficiency anemia (normal hemoglobin values are 13.5-17 g/dl, HUANG only had 3g/dl). The doctors gave him two blood transfusion (800cc each time) and planned to have him stay in hospital for observation for several days, but the prison police took him back to prison to continue doing labor. As a result, his conditions deteriorated into pulmonary heart disease of level III, abdominal dropsy and generalized edema, his weight went from 54kg to 70kg. On October 29, 2016, HUANG was finally released. Until now, HUANG often feels short of breath and is incapacitated.

After his release, the police required him to report to the local Judicial Office periodically, and keep the cell phone on 24 hours a day, so as to track his whereabouts. He was not allowed to leave where he resided.

7. I declare that all the above circumstances are true, that I know them from direct contacts with the person concerned and other reliable witnesses, and that my only aim is to make the truth of the case known to all the interested parties.

8. HUANG Weidong's medical certificate during his prison term and its English translation can be found along with this affidavit.

CITY OF MILLAN, ITALY

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME,
on the _____ day of _____,

Signature _____

(Seal)

NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission expires:

LI QIU BO

(Signature)

VISTO FIRMA

io per l'autenticità della firma della Sig.ra LI QUIBO, nata a XinJiang
(Repubblica Popolare Cinese) il 24 agosto 1966 e residente in Milano,
madrina cinese, identificata con passaporto cinese rilasciato in data 9
febbraio 2005 n. E42662204;

la cui identità personale io Notaio sono certo.

Milano, Viale Caldara n.20 in data 21 marzo 2018.



Roberto Bossi



AFFIDAVIT

I, Dongping Zhu, currently living in 9426 46TH Ave Elmhurst, NY 11373 MAKE OATH AND SAY THAT:

1. My name is Dongping Zhu, born on October 8, 1977 in Jiangxi, My Chinese passport number is E42502410. I currently live in 9426 46TH Ave Elmhurst NY 11373, having escaped from China in July 2016.
2. I have been, since the year 2009 a member of The Church of Almighty God (CAG), a Christian church whose members are severely persecuted in China.
3. I hereby declare that I am personally aware of the circumstances of a CAG Christian, whose name is Rao Jianxing (alias Su Zhen), born on February 22, 1966, in Xiushui County, Jiangxi Province, China. She is one of my church friends. I got to know her in 2010 and performed duty together for some time.
4. On August 21, 2015, Ms. Rao Jianxing was arrested by the CCP police, for the sole reason of being a member of CAG and proselyting on its behalf.
5. For the sole reason of being a member of CAG and a missionary on its behalf, she has been sentenced by the Court of Xiushui County, Jiangxi Province, China, to 22 months of imprisonment, on the charge of "sabotaging the implementation of the laws by utilizing evil religious organizations," and fined of 4,000 RMB, on April 15, 2016. She was detained in Jiangxi Women's Prison, from the date May 20, 2016 to the date June 22, 2017. And the provision of Article 300 of the Chinese Criminal Code was applied.
6. Several days after Rao Jianxing was arrested by the CCP police, I happened to go to their church for a meeting. The church leader and other brothers and sisters told me something about her story. Rao was followed by the CCP police when she went to pick up a young sister. Later, she and eight or nine other brothers and sisters were arrested by the police one after another. After fleeing overseas, I received an article wrote by Rao about her

experience of being tortured by the CCP police, from which I knew some details about what happened to her after she was arrested:

In the police station, the police officers asked her to identify other Christians based on their photos and give them the information about the church. She refused, then the police slapped her viciously across the face for a whole day, which resulted in the teeth in her upper jaw loosening. The police officers also had her armswrenched behind her back in the "airplane cuffs," and tied one end of rope to the links of her handcuffs, another to the rail under the "tiger bench", then the policemen ruthlessly trampled the middle of rope. The pain made her pass out several times. The police woke her up using mineral water and continued to interrogate her. Two pieces of flesh were torn off from her wrists due to the teeth of the cuffs. The police also slapped her face with the sole of a slipper and stamped on her toes with their leather shoes. They had been interrogating her for three days and ended up with no results. Later Rao was sentenced to 22 months in prison on the charge of "sabotaging the implementation of the laws by utilizing evil religious organizations," and then she was sent to the Jiangxi Women's Prison to serve her term. She was set free in June 2017. Not long after Rao's upper jaw was hurt by the police, she began to lose her teeth and couldn't chew food as normal. Until now she hasn't recovered yet and even needs a straw to drink warm water. The police still try to control Rao in their hands. In order to escape from the control of the CCP, she had no choice but to move home and began her life in exile.

7. I declare that all the above circumstances are true, that I know them from direct contacts with the person concerned and other reliable witnesses, and that my only aim is to make the truth of the case known to all the interested parties.
8. I enclose the document hereof: Certificate of Release of Rao Jianxing.

Dongping Zhu

3/17/2018

YAOYU CHEN
Notary Public, State of New York
No.01CH6325954
Qualified in Kings County
Commission Expires Jun.08,2019

State of New York
County of Kings
Subscribed and sworn to before me
The 17th day of March, 2018
By _____
Notary Public



释放证明书（副本）

(2017) 赣女狱释字第282号

兹有饶建杏，女，1966年2月22日生，原户籍所在地江西省修水县上杭乡新庄村21号，因利用邪教组织破坏法律实施罪于2016年5月5日经江西省修水县人民法院判处有期徒刑1年10个月，罚金4000.00元。服刑期间无加减刑情况，实际执行刑期1年10个月。现因执行刑满予以释放。

特此证明。



二〇一七年六月二十二日

注意事项：

1. 持证人必须在2017年7月7日以前将本证明书副本送达户籍所在地派出所办理户口登记手续。
2. 本证明书私自涂改无效。

释放证明书（副本）

（2017）赣女狱释字第282号

兹有饶建杏，女，1966年2月22日生，原户籍所在地江西省修水县上杭乡新庄村21号，因利用邪教组织破坏法律实施罪于2016年5月5日经江西省修水县人民法院判处有期徒刑1年10个月，罚金4000.00元。服刑期间无加减刑情况，实际执行刑期1年10个月。现因执行刑满予以释放。

特此证明。

江西省女子监狱(章)

二〇一七年六月二十二日

注意事项：

1、持证人必须在2017年7月7日以前将本证明书副本送达户籍所在地派出所办理户口登记手续。

Duplicate

Certificate of Release

Jiangxi Women's Prison Release Certificate
No. 282 (2017)

It is hereby certified that Rao Jianxing, female, born on February 22, 1966, whose original registered residence is No. 21, Xinzhuang Village, Shanghang Town, Xiushui County, Jiangxi Province, was sentenced to 1 year and 10 months in prison and fined for 4,000 RMB, for sabotaging the implementation of the laws by utilizing evil religious organizations, on May 05, 2016 by People's Court of Xiushui County, Jiangxi Province. During serving in prison, the detainee was not given supplementary punishment or reduction of sentence. The actual term the detainee served was 1 years and 10 months. The detainee is hereby released due to having served the required term of imprisonment.

June 22, 2017

(Seal: Jiangxi Women's Prison)

Attention:

1. Certification holder must forward this duplicate to the police station of the place where Certificate holder is to register the residence before the date of July 07, 2017.
2. This certificate will be invalid if

2、本证明书私自涂改无效。

unauthorizedly altered.



경기도 안양시 동안구 시민대로181
삼성생명빌딩 2층
[별지 제41호서식]

중환자 법무법인시민
SHIMIN LAW FIRM & NOTARY OFFICE

(전화) (031)386-0100(대표)
(팩스) (031)386-0090

Registered No. 2018 - 341

NOTARIAL CERTIFICATE

SHIMIN LAW FIRM & NOTARY OFFICE

2F Samsung Bldg. 181, Simin-daero,
Dongan-gu, Anyang-si, Gyeonggi-do, Korea



100mm X 297mm.
보통용지(1종) 70g/m²

AFFIDAVIT

I, Yang Tianying, currently living in Seoul, Republic of Korea, MAKE OATH AND SAY THAT:

1. My name is Yang Tianying; born on October 30, 1986, in Pingyu County, Henan Province, Chinese passport number is EB8109719. I currently live in 141, Gamasan-ro, Guro-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea, having escaped from China in January 2018.
2. I have been, since the year 2005, a member of The Church of Almighty God, a Christian church whose members are severely persecuted in China.
3. I hereby declare that I am personally aware of the circumstances of The Church of Almighty God Christian, whose name is He Linbo (42 at that time), born in Henan Province, China. We were co-workers in the Church.
4. On November 26, 2017, Mr. He Linbo was arrested at the Shihezi City Train Station in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, China, for the sole reason of being a leader of The Church of Almighty God, and organizing Christians to have meetings and spread the gospel.
5. He is subjected to detention for interrogation and brutal torture from November 26, 2017 to December 18, 2017, in the detention center, police station, hotel, etc., for the sole reason of being a leader of The Church of Almighty God, and organizing Christians to have meetings and spread the gospel. His crime was described as “sabotaging the implementation of the laws by utilizing evil religious organizations” and the provision of Article 300 of the Chinese Criminal Code was applied.
6. After his arrest and during his detention, he was subjected to cruel and inhuman practices. Details are as below:

On November 26, 2017, he was arrested by the police during a security check at the Shihezi City Train Station in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. Shortly after, he was escorted to the police station at the train station where he was physically searched and questioned by the police for personal information. The police produced the arrest warrant posted online by the Wujiaqu State

Security Brigade of the Changji Sixth Agricultural Division, Xinjiang. Subsequently, the police produced the pictures of three CAG leaders along with their personal information, and forced him to make identification. When he refused to comply, he was violently beaten by the police.

At noon on the same day, he was confined in the Shihezi City Detention Center. In the prison room, the head prisoner rudely ordered him to mop the floor and toilet. The head prisoner forced him to strip naked and squat in the toilet, and ordered him to put both hands on his head and poured basin after basin of cold water down his head. It was the coldest days of the winter. He was shivering from the cold while suffering from a terrible headache. But the head prisoner did not let him say it was cold, relenting only when he said it was not cold.

On November 27, he was escorted to the Guangming Road Police Station in Wujiaqu City for interrogation. During the interrogation, the police handcuffed him to the tiger bench and deprived him of sleep. He was guarded by four people each day. In order to persuade him to explain the situation of the church and information of other Christians, the police threatened to detain him indefinitely and even sentence him to prison. Seeing that he would not speak, the State Security Brigade captain took an electric wire, twisted it into a finger-sized cable, took turn with three people including the Criminal Police Squad captain and viciously whipped him on his back, chest and legs, followed by whipping him with a thinner copper wire. Handcuffed to the tiger bench, he was unable to dodge but took the brutal beating. Later, the police whipped him on his hands, removed his shoes and viciously whipped the tops and bottoms of his feet. The pain made him scream out loudly. Both of his hands and feet were swollen. Seeing that he refused to speak all along, the State Security Brigade captain and Criminal Police Squad captain turned him over to four young policemen for continual torture. The policemen took him down from the tiger bench and fed him mustard oil. They made him do half squats for twenty-minutes a time with a ten-minute break in between. This was repeated three times. His face was covered with sweat. His legs were trembling uncontrollably. Afterward, the police handcuffed him to the tiger bench again.

The next day, the police escorted him to the Sixth Agricultural Division Detention Center in Wujiaqu City. During a strip search in the detention center, he saw that his back was covered with injuries, his legs were bruised, and his feet were so swollen that he could not put on shoes.

On December 11, he was transferred to a labor hotel in Wujiaqu City for secret interrogation. Inside the hotel, the police handcuffed him to the tiger

bench and deprived him of sleep for seven days and nights. As soon as he dozed off, the police opened the window to make him freeze, and used towels soaked with cold water to rub him on his head, face and neck. Wearing only a thin cotton T-shirt and a pair of pants, he was trembling all over from the coldness. During that period, he was forced to convert and renounce his faith.

In the early hours of December 18, he escaped from the hotel while the guarding police were asleep.

7. I declare that all the above circumstances are true, that I know them from direct contacts with Brother Hong, he wrote a letter to me after he had escaped from the hotel, and that my only aim is to make the truth of the case known to all the interested parties.

CITY OF SEOUL

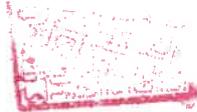
SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO
BEFORE ME, on the _____
day of _____, _____

Signature

(Seal)

NOTARY PUBLIC
My Commission expires:

(Signature)



宣誓书

我，杨田影，现住在韩国首尔市九老区伽玛山路 141 号，本人宣誓：

1、我名叫杨田影，于 1986 年 10 月 30 日在河南省平舆县出生，我的中国护照号是 EB8109719，现住在韩国首尔市九老区伽玛山路 141 号，于 2018 年 1 月逃离中国。

2、从 2005 年开始，我就成为全能神教会的一员。全能神教会是一个基督教教会，基督徒在中国遭受到严重的迫害。

3、我在此申明，我了解我的教友何林波。他名叫何林波，时年 42 岁，出生于中国河南省。我们曾是全能神教会同工。

4、何林波先生只因为是全能神教会的带领，组织基督徒聚会、传福音，于 2017 年 11 月 26 日在中国新疆维吾尔自治区石河子市火车站被抓捕。

5、只因为他是全能神教会的带领，组织基督徒聚会、传福音，于 2017 年 11 月 26 日至 2017 年 12 月 18 日被关押在看守所、派出所、宾馆等审讯，遭受酷刑折磨。他的罪名是“涉嫌利用邪教组织破坏法律实施罪”，定他有罪的适用法律条款是中国刑法第 300 条的规定。

6、被捕后，他遭受了残酷、惨无人道的对待，细节如下：

2017 年 11 月 26 日，他在新疆维吾尔自治区石河子市火车站过安检时被警察抓捕，后被铐押至火车站派出所，警察对其搜身、查问个人信息，并调出新疆昌吉农六师五家渠国保大队在网上对其发布的通缉令。接着警察又调出三名全能神教会带领的照片以及他们的个人信息，逼他指认，他拒绝了，遭到警察暴打。

当天中午，他被关进石河子市城区看守所。在监室内，监室长喝令他拖地、擦厕所，并强逼他脱光衣服蹲在厕所里，胁迫他双手抱头，然后用一盆一盆的冷水从他的头上往下浇。数九寒天，他冻得浑身发抖，头疼得厉害，监室长却不允许他说冷，直到他被迫说不冷了监室长才作罢。

11 月 27 日，他被押到五家渠市光明路派出所审讯。审讯期间，警察将他铐在老虎凳上，不许他睡觉，每天由四人看守。警察为了诱迫他交代教会情况和其他基督徒的信息，恐吓说如果不交代就无限期地关押，还要判他坐牢！见他不说，

国保大队队长拿来一根电线，拧成手指粗的电绳，和刑警队队长等三人轮换朝其背部、腿上、前胸狠劲地抽打，后又换成细的铜电线抽打，他被铐在老虎凳上毫无躲闪的机会，只能任由他们毒打。后来他们又抽打他的双手，脱掉他的鞋子狠抽其脚面、脚底板，痛得他失声惨叫，双手双脚被打肿。见他始终不说，国保队队长和刑警队队长将他交给四名年轻警察继续整治。警察将他从老虎凳上放下来，给他灌芥末油，让他蹲马步，每蹲 20 分钟，休息 10 分钟，如此动作连续做三次。他被折腾得满头大汗，双腿发抖，之后警察又将他铐在老虎凳上。

次日，警察将他转押到五家渠市第六师看守所。在该所脱衣检查时，他看到自己的背上全是伤，腿上都是青的，脚肿得穿不上鞋子。

12 月 11 日，他又被转押至五家渠市劳动宾馆秘密审讯。在宾馆内，警察将他铐在老虎凳上，七天七夜不让他睡觉，只要见他一瞌睡，警察就打开窗户故意冻他，并用浸满冷水的毛巾在他头上、脸上、脖子上乱擦，致使只穿了一件薄棉 T 恤、一条薄秋裤的他冻得浑身发抖。期间，他还被洗脑，强迫放弃信仰。

12 月 18 日凌晨，他趁看守的警察睡着之机，逃离了宾馆。

7、我申明，以上所发生的事情都是真实的，都是何林波弟兄逃出宾馆以后亲自写信给我，我才得知的，至今他仍在外逃亡。我这样做的目的，只是想让各相关方都能了解他这个案例的真相。

韩国首尔市

本人于 X 年 X 月 X 日同意委托并宣誓

签名 _____ 盖
章

公证人

我的委托书失效日期

YANG TIAN YING 杨 2018.3.15.
签名

위 번역문은 원문과 상위없음을 서약
합니다.

I swear that the attached translation is
true to the original.

2018년 03월 15일

Mar. 15, 2018

서약인 杨田勳

인 杨

Signature YANG TIAN YUNG 杨

등부 2018년 제 341호

Registered No. 2018-341

인 증

Notarial Certificate

위 중화인민공화국인 양티엔잉 --- 은
본 공증인의 면전에서 위 번역문이 원
문과 상위없음을 확인하고 서명날인
하였다.

Chinese YANG TIANYING - personally
appeared before me, confirmed that
the attached translation is true to the
original and subscribed his(her) name.

2018년 03월 15일

This is hereby attested on this

이 사무소에서 위 인증한다.

15th day of Mar. 2018 at this office.

**공증
인가 법무법인 시민**

SHIMIN LAW FIRM & NOTARY OFFICE

수원지방검찰청

Suwon District Prosecutor's Office

경기도 안양시 동안구 시민대로181
삼성생명빌딩 2층

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Signature of the Notary Public

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