



THE CHURCH OF ALMIGHTY GOD

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

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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,"¹ 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,"² 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

¹ "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

² The newly revised "Regulations on Religious Affairs": 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.³

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,⁴ 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

³ 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/ARTIWqum00Madjv43F96Mcqh170114.shtml>

⁴ 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."⁵ 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.⁶ Media outlets such as the European Federation for Freedom of Belief,⁷ Italy's Counseling Center SRS (Sectes, Religions, Spirituality),⁸ and

5 "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

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

7 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>

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

South Korea's Prime Business Journal (프라임경제)⁹ and NBN News¹⁰ 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.

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).¹¹ 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

¹¹ Report Analyzing Seven Secret Chinese Government Documents: <https://wwwn.org/articles/7453/>

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.¹²

C. The CCP Painstakingly Formulated the “May 28 McDonald’s Murder Case”¹³ 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

¹² 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/>

¹³ 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.¹⁴

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

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

Almighty God as well as those from the public who have provided information.¹⁵ 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;¹⁶ during this period, there were at least 6 people who have died from such persecution that were well documented;¹⁷ in a report on China's religious freedom by the international human rights organization Freedom House in 2017, it claimed that the CCP's

15 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>

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

17 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>

persecution of Christians has surged by the end of 2014. An analysis of 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.¹⁸

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.¹⁹ 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

18 http://www.xingtai.gov.cn/gkgl/jrxt/xtgk/lxx/201410/t20141030_138570.html
<https://web.archive.org/web/20171114012440/http://211.142.151.245/html/ff8080811e38d751011e42d5dd1a0159/2015062512363496.html>
https://web.archive.org/web/20171114012001/http://www.puan.gov.cn/xxgkjcgk/zcwj/xzwj/201610/t20161027_1255683.html

19 “Court Statements of the Defendants in Zhaoyuan Murder: I Am God”:
<http://news.sina.com.cn/c/2014-08-22/123730728266.shtml>

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, 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,²⁰ 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.²¹ 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

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

²¹ People’s Republic of China Criminal Law Amendment (IX):
http://www.npc.gov.cn/npc/xinwen/2015-08/31/content_1945587.htm

amendment act has become an important legal weapon for the CCP to suppress 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.²²

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.²³ 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."²⁴ In March 2016, in his

22 A Christian Zeng Lingying was sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment:

<http://zhengfa.fznews.com.cn/html/46/2017-02-14/11422415660.shtml>

23 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

24 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

working report delivered at the Fourth Session of the 12th NPC, Zhou Qiang emphasized once again the active participation in the anti-cult struggle.²⁵

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.

²⁵ Zhou Qiang's Report at the Fourth Session of the Twelfth National People's Congress:
<http://lianghui.people.com.cn/2016npc/n1/2016/0313/c403052-28194909.html>

(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.²⁶

(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

²⁶ Li Zhenyuan's Experience of Being Arrested After Returning to China:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WwPeb-JK51V7LMkZI67Rs94a7syvBLO8/view>

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 plans were formulated based on the one-on-one policy.²⁷ 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.²⁸

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.

²⁷ The CCP's Document on "Two Investigations, One Project":
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1I3O03yibctfQxUtHVtXFM0bAiXdL0ksS>

²⁸ Christian Zhang Fu's Overseas Experience of Making a Narrow Escape From the CCP's Abduction:
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1G3VfdcAe3aYwfGWOB-U6rbbgAY5n9Ax8>