

CHRISTIANITY IN CHINA RESOURCE GUIDE 2008

基督教在 中国的资源指南 2008年

(Updated 9 December 2008)

Disclaimer: This package was prepared after researching public information currently available to the Research Service within a tight time constraint. This package is not, and does not purport to be, exhaustive in scope or conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum.

Introduction This is a list of useful source documents on Christianity in China and includes short summaries of the key reports.

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** Key Document (Recent AND Comprehensive)

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1. ESSENTIAL READING

A good introduction to the topic of Christians in China can be had from the following reports:

1. US Department of State 2008, *International Religious Freedom Report 2008 – China*, 19 September (<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2008/108404.htm>) This report contains eight pages on all religions in China plus separate sections on Tibet (five pages), Hong Kong and Macau. This is one of the best surveys with much focused detailed information and analysis on the situation of Christians. Sections cover Religious Demography, Status of Religious Freedom, Legal/Policy Framework, Restrictions on Religious Freedom, Abuses of Religious Freedom and Societal Attitudes.

Other recommended reading

2. DIAC Country Research Section 2008, *China's Protestants and Catholics*, November (CISNET: 'CIS Resources, Issues Briefs' CHN251108) This 53 page brief provides extensive information on official and underground Protestants and Catholics in China including information on the legal framework, conditions in a number of provinces and cities, Shouters (Local Church) and in the lead-up to the Beijing Olympic Games.
3. Congressional-Executive Commission on China 2008, 'Freedom of Religion', *Annual Report 2008*, 31 October, pp.11-12, 73-79 & 82-84 (http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_house_hearings&docid=f:45233.pdf) Useful parts include Legal Framework for Religion, Controls over Religious Publications, Catholicism (Harassment, Detention, and Other Abuses – Access to Religious Sites and Return of Religious Property – Bishop Appointment and China-Holy See Relations), Protestantism (Harassment, Detention, and Other Abuses – Freedom to Interact with Foreign Co-Religionists and Foreign Visitors, Controls over Doctrine), Other Religious Communities including the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the Orthodox Church and Religious Prisoners.
4. UK Home Office 2008, *Country of Origin Information Report: China*, 1 June, Section 19.01-19.22 & 21.01-21.14 (<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/china-130608.doc>) This report contains information on all religions in China, including five pages on Christians and information on banned spiritual groups: Christians (19.01-19.02), Availability of Bibles (19.03-19.04), Proselytising (19.05-19.06), Catholics (19.07-19.13), Relations with the Vatican (19.14-19.16), Protestants including 'House Churches' (19.17-19.21), Russian Orthodox Church (19.22-19.23), Banned Spiritual Groups (21.01-21.03), Shouters (Huhan Pai) or Local Church (21.04-21.06), South China Church (21.07-21.09), Three Grades of Servants Church (21.10-21.11), Eastern Lightning (Dongfang Shandian) or Lightning from the East (21.12-21.13) and Jehovah's Witnesses (21.14).
5. United States Commission on International Freedom 2008, 'China', *2008 Annual Report*, May (http://www.uscirf.gov/images/AR2008/chinaar2008_full%20color.pdf) This report contains 12 pages on all religions in China.
6. DIMIA Country Information Service 2006, *Country Information Report No.06/42 – China: Failed asylum seeker return decision*, (sourced from DFAT advice of 7 August

2006), 25 August (CISNET China CX160293) This is the most recent advice on Christians from DFAT.

7. DIMA Country Information And Protection Support Section 2006, *House Churches In China*, Issues Brief CHN290306, 29 March (CISNET: ‘CIS Resources, Issues Briefs’ CHN290306) This 13 page brief provides an excellent introduction to the issue of Christianity and house churches in China. It clearly explains the legal framework and outlines the differing situation for Protestants and Catholics, and for members of the official and unofficial churches. It gives a brief introduction to human rights issues for Christians in China.
8. Human Rights Watch 2006, *China: A Year After New Regulations, Religious Rights Still Restricted*, 1 March (<http://hrw.org/english/docs/2006/03/01/china12740.htm>). A good six page summary of the situation after China’s Regulations on Religious Affairs came into force on 1 March 2005.
9. Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2005, *CHN100386.E – China: Situation of Catholics and treatment by authorities, particularly in Fujian and Guangdong (2001-2005)*, 1 September (http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/research/rir/index_e.htm?action=record.viewrec&gotorec=449524 – CISNET – REFINFO) A good six page report (plus citations) providing an overview of the situation for Catholics.
10. Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2005, *CHN100387.E – China: Situation of Protestants and treatment by authorities, particularly in Fujian and Guangdong (2001-2005)*, 1 September (http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/research/rir/index_e.htm?action=record.viewrec&gotorec=449522 – CISNET – REFINFO) A good six page report (plus citations) providing an overview of the situation for Protestants.

2. LAWS AND REGULATIONS RELATED TO RELIGION IN CHINA

The sections below detail the most relevant articles and give links to the full text of the document.

Main laws and regulations

- [Constitution of the People’s Republic of China \(1982\)](#)
- [Religious Affairs Regulations \(2005\) – Commentary on Religious Affairs Regulations](#)

Other laws and regulations

- [Rules for the Implementation of the Provisions on the Administration of Religious Activities of Aliens within the Territory of the People’s Republic of China. \(2000\)](#)
- [Decision of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress on Banning Heretical Cult Organizations, Preventing and Punishing Cult Activities \(1999\)](#)
- [Explanations Of The Supreme People’s Court And Supreme People’s Procuratorate Concerning Laws Applicable To Handling Cases Of Organizations And Employing Heretical Cult Organizations To Commit Crimes \(1999\)](#)
- [Regulations on the Registration of Social Organizations \(1998\)](#)
- [Criminal Law of the People’s Republic of China \(1997\)](#)
- [Measures for the Annual Inspection of Places of Religious Activity \(1996\)](#)

- [Measures for the Registration of Places for Religious Activities \(1994\)](#)
- [Provisions on Managing the Religious Activities of Aliens in the PRC \(1994\)](#)
- [Regulations on Managing Places for Religious Activities \(1994\)](#)
- [Implementing Measures on Managing the Registration of Religious Social Organizations \(1991\)](#)

Provincial or Local Regulations

Main laws and regulations

1982

Constitution of the People's Republic of China (中华人民共和国宪法) (Adopted on 4 December 1982)

INTERNET: <http://www.cecc.gov/pages/newLaws/constitutionENG.php>

CISNET China CX136328

Article 36. Citizens of the People's Republic of China enjoy freedom of religious belief. No state organ, public organization or individual may compel citizens to believe in, or not to believe in, any religion; nor may they discriminate against citizens who believe in, or do not believe in, any religion. The state protects normal religious activities. No one may make use of religion to engage in activities that disrupt public order, impair the health of citizens or interfere with the educational system of the state. Religious bodies and religious affairs are not subject to any foreign domination.

2005

Religious Affairs Regulations (passed on 7 July 2004 at the 57th session of the State Council, take effect on 1 March 2005)

INTERNET: http://host.uniroma3.it/progetti/cedir/cedir/Eventi/Cina_Rel-Aff.pdf;

http://orthodox.cn/contemporary/zjshwtli_en.htm;

<http://www.ctbi.org.uk/index.php?op=modload&name=knowledge&file=kbasepage&LinkID=296>

CISNET China CX115832

There are 48 articles:

Article 2 Citizens have freedom of religious belief.

No organization or individual shall force a citizen to believe or not believe a religion. No organization or individual shall discriminate against citizens who believe in a religion (hereinafter referred to as "religious citizens") or who do not believe in a religion (hereinafter referred to as "non-religious citizens"). ...

Article 3 The state, according to law, protects **normal religious activities** and upholds the lawful rights and interests of religious groups, places of religious activity, and religious citizens. ...

No organization or individual shall use religion to upset social order, harm the health of citizens, or obstruct the state education system, or to engage in other activities that harm national interests, social welfare, or the lawful rights and interests of citizens.

Article 4 All religions shall uphold the principle of independence and autonomy. Religious groups, places of religious activity, and religious affairs shall not be under the control of a foreign power. ...

Article 5 The religious affairs department of People's Governments at the county level or higher shall, according to law, exercise administrative control over religious affairs that involve state interests or the social welfare. Other departments of People's Governments at

the county level or higher shall, within their respective scopes of competency, be responsible for relevant administrative work. ...

Article 6 When religious groups are founded, changed, or disbanded, they shall register such events pursuant to the provisions of *Regulations Governing the Registration of Social Organizations*. ...

Article 7 Religious groups may, in accordance with relevant state regulations, compile and print publications for internal religious use. The publication of publicly distributed religious publications shall be subject to state regulations governing publications.

Article 12 Group religious activities of religious citizens generally should be carried out at registered places of religious activity (temples, mosques, churches, and other permanent places of religious activity). Such activities shall be organized by the place of religious activity or the religious group and presided over by religious instructors or other persons in compliance with these regulations.

Article 19 Religious affairs departments shall supervise and inspect places of religious activity with respect to the following: compliance with laws, rules and regulations, establishment and implementation of systems of management, changes in registration information, and religious activities and activities involving external parties. Places of religious activity shall accept supervision and inspection from the religious affairs departments.

Article 30 Land lawfully used by religious groups or religious places of activity and buildings, structures, facilities, and other lawful property and earnings either lawfully owned or used by religious groups or religious places of activity are protected by law. No organization or individual may seize, plunder, break up, destroy, seal off, attach, freeze, confiscate, or subject to fines lawful property of a religious group or place of religious activity; no organization or individual may destroy cultural relics owned or used by a religious group or place of religious activity.

Article 38 If, in the course of performing religious affairs administrative work, a government officer abuses his authority, neglects his duties, engages in favoritism, or commits irregularities, and if such misconduct constitutes a crime, he will be prosecuted for such crime. If such misconduct does not constitute a crime, he shall receive administrative penalties in accordance with the law.

Article 39 Those who coerce citizens into believing or not believing a religion or who interfere with the normal religious activities of a religious group or place of religious activity shall be reprimanded and ordered to desist by the department of religious affairs. If their conduct violates public security, then they shall be subject to public security penalties. Those who infringe upon the rights and interests of religious groups, places of religious activity, and religious citizens, shall be civilly liable for same according to law. ...

Article 40 Those who use religion to engage in unlawful activities such as harming state or public security, violating the personal and democratic rights of citizens, jeopardizing social order, and seizing public and private property, shall, where such conduct constitutes a crime, be prosecuted under criminal law. ...

Large-scale religious activities that harm public security or seriously upset the social order shall be penalized on site in accordance with laws and administrative regulations on assemblies, parades, and demonstrations. The registering authority shall rescind the

registration of the organizing religious group or church/temple that is responsible.

Religious affairs departments shall order a halt to large-scale religious activities that are held without authorization, and they shall seize illicit income if there is any. Furthermore, they can impose fines of between 100% and 300% of illicit income.

Article 41 In the event of any of the following acts by a religious group or a place of religious activity, the department of religious affairs shall demand correction. ...

...

(4) Contravention of the principle of religious independence and autonomy, in violation of the provisions of article 4 of these regulations.

(5) Acceptance of domestic or foreign donations in violation of relevant state regulations.

(6) Refusal to accept lawful supervision from the registering authority

Article 43 If a place of religious activity is established without authorization, or if a place of religious activity is deregistered yet continues to conduct religious activities, or if a religious academy is established without authorization, the department of religious affairs shall outlaw such place or academy and seize illicit income. The departments in charge of construction shall handle illegal buildings and structures according to law. Violations of public security shall be subject to public security penalties.

Some Commentary on Religious Affairs Regulations

CISNET – Library: ‘Real change or mere rhetoric? – An evaluation of the 2005 Regulations on Religious Affairs a year on’, *China Study Journal*, Spring/Summer 2007

CISNET China CX150075: ‘CHINA: Rules of Religious Freedom are not Working, Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organisation’, *Agence France Presse*, 1 March 2006

CISNET China CX147591: ‘CHINA: A Year After New Regulations, Religious Rights Still Restricted’, Human Rights Watch, 1 March 2006

CISNET China CX145515: ‘CHINA: China’s new regulations on religion: A small step, not a great leap, forward’, *Brigham Young University Law Review*, 2005

CISNET China CX128590: ‘CHINA: China’s new regulations on religious affairs: A paradigm shift?’, US Congressional Executive Commission on China, 14 March 2005

CISNET China CX116763: ‘CHINA: HRIC Releases Statement on China’s New Religious Regulations’, *The Christian Post*, 16 March 2005

CISNET China CX116731: ‘CHINA: China: house church leaders are divided over new regulations’, *Compass Direct News*, 9 March, 2005

CISNET China CX114326: ‘CHINA: New Religious Regulations Bring Little Surprise, But Some See Progress’, *UCA News*, 15 February 2005

CISNET China CX93754: ‘CHINA: Religious freedom and the legal system continuing struggle’, *Forum 18 News Service*, 28 April 2004

Other laws and regulations

2000

Rules for the Implementation of the Provisions on the Administration of Religious Activities of Aliens within the Territory of the People’s Republic of China (aka *Detailed Rules on Implementing the Provisions on Managing the Religious Activities of Aliens in the*

PRC) (中国境内外国人宗教活动管理规定实施细则) (Issued and effective 26 September 2000)

INTERNET: http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/200009/26/eng20000926_51315.html

Article 5 Aliens may participate in religious activities at Buddhist monasteries, Taoist temples, mosques, churches lawfully registered within Chinese territory according to their own religious beliefs.

Article 9 Foreign religious organizations that have no corresponding legitimate Chinese religious organizations within Chinese territory and their members must get the consent from the departments of religious affairs of the people's governments at provincial level and the approval from the State Administration of Religious Affairs before conducting contacts in the name of these organizations or as religious personnel with relevant departments of the Chinese Government or Chinese religious circles.

Articles 10 Consented by Chinese religious bodies, aliens within Chinese territory may invite Chinese religious personnel to conduct such religious ceremonies as baptism, wedding, funeral, Taoist or Buddhist rites according to their respective religious customs. Among these ceremonies, the aliens conducting wedding must be the men and women who have already established a marriage relationship in accordance with law. ...

Article 11 ... aliens entering Chinese territory may carry religious articles used in religious cultural and academic exchanges in accordance with relevant programs and agreements of religious cultural and academic exchanges. ...

Article 12 The following religious printed matters, religious audio-visual products and other religious articles are prohibited from being brought into Chinese territory:

- (1) the articles that exceed rational personal use, and do not belong to the category as stipulated in Article 11;
- (2) the contents of these articles are detrimental to Chinese national security and the public interests of Chinese society.

Article 16 Aliens who conduct religious activities within Chinese territory shall abide by Chinese laws and regulations. Aliens may not interfere in the establishment and change of Chinese religious bodies or sites for religious activities, the selecting, appointing and changing of religious personnel by Chinese religious bodies, nor may they interfere in or manipulate other internal affairs of Chinese religious bodies.

Within Chinese territory, aliens may not establish religious organizations, institute religious offices, set up sites for religious activities, run religious institutions or hold religious classes in any names or forms.

Article 17 Aliens may not engage in the following missionary activities within Chinese territory:

- (1) appointing religious personnel among Chinese citizens;
- (2) developing religious followers among Chinese citizens;
- (3) preaching and expounding the scripture at the sites for religious activities without permission;
- (4) preaching and expounding the scripture or conducting religious gathering activities at the places outside the lawfully registered sites for religious activities;
- (5) conducting religious activities with Chinese citizens at the temporary sites for

- religious activities, except that the Chinese citizens are Chinese religious personnel who are invited to preside the religious activities;
- (6) producing or selling religious books and journals, religious audio-visual products, religious electronic goods or other religious articles;
 - (7) distributing religious propaganda materials;
 - (8) other missionary activities.

1999

Decision of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress on Banning Heretical Cult Organizations, Preventing and Punishing Cult Activities

(全国人民代表大会常务委员会关于取缔邪教组织、防范和惩治邪教活动的决定)

(Adopted at the 12th Session of the Standing Committee of the Ninth National People's Congress on October 30, 1999)

INTERNET: http://www.novexcn.com/stand_comit_cult_activ.html;

<http://www.china.org.cn/Beijing-Review/Beijing/BeijingReview/99Nov/bjr99-45e-04.htm>

To maintain social stability, protect the interests of the people, safeguard reform and opening and the construction of a modern socialist country, it is imperative to ban heretic cult organizations and to prevent and punish cult activities. In line with the Constitution and relevant laws, the following decision is hereby made:

1. Heretic cult organizations shall be resolutely banned according to law, and all of their criminal activities shall be severely punished. Heretic cults, operating under the guise of religion, Qigong or other illicit forms, employ various means to disturb social order and jeopardize people's life and property, and they must be banned according to law and punished resolutely. People's courts, people's procuratorates, public security departments, state security departments, and judicial administrative agencies shall fulfil their duties of carrying out these tasks by close cooperation. Any person who manipulates members of cult organizations to violate relevant laws and administrative regulations, who organizes a crowd to disrupt social order, who fools others, causes deaths, rapes women, or swindles people out their money, or who commits other crimes by superstition and heresy must be punished severely according to law.

Explanations Of The Supreme People's Court And Supreme People's Procuratorate Concerning Laws Applicable To Handling Cases Of Organizations And Employing Heretical Cult Organizations To Commit Crimes (Adopted at the 1079th Meeting of the Judicial Committee of the Supreme People's Court on October 9, 1999 and at the 47th Meeting of the Ninth Procuratorial Committee of the Supreme People's Procuratorate on October 8, 1999)

INTERNET: http://www.novexcn.com/sup_peop_ct_heretical_cult.html

1: "Heretical cult organizations" in Article 300 of the Criminal Law refer to those illegal organizations that have been established under the guise of religion, qigong or other forms, deifying their leading members, enchanting and deceiving others by concocting and spreading superstitious fallacies, recruiting and controlling their members, and endangering the society.

2: Punishment shall be determined and meted out to those who organize and employ heretical cult organizations and have engaged in any of the following activities according to Article 300, Item 1 of the Criminal Law:

1. assembling crowds to besiege and charge State organs, enterprises or institutions, and disrupt their work, production, operation, teaching or research activities;
2. holding illegal assemblies, parades and demonstrations, or inciting, deceiving and organizing their members or others to gather together to besiege, charge, seize or disrupt public places or venues for religious activities, or disrupt social order;
3. resisting departments concerned to ban their organizations, or resuming the banned organizations or establishing other heretical cult organizations, or continuing their heretical cult activities;
4. instigating, deceiving and organizing their members or others to refuse to fulfil their legal obligations, with the case being serious;
5. publishing, printing, duplicating and distributing publications spreading cult fallacies, and printing symbols of heretical cult organizations;
6. other activities that violate State laws and administrative regulations.

See also Article 300 of the Criminal Law [below](#).

1998

Regulations For Registration And Management Of Social Organisations (aka Regulations on the Registration of Social Organizations) (社会团体登记管理条例) Peoples Republic of China State Council Order No. 250 (Published by the State Council at the 8th ordinary session on 25/9/98, to take effect from that date) World Bank Website INTERNET: http://www.worldbank.org.cn/english/content/Social_Organisations.pdf

Article 3 To become established, social organisations must be approved by the authorised department (zhuguan danwei) and follow the registration procedure set out in these regulations.

Article 10 To establish a social organisation the following conditions must be satisfied:

- An organisation must have more than 50 individual members or more than 30 institutional members or, if it has both individual and institutional members, a total of at least fifty.
- It must have a standard name, and organisational capacity.
- It must have a fixed location.
- It must have staff with qualifications appropriate to the professional activities of the organisation.
- It must have lawful assets and a source of funds. National level organisations must have a minimum of 100,000 yuan to cover their activities; local social organisations and inter-area social organisations must have a minimum of 30,000 yuan.
- It must be legally liable in its own right.

Commentary on this law is at http://www.icnl.org/JOURNAL/vol2iss3/ar_chinalaw.htm.

1997

Criminal Law of the People's Republic of China (中华人民共和国刑法) (Adopted at the Second Session of the Fifth National People's Congress on July 1, 1979, Revised at the Fifth Session of the Eighth National People's Congress on March 14, 1997)

INTERNET: <http://www.cecc.gov/pages/newLaws/criminalLawENG.php>;
<http://www.qis.net/chinalaw/>

Article 251. Workers of state organs who illegally deprive citizens' right to religious beliefs or who encroach on minority nationalities' customs or habits, if the case is serious, are to be sentenced to two years or fewer in prison or put under criminal detention.

Article 300. Whoever organizes and utilizes superstitious sects, secret societies, and evil religious organizations or sabotages the implementation of the state's laws and executive regulations by utilizing superstition is to be sentenced to not less than three years and not more than seven years of fixed-term imprisonment; when circumstances are particularly serious, to not less than seven years of fixed-term imprisonment.

Whoever organizes and utilizes superstitious sects, secret societies, and evil religious organizations or cheats others by utilizing superstition, thereby giving rise to the death of people is to be punished in accordance with the previous paragraph.

Whoever organizes and utilizes superstitious sects, secret societies, and evil religious organizations or has illicit sexual relations with women, defraud money and property by utilizing superstition is to be convicted and punished in accordance with the regulations of articles 236, 266 of the law.

1996

Measures for the Annual Inspection of Places of Religious Activity

(宗教活动场所年度检查办法) (aka Method For The Annual Inspection Of Places Of Religious Activity) (Issued and Effective 30 July 1996)

INTERNET: <http://www.hrw.org/reports/1997/china1/> (Appendix IX)

Article 14: Regarding any place that does not accept annual inspection, fails to rectify its situation within the given time, or breaks the law, the department responsible for the annual inspection may ask the responsible person of the place's management organization to take responsibility for the matter, and, according to the seriousness of the situation, punish the place by issuing a warning to the place, ordering it to cease its activities or cancelling its registration. Where the situation is especially serious, the department may ask the People's Government at (the appropriate) level to close down the place in accordance with the law.

1994

Registration Procedures For Venues For Religious Activities (aka Measures for the Registration of Places for Religious Activities) (宗教活动场所登记办法) (issued by the State Council's Religious Affairs Bureau in April 1994) (replaced in 2005 by [Religious Affairs Regulations](#))

CISNET China CX38627

Article 2 The following conditions must be met to establish a venue for religious activity:

- (1) There must be a fixed place and name;
- (2) There must be citizens who are religious believers who regularly take part in religious activities;
- (3) There must be a management organisation composed of citizens who are religious believers;
- (4) There must be professional clergy or persons who meet the requirements of the

- particular religious group to conduct religious services;
- (5) There must be management regulations;
 - (6) There must be a legal source of income.

Article 4 The head of the venue's management organisation must submit the application for registration, together with the materials required under Article 3, to the Religious Affairs Department of the People's Government at the county level or above.

Provisions on Managing the Religious Activities of Aliens in the PRC

(中华人民共和国境内外国人宗教活动管理规定) (Promulgated by Decree No. 144 of the State Council, signed by Premier Li Peng on 31 January 1994)

INTERNET: <http://www.lehmanlaw.com/resource-centre/laws-and-regulations/criminal-law/regulations-governing-the-religious-activities-of-foreign-nationals-within-china-1994.html>

CISNET China CX38607

Regulations Governing Venues For Religious Activities (aka Regulations on Managing Places for Religious Activities) (宗教活动场所管理条例) (Promulgated by Decree No. 145 of the State Council, signed by Premier Li Peng, January 31, 1994)

(Promulgated by Decree No. 145 of the State Council, signed by Premier Li Peng, January 31, 1994)

INTERNET: <http://www.lehmanlaw.com/resource-centre/laws-and-regulations/criminal-law/regulation-governing-venues-for-religious-activities-1994.html>

CISNET China CX18092

Article 2. For the purposes of this regulation, "venues for religious activities" refers to monasteries, temples, mosques, churches and other fixed venues.

Registration is required for the establishment of a venue for religious activities. The registration procedure will be decided by the Religious Affairs Bureau of the State Council.

Article 4. ...Venues for religious activities shall not be controlled by persons or organizations outside China.

1991

Implementing Measures on Managing the Registration of Religious Social Organizations

([宗教社会团体登记管理实施办法](#)) Issued: Effective: 06.MAY.91 (No English version found)

Provincial or Local Regulations

Guangzhou 1998 – Hainan 1998 – Shanghai 1995 – Guangxi 1994 – Shandong 1993 – Sichuan 1993

Guangzhou City Regulations for the Management Of Religious Affairs, China Study Journal, Vol. 13, No. 1, April 1998, pp.28-34 (promulgated by the Guangzhou City People's Congress on 28 December 1997, and came into effect on 1 March 1998) (CISNET China CX38635)

Regulations for the control of religious affairs in Hainan province, China Study Journal, Vol. 13, No. 1, April 1998, pp.22-28 (Passed by the 31st meeting of the First Standing Committee of the Hainan People's Congress on the 26 September 1997) (CISNET China CX38634)

Regulations from the Shanghai Religious Affairs Bureau, China Study Journal, Vol.11,

No.1, pp.33-40, April 1996 (approved on November 30, 1995 by the Standing Committee of the Shanghai 10th People's Congress at its 23rd Meeting and took effect on March 1, 1996) (CISNET China CX38633)

Temporary Regulations For The Administration And Supervision Of Religious Affairs In The Guangxi Autonomous Region, Decree Of The Guangxi Autonomous Region People's Government – No.2 (passed the first meeting of the standing committee of the autonomous region's People's Government on March 2, 1994) from Human Rights Watch Asia Report – China Religious Persecution Persists, December 1995 (CISNET China CX22156)

Shandong provincial regulations governing venues for religious activities, *China Study Journal*, Vol. 9, No. 2, pp.24-27, August 1994 (introduced on 18 November 1993) (CISNET China CX38631)

The Regulations For The Management Of Religious Personnel In Sichuan Province, Order Of The Sichuan People's Government No. 37 (passed by the 15th Standing Committee of the Provincial People's Government on 16th October 1993) Human Rights Watch, Asia Report, Vol. 7, No.16, pp.34-36, December 1995 (CISNET China CX38630)

Sources

<http://www.cecc.gov/pages/selectLaws/religiousFreedom/index.php>

3. REPORTS ON CHRISTIANITY IN CHINA

This section provides easy access to important reports on the situation of Christians from a variety of sources.

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A) GOVERNMENT REPORTS

A.1 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE (<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/>)

****US Department of State 2008, *International Religious Freedom Report 2008 – China*, 19 September**

INTERNET: <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2008/108404.htm>

This report contains eight pages on all religions in China and five pages on religion in Tibet. This is one of the best surveys with much focused detailed information and analysis on the situation of Christians. Sections cover Religious Demography, Status of Religious Freedom, Legal/Policy Framework, Restrictions on Religious Freedom, Abuses of Religious Freedom and Societal Attitudes. The report notes:

The Government restricted legal religious practice to government-sanctioned organizations and registered religious groups and places of worship, and sought to control the growth and scope of the activity of both registered and unregistered religious groups, including “house churches.” Government authorities limited proselytism, particularly by foreigners and unregistered religious groups, but permitted proselytism in state-approved religious venues and private settings.

During the period covered by this report, the Government’s repression of religious freedom intensified in some areas, including in Tibetan areas and in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (XUAR). Unregistered Protestant religious groups in Beijing reported intensified harassment from government authorities in the lead up to the 2008 Summer Olympic Games. Media and China-based sources reported that municipal authorities in Beijing closed some house churches or asked them to stop meeting during the 2008 Summer Olympic Games and Paralympic Games. During the reporting period, officials detained and interrogated several foreigners about their religious activities and in several cases alleged that the foreigners had engaged in “illegal religious activities” and cancelled their visas. Media reported that the total number of expatriates expelled by the Government due to concerns about their religious activities exceeded one hundred. ...”Underground” Roman Catholic clergy faced repression, in large part due to their avowed loyalty to the Vatican, which the Government accused of interfering in the country’s internal affairs. The Government continued to repress groups that it designated as “cults,” which included several Christian groups and Falun Gong. (p.1)

***US Department of State 2008, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2007 – China*, 11 March, Section 2c ‘Freedom of Religion’**

INTERNET: <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2007/100518.htm>

This report contains good information on all religions although less detailed than the *Annual Report on International Religious Freedom* (above) – most useful between March and October each year as an update to the longer *Annual Report on International Religious Freedom* from October the previous year:

The extent of religious freedom continued to vary widely within the country. Freedom to participate in officially sanctioned religious activity continued to increase in most areas. Religious activity grew not only among the five main religions, but also among the Eastern Orthodox Church and folk religions. Some unregistered groups continued to experience varying degrees of official interference and harassment. Severe crackdowns against unregistered Protestants and Catholics, Muslims, and Tibetan Buddhists continued, and the government increased its control over some peaceful religious practices.

***US Department of State 2007, *International Religious Freedom Report 2007 – China*, 14 September**

INTERNET: <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2007/90133.htm>

US Department of State, *China Profile of Asylum Claims and Country Conditions*, May 2007, pp.5-11

INTERNET: http://cdjp.org/gb/fileupload/China_May_2007.pdf

This report replaces the May 2005 profile:

Unregistered or unsanctioned religions and spiritual groups – including Protestant groups, the ‘underground’ Catholic Church, and Falun Gong – experience differing degrees [of] official interference and harassment with the degree of restrictions varying significantly from region to region. In many localities, unregistered groups and their leaders report pressure to register with the State Administration for Religious Activities (*SARA*) or its provincial and local offices, known as Religious Affairs Bureaus (*RAB*), and pressure to affiliate with and accept the supervision of the legally registered nationwide church organizations. Police have closed many unregistered churches, house churches, some with large memberships, as well as some mosques, temples, and seminaries. Some religious leaders are targeted for official harassment, interrogation, detention, and severe physical abuse.

***US Department of State, 2007, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2006 – China*, 6 March, Section 2c ‘Freedom of Religion’**

INTERNET: <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78771.htm>

This report contains good information on all religions although less detailed than *Annual Report on International Religious Freedom* (above) – most useful between March and October each year as an update to the longer *Annual Report on International Religious Freedom* from October the previous year.

A.2 UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM (<http://www.uscirf.gov/>)

***United States Commission on International Freedom 2008, ‘China’, 2008 *Annual Report*, May**

INTERNET: http://www.uscirf.gov/images/AR2008/chinaar2008_full%20color.pdf

This report contains 12 pages on all religions in China. This report tends to be more critical of the Chinese government than the US Department of State reports:

The Chinese government continues to engage in systematic and egregious violations of freedom of religion or belief. Yet, religious communities are growing rapidly in China and the freedom to participate in officially sanctioned religious activity increased in many areas of the country over the past year. High-ranking Chinese government officials, including President Hu Jintao, have praised the positive role of religious communities in China and articulated a desire to have religious groups promote “economic and social development”—an endorsement that may open legal space for religious groups to conduct charitable, medical, and economic development activities. However, despite this growing “zone of toleration” for the worship and charitable activities of China’s religious communities, the government continues to restrict religious practice to government-approved religious associations and registered religious venues and seeks to control the activities, growth, and leadership of both

“registered” and “unregistered” religious groups.

Religious freedom restrictions and sometimes brutal abuses continued to target unregistered religious groups, those considered by the government to be “cults,” and religious communities associated with ethnic minority groups. Severe crackdowns targeting Uighur Muslims, Tibetan Buddhists, “underground” Roman Catholics, “house church” Protestants, and various spiritual movements such as Falun Gong continued in the last year.

United States Commission on International Religious Freedom 2007, *Annual Report Of The United States Commission On International Religious Freedom*, May, pp.80-90, 120-132

Full 292 page report

INTERNET: <http://www.uscirt.gov/countries/publications/currentreport/2007annualRpt.pdf#page=1>

United States Commission on International Religious Freedom 2006, *Annual Report Of The United States Commission On International Religious Freedom May 2006*, May, pp. 19-34, 107-117

Full 260 page report

INTERNET: <http://www.uscirt.gov/countries/publications/currentreport/2006annualRpt.pdf#page=1>

United States Commission On International Religious Freedom – China page

(http://www.uscirt.gov/countries/region/east_asia/china/china.html) has links to their other documents on China, though most of these are 2005 or much earlier.

United States Commission On International Religious Freedom page on 2000 Hearings on Religious Persecution in China

(http://www.uscirt.gov/events/hearings/2000/march/03162000_chinaIndex.html) has links to expert opinions from the following:

- [Wei Jingsheng](#), former political prisoner
- Lu (Frank) Siqing, Director, Information Center for Human Rights and Democratic Movements, Hong Kong [Oral Testimony](#), [Prepared Testimony](#)
- Mickey Spiegel, Human Rights Watch [Oral Testimony](#), [Prepared Testimony](#)
- Xiqu (Bob) Fu, house-church leader [Oral Testimony](#), [Prepared Testimony](#)
- Harry Wu, former detainee [Oral Testimony](#), [Prepared Testimony](#)
- Dr. Kim-Kwong Chan, Hong Kong Christian Council [Oral Testimony](#), [Prepared Testimony](#)
- Dr. Dru Gladney, Asia-Pacific Center, Hawaii [Oral Testimony](#), [Prepared Testimony](#)
- Gare Smith, Foley, Hoag & Eliot [Oral Testimony](#), [Prepared Testimony](#)
- Fr. Drew Christiansen, Georgetown University [Oral Testimony](#), [Prepared Testimony](#)
- Dr. Merle Goldman, Harvard University [Oral Testimony](#), [Prepared Testimony](#)

A.3 UNITED STATES CONGRESSIONAL-EXECUTIVE COMMISSION ON CHINA (<http://www.cecc.gov/>)

The Congressional-Executive Commission on China was created by Congress in October 2000 with the legislative mandate to monitor human rights and the development of the rule of law in China, and to submit an annual report to the President and the Congress. It consists of nine Senators, nine members of the House of Representatives, and five senior Administration officials appointed by the President. The current Chair is Representative Sander M. Levin (D-MI) and the Co-Chair is Senator Byron L. Dorgan (D-ND).

***Congressional-Executive Commission on China 2008, ‘Freedom of Religion’, *Annual Report 2008*, 31 October, pp.11-12, 73-79 & 82-84**

INTERNET: http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_house_hearings&docid=f:45233.pdf

The report contains a section on freedom of religion in China. Useful parts include Findings (Freedom of Religion), Recommendations (Freedom of Religion), Introduction (Freedom of Religion), Legal Framework for Religion, Controls over Religious Publications, Catholicism (Harassment, Detention, and Other Abuses – Access to Religious Sites and Return of Religious Property – Bishop Appointment and China-Holy See Relations), Protestantism (Harassment, Detention, and Other Abuses – Freedom to Interact with Foreign Co-Religionists and Foreign Visitors, Controls over Doctrine), Other Religious Communities including the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the Orthodox Church and Religious Prisoners:

- The Chinese government and Communist Party continued to deny Chinese citizens the ability to fully exercise their right to freedom of religion. The Chinese government continued in the past year to subject religion to a strict regulatory framework that represses many forms of religious and spiritual activities protected under international human rights law, including in treaties China has signed or ratified. The Chinese government continued its policy of recognizing only select religious communities for limited state protections, and of not protecting the religious and spiritual activities of all individuals and communities within China as required under China’s international legal obligations.
- Religious adherents remained subject to tight controls over their religious activities, and some citizens met with harassment, detention, imprisonment, and other abuses because of their religious or spiritual practices.
- The Chinese government and Communist Party sounded alarms against foreign “infiltration” in the name of religion, and took measures to hinder citizens’ freedom to engage with foreign co-religionists.
- President and Party General Secretary Hu Jintao called for recognizing a “positive role” for religious communities within Chinese society, but officials also continued to affirm the government and Party’s policy of control over religion.

...Catholicism

The state-controlled Chinese Catholic church continues to deny its members the freedom to pursue full communion and free communications with the Holy See and other Catholic institutions outside of China. In the past year, the Commission observed ongoing harassment and detention of Catholics in China, especially unregistered bishops and priests; further restrictions on access to pilgrimage sites; continuing negotiations and disputes over the return of confiscated church property; and ongoing tensions with the Holy See, despite a shift toward re-accommodating discreet Holy See involvement in the appointment of bishops for the state-controlled church.

...Protestantism

Members of China’s state-controlled Protestant church remain subject to controls over their internal affairs and doctrine, while members of unregistered church communities and members of registered churches who run afoul of state policy remain subject to arbitrary harassment, detention, and imprisonment, as well as closure of churches and confiscation of church property. In the past year, the Commission noted increased

repression of unregistered church leaders and members in the run-up to the Olympics, including an increase in the number of reported detentions; increased reports of repercussions for Chinese Protestants who interact with foreign co-religionists or foreign visitors; and ongoing efforts to control Protestant doctrine and co-opt church members to meet government and Communist Party goals.

Congressional-Executive Commission on China 2007, *Annual Report 2007*, 10 October, pp.11-14, 90-98 & 100-103

INTERNET: <http://www.cecc.gov/pages/annualRpt/annualRpt07/CECCannRpt2007.pdf>

Congressional-Executive Commission on China 2006, *Congressional-Executive Commission on China Annual Report 2006*, 20 September, pp.7-10, 18-19, 31-35, 75-83, 86-89 & 91-95

INTERNET: <http://www.cecc.gov/pages/annualRpt/annualRpt06/CECCannRpt2006.pdf>

A.4 UK HOME OFFICE

***UK Home Office 2008, *Country of Origin Information Report: China*, 1 June, Section 19.01-19.23 & 21.01-21.14**

INTERNET: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/china-130608.doc>

This report contains information on all religions in China, including five pages on Christians and information on banned spiritual groups: Christians (19.01-19.02), Availability of Bibles (19.03-19.04), Proselytising (19.05-19.06), Catholics (19.07-19.13), Relations with the Vatican (19.14-19.16), Protestants including 'House Churches' (19.17-19.21), Russian Orthodox Church (19.22-19.23), Banned Spiritual Groups (21.01-21.03), Shouters (Huahan Pai) or Local Church (21.04-21.06), South China Church (21.07-21.09), Three Grades of Servants Church (21.10-21.11), Eastern Lightning (Dongfang Shandian) or Lightning from the East (21.12-21.13) and Jehovah's Witnesses (21.14).

UK Home Office 2007, *Country of Origin Information Report: China*, 17 August, Section 19.01-19.23 & 21.01-21.14

INTERNET: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/china-100507.doc>

A.5 DFAT

DIAC Country Information Service 2007, *Country Information Report No.CHN8980 – China: Publication of client details*, (sourced from DFAT advice of 20 March 2007), 22 March

CISNET China CX174138

Q.1. Is the post able to comment whether reftel (CX161676) advice would remain applicable in a situation where a client was named (and widely reported on in the Australian media and presumably picked up by the Chinese mission here in its reporting back to Beijing) as a member of one of the groups referred to in that advice (Falun Gong or an underground Christian) or as a political dissident?

Q2. Is the post able to comment on any action that Chinese authorities would take against such a returnee because, as a result of this publicity, the returnee may now be imputed to be for example, a Falun Gong practitioner, underground Christian or political dissident?

Q3. Is the post able to comment on the possibility that Chinese authorities would take action

against such a returnee because of embarrassment caused through Australian media commentary?

...R.1. Advice provided in our reftel (CX161676) would remain applicable in these circumstances.

R.2. In terms of the possible treatment the person might receive on return to China, it is not particularly important how the person comes to the attention of Chinese authorities. As advised in reftel, it is not possible to comment definitively on how Chinese authorities would treat returnees to China who were failed asylum seekers. If Chinese authorities believed them to be a member of one of these groups (Falun Gong, underground church, political dissidents), it would be likely that authorities would interview them and might keep them under surveillance or detain them for a short period. Authorities may record the failed asylum attempt in the person's dossier ("dang an"), which could impede the person's attempts to obtain employment (particularly government employment) or engage in further education. If the person was a high-profile activist in Australia (for example a prominent Falun Gong leader, or someone known for publicly criticising the Chinese leadership) it is likely that the authorities would treat them more severely (longer-term surveillance, administrative detention) than if the person was a low-profile member of one of these groups.

R.3. Media publicity of the mere fact that the person had applied for asylum would not necessarily lead to harsher treatment for the person on return. Our impression is that these days Chinese authorities view seeking to remain in Australia through a protection application as more commonplace behaviour rather than a sign of political disloyalty. Authorities could, however, treat the person more severely if he or she was quoted publicly as criticising China's regime or senior leadership in the media. If, for example, the person had been an active, outspoken member of one of these groups and had publicly called for the end of Communist Party rule in China, he or she would be more likely to be put under surveillance and possibly detained on return to China. At the extreme, the person could be criminally prosecuted, for example under Article 105 of China's Criminal Law, which prohibits "incit[ing] others by spreading rumours or slander or any other means to subvert State power or overthrow the socialist system."

DIMIA Country Information Service 2006, *Country Information Report No.06/53 – China: Return of failed asylum seekers*, (sourced from DFAT advice of 14 September 2006), 15 September
CISNET China CX161676

Q3c. What treatment failed asylum seekers whose claims were based on Christian beliefs might expect?

...R.3. BJ551458L (CX160293) provided advice on the treatment of members of underground churches in China and that advice is applicable also to this question. Those whose Christian activity was through membership of registered churches in China are less likely to face any repercussions, however it would depend on the circumstances of each case.

***DIMIA Country Information Service 2006, *Country Information Report No.06/42 – China: Failed asylum seeker return decision*, (sourced from DFAT advice of 7 August 2006), 25 August**
CISNET China CX160293

This advice provides information on the treatment of underground Christian church groups and their members/leaders in both Hubei Province and Henan Province:

Henan has a high prevalence of underground Christian church groups (which in formal terms China views as illegal). There are also more reports of the authorities in Henan taking action against such underground groups (compared to other provinces in China). This may be partly because local authorities in Henan take a more hard-line attitude towards these groups and partly because there are more of these groups than in some other provinces. Post has no specific information on treatment of underground church groups in Hubei (including Wuhan). Much of the information concerning treatment of underground Christian church groups in China is available from sources outside of mainland China (including Hong Kong, Taiwan and US-based human rights and Christian groups which monitor the situation in mainland China, often through links with underground church groups).

Underground church groups are by and large tolerated by the authorities.

In occasional cases where an underground church leader has come to the attention of the Chinese authorities, on return to China the authorities might take the person in for questioning. In rare cases the person might face further consequences (for example administrative or criminal detention), depending on the circumstances of the case. For example, a prominent leader of an underground church group which was known for proselytising might be more likely to face more serious consequences than an ordinary member of an underground church group

DIMIA Country Information Service 2002, *Country Information Report No.125/02 – Alleged torture of Christians*, (sourced from DFAT advice of 22 May 2002), 30 May
CISNET China CX64891

This advice provides information on reports that torture of unregistered Christians are consistent with Chinese government policy towards social groups outside government control.

DIMIA Country Information Service 2002, *Country Information Report No. 05/02 – Human Rights: religious freedom*, (sourced from DFAT advice of 9 January 2002), 29 April

CISNET China CX64464

This report contains some information from the Hong Kong Christian Council (HKCC) on a crackdown on “cults” and some house churches as well as on the Falungong, but no overall assessment by DFAT on religious freedom.

DIMIA Country Information Service 1999, *CIR No.297/99 Refugee claims relating to treatment of Catholics in Southern China*, (sourced from DFAT advice of 12 August 1999), 12 August

CISNET China CX36797

This report contains useful and detailed information on the situation of unofficial Catholic Churches in China:

How strictly...provisions are applied varies from province to province. Available information indicates that strictness depends on the extent of an unofficial church's public display of its activities, on any implication that the authority of the state is in question, and on the degree of tolerance of local officials.

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade 1997, *Cable No.BJ14714 – China: Human Rights: Religion*, 6 August

This cable contains a discussion with an adviser to the Bureau of Religious Affairs, who gives the Chinese Government view, as well as DFAT comments that:

1. It is probably true to say that Buddhists and Taoists enjoy a reasonable degree of religious freedom. As far as the other religions are concerned, the increased number of registrations demonstrates that many believers do accept that they will be allowed to practise their faiths without causing themselves any difficulties with the government.
2. The authorities are very concerned about unorthodox religious sects which they fear because of social instability in the countryside. ...No one has any real handle on the scope of such religious practice (but the claims of 70-80 million believers floated in the United States seem implausible), nor of the extent or harshness of its suppression (although it is reasonable to surmise that no general rule can be applied throughout China).

A.6 DIAC

****DIAC Country Research Section 2008, *China's Protestants and Catholics*, November**
CISNET: 'CIS Resources, Issues Briefs' CHN251108

This 53 page brief provides extensive information on official and underground Protestants and Catholics in China including information on the legal framework, conditions in a number of provinces and cities, Shouters (Local Church) and the Beijing Olympic Games.

***DIMA Country Information and Protection Support Section 2006, *House Churches in China*, Issues Brief CHN290306, 29 March**

CISNET: 'CIS Resources, Issues Briefs' CHN290306

This 13 page brief provides an excellent introduction to the issue of Christianity and house churches in China. It clearly explains the legal framework and outlines the differing situation for Protestants and Catholics, and for members of the official and unofficial churches. It gives a brief introduction to human rights issues for Christians in China.

A.7 IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE BOARD OF CANADA (IRB)

****Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2005, *CHN100386.E – China: Situation of Catholics and treatment by authorities, particularly in Fujian and Guangdong (2001-2005)*, 1 September**

INTERNET: http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/research/rir/index_e.htm?action=record.viewrec&gotorec=449524

CISNET – REFINFO

A good six-page report (plus citations) providing an overview of the situation for Catholics.

****Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2005, *CHN100387.E – China: Situation of Protestants and treatment by authorities, particularly in Fujian and Guangdong (2001-2005)*, 1 September**

INTERNET: http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/research/rir/index_e.htm?action=record.viewrec&gotorec=449522

CISNET – REFINFO

A good six-page report (plus citations) providing an overview of the situation for Protestants.

Other IRB reports

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2007, CHN102492.E – China: Reports of raids on Protestant house churches; frequency and location of raids (2005 – 2007), 22 June

INTERNET:

http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/research/rir/index_e.htm?action=record.viewrec&gotorec=451338

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2007, CHN102494.E – China: The Chinese Patriotic Church; whether the Chinese Patriotic Church pledges its loyalty to the Chinese Communist Party first as opposed to God or Jesus; differences between the Chinese Patriotic Church and the unregistered Christian churches, 27 April

INTERNET:

http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/research/rir/index_e.htm?action=record.viewrec&gotorec=451150

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2008, CHN102868 – China: Treatment of children of members of underground Christian churches; whether children of members of underground Christian churches are subject to sanctions, including reduced access to education and to health care, 26 June

INTERNET:

http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/research/rir/index_e.htm?action=record.viewrec&gotorec=451963

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2004, CHN42768.E – China: Whether affiliation with or membership in foreign churches, while abroad, is a violation of government policy; whether a Chinese national who practised a religion abroad (i.e., in Canada) could be accused of violating government policy in China and would therefore be subject to repercussions upon their return to China, 17 August

CISNET – REFINFO

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2003, CHN40799.E – China: Treatment of members and ministers of the Anglican Church, particularly in Shanghai (1999-2003), 28 February

CISNET – REFINFO

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2003, CHN41289.E – China: Whether patriotic churches in China display Christian crosses, crucifixes and portraits of Jesus Christ; whether it is illegal for individuals in any or all regions of China to possess Christian crosses, crucifixes or portraits of Jesus Christ, 28 February CISNET – REFINFO

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2001, CHN37834.E – China: The activities of underground Christian churches in Shanghai; how they are treated by the authorities; the position and practice of patriotic and underground churches with respect to baptism, 12 October

CISNET – REFINFO

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2000, CHN33638.EX – China: Protestants and Protestantism in China; treatment of Protestants; relations between the registered Three Patriotic Self Movement (TPSM) churches and unregistered churches; differences between Protestant forms of worship in China and elsewhere; differences in practice between the TPSM churches and house churches; beliefs, practices, holidays and

ceremonies; update to [CHN33002.EX](#) of 8 October 1999 regarding Christians in Fujian province, 3 February (REFEXTEN)

INTERNET: <http://www.cisr-irb.gc.ca/en/research/ndp/ref/?action=view&doc=chn33638ex>

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2000, *CHN33598.EX – China: Catholic Church and Catholicism in China; treatment of Catholics; relations between the underground and open Churches; differences between Catholic worship in China and elsewhere; differences in practice between the underground Church and the open Church; beliefs, practices, holidays and ceremonies; update to [CHN33002.EX](#) of 8 October 1999 regarding Christians in Fujian province, 27 January*

INTERNET: http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/research/publications/index_e.htm?docid=64&cid=50

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2000, *CHN34099.E – China: Report of a fact finding mission to Fuzhou by political counsellor, Canadian Embassy, Beijing, 23 March*
CISNET – REFINFO

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 1999, *CHN33002.EX – China: Freedom of religious practice and belief in Fujian province, 8 October*

INTERNET: http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/research/publications/index_e.htm?docid=6&cid=0

A.8 UNITED NATIONS

UNHCR Centre for Documentation and Research 1996, *Background Paper on Refugees and Asylum Seekers from the People's Republic of China* Section 6.2 Religious Minorities pp.25-28

MRT-RRT LIBRARY

This report contains summaries of the current situation for Catholics, Protestants, Muslims, Buddhists, Taoists and followers of traditional religious sects including Yi Guan Dao.

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR) 1994, *Implementation Of The Declaration On The Elimination Of All Forms Of Intolerance And Of Discrimination Based On Religion Or Belief*, Report submitted by Mr. Abdelfattah Amor, Special Rapporteur, in accordance with Commission on Human Rights resolution 1994/18, E/CN.4/1995/91, 22 December (34 pages on China)

INTERNET:

<http://www.unhchr.ch/Huridocda/Huridoca.nsf/TestFrame/16bc89ca3a97d363802567190066394b?Opendocument>

B) MAJOR NGOs

B.1 HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH (<http://www.hrw.org/>)

Human Rights Watch wrote three long reports on religion in China between 1995 and 1998 (see below), which are still useful, but has only made brief comments since that time. The 1994 report *Detained in China and Tibet: a Directory of Political and Religious Prisoners* (see below) lists all known Christian detainees held in 1994, and gives details of their cases in Chapter 4.

Human Rights Watch 2008, 'China', *World Report 2008: Events of 2007*, 31 January

INTERNET: <http://www.hrw.org/legacy/englishwr2k8/docs/2008/01/31/china17604.htm>

This report contains three paragraphs on freedom of religion including the following:

Despite China's official assurances that hosting the 2008 Olympic Games will help to strengthen the development of human rights in the country, the Chinese government continues to deny or restrict its citizens' fundamental rights, including freedom of expression, freedom of association, and freedom of religion.

...The Chinese government recognizes the right to believe, but limits worship to a state-controlled system of registered and controlled churches, congregations, mosques, monasteries, and temples.

The official registration process requires government vetting and ongoing scrutiny of religious publications, seminary applications, and religious personnel. The government also closely monitors the membership and financial records of religious institutions and the personnel they employ, and retains the right to approve or deny applications for any group activities by religious organizations. Those who fail to register are considered illegal and are liable for criminal prosecution, fines, and closure.

Reprisals against non-registered religious organizations have primarily focused on arrests of Protestants who attend "house churches," for Bible study meetings and training sessions. The majority of those arrested are rapidly released, some after paying fines, but leaders of such underground churches are sometimes held on fabricated charges including "illegal business practices."

Human Rights Watch 2007, 'China and Tibet', *World Report 2007: Events of 2006*, 5 February

INTERNET: <http://hrw.org/englishwr2k7/docs/2007/01/11/china14867.htm>

This report contains half a page on Religious Belief and Expression including the following on Christians:

Policies have been reflected in round-ups of Protestants —possibly as many as 1,958 in a one-year period ending in June 2006—for attending training sessions and Bible study meetings in unregistered venues. Most are released quickly, some after paying fines. Some leaders are held on trumped up charges, such as "illegal business practices."

The Catholic underground church community and the official Chinese Catholic church continue to disagree over the ordination of bishops. In May, over the objections of the Vatican, the official church installed four new bishops.

***Human Rights Watch 2006, *China: A Year After New Regulations, Religious Rights Still Restricted*, 1 March**

INTERNET: <http://hrw.org/english/docs/2006/03/01/china12740.htm>

A good six page summary of the situation after China's Regulations on Religious Affairs came into force on 1 March 2005.

Human Rights Watch 2006, 'China and Tibet', *World Report 2006: Events of 2005*, 17 January

INTERNET: <http://hrw.org/wr2k3/asia4.html>

This report contains three paragraphs on religion and Christianity:

At a major religious meeting in December 2001, President Jiang Zemin announced that, “Under the current international and domestic conditions, we can only strengthen, not weaken, the Communist Party’s leadership and the government’s control over religion.” Premier Zhu Rongji added that cults were not religion and must be eliminated. Falungong practitioners faced the most severe repression, but through use of an expanded definition of “cult,” officials “legally” prosecuted a wide range of groups and believers. In December 2001, “backbone” members of the Mentuhui (a Christian group also known as the Society of Disciples) in Gansu were administratively sentenced for organizing “home sects,” “cheating the people,” and “disturbing social order.” Authorities announced the sentences at a public rally called to “educate” the local population. In January 2002, a Fujian court sentenced Hong Kong resident Lai Kwong-keung to a two-year term and a fine of approximately U.S.\$18,000 for importing bibles to China. Two codefendants from the mainland, Lin Xifu and Yu Zhudi, received three-year terms. The charges against Lai were reduced from “using a cult to undermine...the law” to “illegal trading” after U.S. President George Bush expressed concern. All three men are members of the “Shouters,” an evangelical Christian group made up of small congregations without professional clergy. Little more than a week after sentencing, Lai was permitted to serve his term at home under state surveillance. In April, the arrangement was extended to Lin.

In February, members of the Holy Ghost Reform Church received seven-year terms on charges of “using a cult to undermine . . . the law.” That same month, police in Hubei province detained nine members of Wilderness Narrow Door for setting up churches and meetings points, “recklessly praying,” and distributing cult materials. In September, an appeals court overturned death sentences for Gong Shengliang and four other leaders of another Christian group, the South Church, on grounds of insufficient evidence. They had been charged with “fomenting an evil cult.” At a new trial in early October lasting less than three days, the court sentenced Gong and two others to life in prison; the remaining leaders received fifteen-year terms. Within hours, the four who were acquitted received three-year administrative sentences.

...Relations between China and the Vatican remained tense. According to FIDES, the Vatican news agency, fifty-three bishops and priests remained in custody or under police surveillance in February 2002. In June, Religious Affairs Bureau officials “took away” Father Chen Nailiang, the “underground” vicar general of Wenzhou, Zhejiang province. In July, three priests from Baoding, Hebei province received three-year terms for disturbing the social order; thirty people, most under eighteen, were detained briefly in Fujian province for attending a secret catechism class. Police interfered with two funerals for “underground” bishops by blocking access roads.

For previous year’s annual reports please see <http://www.hrw.org/>.

Human Rights Watch 2002, ‘Freedom of Religion and Belief’, *China Human Rights Update, February

INTERNET: http://hrw.org/backgrounders/asia/china_update.htm

The section ‘Freedom of Religion and Belief’ is HRW’s longest on non-Falungong religion for almost four years. On Christians it states “China continued to crack down on groups it labelled cults and on independent religious organizations”. It reports on church demolitions in Zhejiang, detention of house church leaders in Hubei, sentencing of Local Church

member in Anhui and Fujian and examines problems for underground Catholic priests.

Human Rights Watch 2000 *China: Religion in the Service of the State: Statement by Mickey Spiegel, Consultant to Human Rights Watch, U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, March 16, 2000*

INTERNET: <http://www.hrw.org/campaigns/geneva/china-religion-state.htm>

This statement provides a summary and criticism of Chinese religious policies.

Human Rights Watch 2000, *China Human Rights Update, 1 February, Section 'Freedom of Religion and Belief'*

INTERNET: <http://www.hrw.org/campaigns/china-99/china-update.htm#religion>

This update provides information on the sporadic arrests and detentions of Catholics and Protestants throughout the year.

Human Rights Watch 1998, *Religious Repression in China, December

INTERNET: <http://www.hrw.org/campaigns/china-98/religion.htm>

A two page report on government controls on religion in China.

Human Rights Watch 1998, *China: State Control of Religion: Update Number 1, Vol. 10, No. 01(C), March (MRT-RRT Library)

This 10 page report updates the more detailed 1997 report. HRW again states that it had found isolated cases against religious activists but no evidence of widespread or systematic brutality. Among those who were the specific targets of government repression were: the Catholic underground, evangelical Protestantism, and a wide variety of groups that the Chinese government labels cults and superstitious sects.

Human Rights Watch 1997, *China: State Control of Religion, Vol. 9, No. 10, October (MRT-RRT Library)

INTERNET: <http://www.hrw.org/reports/1997/china1/>

This comprehensive 39 page report covers government regulations, underground Catholics, cults, evangelists and feudal superstitions as well as special sections on Tibet, Xinjiang and Hong Kong. Its principal finding is that while long-term imprisonment, violence and physical abuse by security forces against religious activists still occur, they appear to be less frequent than they were at the time of the first Human Rights Watch study of religion in 1992. In 1997, we found isolated cases but no evidence of widespread or systematic brutality. This and its update below were the last large HRW reports to concentrate on Christianity (later reports concentrate on the Falun Gong).

Human Rights Watch 1995, *China – Religious Persecution Persists, Vol. 7, No. 16, December 1995 (MRT-RRT LIBRARY)

This 50 page report states that those targeted for repression were those who publicly evangelised or opposed the government:

[Repression] tended to occur in areas where foreigners actively proselytized and trained local lay leaders in doctrine and evangelistic methodology. ... "Underground" or "house" church

members who challenged party and government authority through public worship were targeted. Churches, official or unofficial, that attracted too much attention through their size or wealth or prestige, or through the calibre of their leaders, were subject to repression. Also victimized were cohesive religious communities which competed successfully against a party or government institution for the loyalty of the local populace. ...In some locales, so long as underground churches remained small and discreet, local patriotic associations did not pressure them to register.

Human Rights Watch 1994, *Detained in China and Tibet: a Directory of Political and Religious Prisoners*, New York pp.227- 249 (MRT-RRT Library)

This is the last substantial list of people imprisoned for their religious beliefs and includes sections on Catholics, Protestants and Traditional Religious sects (see section IV). It includes the case histories of dozens of imprisoned Catholics and Protestants up to 1994. It also includes a list of Proscribed Sects at pp.269-272.

B.3 AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL (<http://web.amnesty.org/>)

Amnesty International has only written one longer report on religion, which was published in 1996. Since that time their coverage of the situation of Christians in China has consisted of brief references in their annual reports and other reports.

Main report

***Amnesty International 1996, *People Republic of China – Religious Repression in China*, July, AI INDEX ASA 17/69/96 (MRT-RRT LIBRARY)**

INTERNET: <http://web.amnesty.org/ai.nsf/index/asa170691996?opendocument&of=countries/china>

This 41 page report is the last long AI report on religion (apart from the Falungong). Though dated, it provides details of harassment of unrecognised Christian groups by the authorities and reports that groups in some areas face increasing pressure to register.

Other Reports

Amnesty International 2008, ‘China’, *Amnesty International Report 2008*, 28 May

INTERNET: <http://thereport.amnesty.org/eng/regions/asia-pacific/china>

This report contains four paragraphs on repression of spiritual and religious groups including the following on Christians:

Christians were persecuted for practising their religion outside state-sanctioned channels.

...Millions of people were impeded from freely practising their religion. Thousands remained in detention or serving prison sentences, at high risk of torture, for practising their religion outside of state-sanctioned channels. Falun Gong practitioners, Uighur Muslims, Tibetan Buddhists and underground Christian groups were among those most harshly persecuted.

...Underground Protestant house church meetings were frequently disrupted by the police, participants often detained and beaten, and the churches sometimes destroyed.

- Hua Huaiqi, a Beijing-based house church leader, was sentenced in a closed trial in June to six months in prison for obstructing justice. He was reportedly beaten in jail. His 76-year-old mother, who protested against her son’s treatment, was herself sentenced to two

years in prison for destruction of public and private property after her cane struck the headlight of an oncoming police car.

- Members of China's unofficial Catholic church were repressed. An elderly Catholic bishop, Han Dingxiang, died in custody under suspicious circumstances after more than 20 years in jail. He was quickly cremated by local authorities.
- Religious adherents of all beliefs had difficulty getting legal counsel, as lawyers willing to take up such sensitive cases were often harassed, detained and imprisoned.

Amnesty International 2007, 'China', *Amnesty International Report 2007*, 23 May

INTERNET: <http://thereport.amnesty.org/eng/Regions/Asia-Pacific/China>

This report contains only two general sentences on Christians and one brief report of an imprisoned priest:

The government continued to crack down on religious observance outside officially sanctioned channels. Thousands of members of underground protestant "house churches" and unofficial Catholic churches were detained, many of whom were ill-treated or tortured in detention. ...

- Pastor Zhang Rongliang, an underground church leader who had been repeatedly detained and imprisoned since 1976, was sentenced in June to seven and a half years' imprisonment on charges of illegally crossing the border and fraudulently obtaining a passport.

Amnesty International 2006, 'China', *Amnesty International Report 2006*, 23 May

INTERNET: <http://web.amnesty.org/report2006/chn-summary-eng>

The report contains only the following information on Christians:

Religious observance outside official channels remained tightly circumscribed. In March, the authorities promulgated a new Regulation on Religious Affairs aimed at strengthening official controls on religious activities.

...Unregistered Catholics and Protestants associated with unofficial house churches were also harassed, arbitrarily detained and imprisoned.

In November, prominent defence lawyer Gao Zhisheng was forced to close down his law firm for a year after he refused to withdraw an Open Letter to the President and Premier calling on the authorities to respect religious freedom and to stop the "barbaric" persecution of Falun Gong. The order came shortly after he had filed an appeal on behalf of underground Protestant pastor Cai Zhuohua who had been sentenced to three years in prison for illegally printing bibles.

For previous year's annual reports please see <http://www.amnesty.org/>.

Amnesty International 2000, *People's Republic of China: the Crackdown on Falun Gong and Other So-Called "Heretical Organizations"*, 23 March, ASA 17/11/00,

INTERNET: <http://web.amnesty.org/ai.nsf/index/asa170112000?opendocument&of=countries/china>

Section 2.2 of this report, 'Other groups – the ongoing "anti-superstition" campaign', notes "the crackdown in the name of "heretical organizations" appears to have spread to more mainstream but unregistered 'house churches' who have long feared such classification." It

mentions a number of incidents as well as actions against “targeted groups” including Christian offshoot churches such as Lingling Jiao (Spirit Church), Chongsheng Pai (Rebirth faction/born again movement), also known as Ku Pai (Crying faction), and Quanfanwei Jiao (Holistic Church), Dongfang Shandian (Oriental Lightning) and Yiliya Jiao (Elijah Church).

B.3 HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHINA (HRIC) (<http://www.hrichina.org/>)

HRIC is mainly concerned with political dissidents, and its reports generally only mention brief items on Christians. It has only one report solely on Christians:

Leung, Ka Lun 2003, ‘Cultural Christians and Contemporary Christianity in China’, China Rights Forum, No. 4, pp.28-31

INTERNET: http://www.hrichina.org/public/PDFs/CRF.4.2003/a2_christians4.2003.pdf

B.4 MINORITY RIGHTS GROUP (<http://www.minorityrights.org/>)

Minority Rights Group International, 2001, *Religious Minorities and China*, October

INTERNET: <http://www.minorityrights.org/admin/download/pdf/chinreim.pdf>

This report looks at all religions and religious policy in China and has 3 pages on the situation of Christians (pp.14-16). This is a good survey which also documents attacks on unregistered and irregular Christian groups.

C) OTHER NGOs

CHRISTIAN SOLIDARITY WORLDWIDE (<http://www.csw.org.uk/>)

Christian Solidarity Worldwide & China Aid Association 2008, *China: Persecution of Protestant Christians in the Approach to the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, June*

INTERNET: http://www.chinaaid.org/pdf/Pre-Olympic_CHina_Persecution_Report_in_English_June2008.pdf

This 12 page report provides information on the pre-Olympic crackdown on unregistered Protestant churches:

The approach of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games has been accompanied by a significant deterioration in religious freedom for China's unregistered Protestant Church, also known as the house church. China continues to seriously restrict religious freedom, requiring religious activity to take place within the confines of the restrictive state-controlled bodies. Those practising their faith outside these bodies risk sanction, with penalties including discrimination, fines, confiscation and destruction of property, arrest, humiliating treatment, torture, imprisonment and forced labour. Alongside these punishments, meetings are raided, Bibles and religious materials are confiscated and churches are destroyed.

Christian Solidarity Worldwide 2005, *China: Current Developments and Cases of Concern, November*

INTERNET:

<http://www.csw.org.uk/Countries/China/Resources/CSWChinaReportNovember2005.pdf> (no longer works)

This 20 page report documents 17 events where between one and "hundreds" of independent Protestant church leaders and Christians were arrested in 2005 and six incidents where Catholic priests were arrested:

This year has seen a notable increase in reports of religious persecution against unregistered Protestant Christians in China. Punishments include imprisonment, torture, humiliating treatment, fines, welfare deductions, withholding of medical treatment, church and business closures and confiscation of valuables and religious materials. Arrests are often accompanied by beating, at times resulting in serious injury and, in a number of cases, hospitalisation. Recent incidents have been reported in Hebei, Henan, Hubei, Jiangxi, Jilin, Shanxi and Xinjiang provinces, as well as in Beijing and Shanghai. A significant level of co-ordination has been demonstrated in some of the incidents, including the arrests that took place in Jilin, involving nearly 600 Christians in a raid of around 100 independent churches.

Christian Solidarity Worldwide 2005, *Religious Freedom in China, November*

INTERNET: <http://www.csw.org.uk/Countrytripreports.asp?Item=156>

This 8 page report looks at Chinese religious policies in relation to the 1981 United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of all Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief and other international standards. It notes that China does not comply with these standards in a number of ways and recommends greater freedoms be allowed. This report refers to the 1994 UNHCR report examined [below](#).

Christian Solidarity Worldwide 2002, *China Annual Report 2002, March (2nd draft)

INTERNET: <http://www.csw.org.uk/Protest/China%20Annual%20Report%202002.pdf> (no longer

works)

This 25 page report contains a well organised explanation of the legal and social framework for Christians in China as well as a survey of events in 200:

Religious persecution in China was at its most severe during the Cultural Revolution. Over the following decades China has made significant progress, but is still a major violator of religious freedom. As a broad picture, the trend over the years has been in a positive direction, but there have been serious downturns in the level of respect for religious freedom. 2001 saw some examples of particularly egregious violations.

Christian Solidarity Worldwide 2000, *No religious freedom in China – report from fact finding mission – December 2000, 10 December*

INTERNET: <http://dynamic.csw.org.uk/country.asp?s=id&urn=China>

This 16 page report primarily focuses on the unofficial Protestant Church:

Whilst many of the reports received were very similar and consistent, it is necessary to stress that the situation is varied. Some provinces enjoy much greater religious freedom, whilst in others Christians still face barbaric treatment. The sources of persecution also vary. In some areas the TSPM is very active in the persecution, whilst in others the oppression comes solely from the authorities.

...The House Church representatives unanimously voiced the cry that religious freedom is not provided in China. There is a measure of controlled freedom in the official churches, but most believers find the political controls and restrictions inconsistent with their faith. Those who seek to practice their religion according to their conscience outside the official churches are liable to suffer penalties, which include severe fines, arrest, torture, internment in labour camp and even death.

FORUM 18 (<http://www.forum18.org/>)

Forum 18 is a Norwegian NGO which reports on breaches of religious freedom in the world.

This group writes articles on religion in China, but not longer reports. Here are links to several recent articles:

- 21 June 2007: [China: Will fashion for Confucius retard religious freedom?](#)
- 12 April 2007: [China: China's Catholics, the Holy See and religious freedom](#)
- 13 February 2007: [China: "Religious Communists" and religious freedom](#)
- 5 December 2006: [China: State-imposed religious monopolies deny China's religious reality](#)
- 11 September 2006: [China: Would a religion law help promote religious freedom?](#)
- 16 August 2006: [China: The Economics of Religious Freedom](#)
- 2 August 2006: [China: Intellectuals and religious freedom](#)
- 6 July 2006: [China: Religious books' tortuous route to the shelves](#)
- 8 March 2006: [China: Despite new Regulations, religious policy still under strain](#)
- 1 September 2005: [China: Is central or local government responsible for religious freedom violations?](#)
- 24 August 2005: [China: Why can't all Christian bookshops sell Bibles?](#)
- 15 June 2005: [China: State attempts to control religious leaderships](#)

- 18 January 2005: [China: How believers resist state religious policy](#)
- 25 November 2004: [China: “Religious distortion” and religious freedom](#)
- 29 September 2004: [China: How the Public Security system controls religious affairs](#)
- 21 July 2004: [China: Government blocks religious websites](#)

Hornemann, M. 2006, ‘China: State-imposed religious monopolies deny China’s religious reality’, *Forum 18 News Service*, 5 December

INTERNET: http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=883

Magda Hornemann gives a short overview of the regulation of religion in China. Hornemann notes the persistence of denominational diversity, especially among Protestants, despite government attempts to stamp out denominational differences:

Perhaps the most diverse Christians in China are Protestants. Many congregations are direct descendants of the Chinese indigenous churches established in reaction to foreign missionary-led congregations at the turn of the 20th century, and these are often characterised by Pentecostalism. Other indigenous churches, such as the True Jesus Church and the Little Flock (Local Church) were founded in the 1920s and the 1930s. Among this mix are also descendants of former Seventh-day Adventist congregations.

...In many places different denominational groups, including Adventists, have been legalised without official affiliation with the TSPM/CCC. Similarly, congregations of the True Jesus Church and those of the Little Flock have sometimes registered directly with local authorities to meet on TSPM premises, while maintaining their own identity and autonomy. In many of these places, the TSPM/CCC plays the role of the state’s “protector,” maintaining vigilance against local state officials’ “over-zealousness” in their dealings with Protestant congregations.

Hornemann, Magda 2005, ‘Is central or local government responsible for religious freedom violations?’, *Forum 18 News Service*, 1 September

http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=641 – Accessed 12 July 2007

Magda Hornemann notes the responsibility for regulating religious affairs is shared between the national level and local and provincial levels, and that abuses often occur at a local level without reference to the central authorities:

It is important not to overlook the enormous powers and responsibilities that have been given to the provincial and sub-provincial authorities in implementing these legal principles. For example, Article 5 of the 2004 national religious affairs regulations stipulates that the responsibility to administer and manage religious organisations is within the domain of the local authorities above the level of the county (xian). In fact, only in a few cases – such as the establishment of religious educational institutions, the construction of large-scale religious images, and the appointment of Catholic bishops – is it necessary to report local decisions to central government, let alone obtain the approval of central government.

Provincial authorities have considerable discretion in enforcing religious affairs regulations and policies. ... Anecdotal accounts suggest that religious freedom violations have been perpetrated by local authorities to serve the financial and political interests of local officials, who wanted to facilitate local economic development in an era during which the central government has actively promoted economic development as the national priority.

...But it is difficult for the central government to avoid significant responsibility for

violations of religious freedom. Despite the enormous legal powers and responsibilities given to provincial and sub-provincial officials to implement religious policies and regulations, there is as yet no known case in which the central government has exercised its own legal responsibility to prosecute government officials for violating religious freedom. This means that the central government has responsibility for, at the very least, an unwillingness to end religious freedom violations.

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN CONCERN (<http://www.persecution.org/>)

International Christian Concern (ICC) is an interdenominational NGO which aims to assist Christians who are victims of persecution or religion.

While previously the ICC produced longer reports, the website is now useful for its collection of news reports on Christians in China, at <http://www.persecution.org/suffering/countryinfodetail.php?countrycode=16>.

International Christian Concern 2006, Country Report – China, November

INTERNET: <http://www.persecution.org/suffering/countryinfodetail.php?countrycode=16>

This four page overview of religion in China draws largely upon [USDOS](#) and [USCIRF](#) reports. This report is less useful than the reports from 2002 and earlier.

International Christian Concern 2004, Country Report – China, August

INTERNET: <http://www.persecution.org/newsite/countryinfodetail.php?countrycode=16>

This six page overview of religion in China contains less information on Christians than the 2002 version below. It contains a number of links to reports of attacks on Christians from 2001-2004.

International Christian Concern 2002, Christian Persecution in China, July

INTERNET: <http://persecution.org/humanrights/china.html>

This ten page overview of Christianity in China contains a useful chronology of actions against Christians in China from 1998-2002.

INTERNATIONAL COALITION FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM (ICRF)

(<http://www.religiousfreedom.com/>)

The ICRF is a US-based “non-profit, non-sectarian, educational organization dedicated to defending the religious freedom of all”.

Like other NGOs, the ICRF used to produce long annual reports on China, but now only seems to gather news stories from other sources on China.

International Coalition for Religious Freedom 2004, World Report – China, 10 May

INTERNET: <http://www.religiousfreedom.com/wrpt/Chinarpt.htm>

This report updates the 2002 version below.

International Coalition for Religious Freedom 2002, World Report – China, 14 May

INTERNET: <http://www.religiousfreedom.com/wrpt/Chinarpt.htm>

This report contains an overview of the situation for Christians.

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED (www.aidtochurch.org)

This Christian group previously produced annual *Violence against Christians in the year X* but these have not been available on the Internet since 2002. The group is based in many countries, including Australia, with the home country apparently the Netherlands (Kerk in Nood/Oostpriesterhulp <http://www.kerkinnood.nl/>), which produced the similar *Persecuted and Forgotten? A Report on Christians oppressed for their Faith 2005/2006*.

Pontifex, John & Newton, John (eds.) 2008, 'China', *Persecuted and Forgotten? A report on Christians oppressed for their Faith 2007/2008*, Aid to the Church in Need, pp.24-30

INTERNET: http://www.aidtochurch.org/pdf/Persecuted_&_Forgotton_comp.pdf

This 112 page report (seven pages on China) provides information on Christians in including a list of attacks on Christians in China between January 2007 and May 2008.

Pontifex, John (ed.) 2006, *Persecuted and Forgotten? A Report on Christians oppressed for their Faith 2005/2006*, Kerk in Nood/Oostpriesterhulp

INTERNET: <http://www.kerkinnood.nl/images/publicaties/persecutedandforgotten.pdf>

This 96 page report (eight pages on China) by Dutch Catholic NGO, Kerk in Nood/Oostpriesterhulp¹, concentrates on the current position of the Catholic Church in China and documents arrests in 2005.

Orbán, Dr J.G. 2003, 'China', *Violence against Christians in the year 2002*, Aid to the Church in Need, pp.38-49

INTERNET: http://www.aidtochurch.org/pdf/violence_part1.pdf

This report contains information on the situation of Christians and particularly the Catholic Church in China in 2002.

Orbán, Dr J.G. 2002, 'China', *Violence against Christians in the year 2001*, Aid to the Church in Need, pp.38-49

INTERNET: http://www.aidtochurch.org/pdf/violence_0509.pdf

This report contains information on the situation of Christians and particularly the Catholic Church in China in 2001.

Morigi, A., Vernole, V.A. & Verna, C. 2001, 'China', *Violence against Christians in the year 2000*, Aid to the Church in Need, pp. 48-54

¹ Kerk in Nood/Oostpriesterhulp (Literally translated: Church in Need/Priest Aid for the East). This international organization is founded and supported by the Catholic Church and takes care of pastoral activities and humanitarian aid, originally intended only for the former countries in Eastern Europe (behind the iron curtain). Nowadays the organization is active worldwide. (According to <http://www.kuleuven.ac.be/bwk/materials/Publications/Proceedings%20of%20International%20Conferences/LS-IC052-Florence-2005.pdf>).

This report contains information on the situation of Christians and particularly the Catholic Church in China in 2000.

CHINA AID ASSOCIATION (<http://chinaaid.org/>)

This Christian group was founded by Bob Fu in 2002 “to serve the persecuted church and advance religious freedom in China.” Fu was a leader of the student democracy movement that ended in the Tian’anmen Square massacre of 4 June 1989. Fu was introduced to Christianity by an English professor and by 1992 he was a pastor in a house church. Several years later he and his wife started a bible school which was discovered by the police and they were imprisoned on 9 May 1996. Newly released from prison, they fled to Hong Kong then America.

The website provides press releases, headlines, stories and reports.

Christian Solidarity Worldwide & China Aid Association 2008, *China: Persecution of Protestant Christians in the Approach to the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, June*

INTERNET: http://www.chinaaid.org/pdf/Pre-Olympic_CHina_Persecution_Report_in_English_June2008.pdf

This 12 page report provides information on the pre-Olympic crackdown on unregistered Protestant churches:

The approach of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games has been accompanied by a significant deterioration in religious freedom for China’s unregistered Protestant Church, also known as the house church. China continues to seriously restrict religious freedom, requiring religious activity to take place within the confines of the restrictive state-controlled bodies. Those practising their faith outside these bodies risk sanction, with penalties including discrimination, fines, confiscation and destruction of property, arrest, humiliating treatment, torture, imprisonment and forced labour. Alongside these punishments, meetings are raided, Bibles and religious materials are confiscated and churches are destroyed.

China Aid Association 2008, *Annual Report of Persecution by the Government on Chinese House Churches within Mainland China: January 2007 to December 2007, February*

INTERNET:

<http://www.chinaaid.org/pdf/2007%20persecution%20report/CAA%202007%20Annual%20Persecution%20Report%20English.pdf>

This 26 page report provides information on the crackdown on unregistered house churches in 2007.

China Aid Association 2007, *Annual Report on Persecution of Chinese House Churches by Province: From January 2006 to December 2006, January*

INTERNET: http://chinaaid.org/wp-content/uploads/2007/04/2006_persecution_report.pdf

This 21 page report provides information on the crackdown on unregistered house churches in 2006.

Fu, Bob 2005, ‘The Full Text of Bob Fu’s Speech on April 5 at UNCHR Plenary Session CAA Leader Speaks at UNCHR General Assembly on Religious Intolerance, China

Officials Mocked for Retaliation with Procedural Tactic', China Aid Association website, 5 April

INTERNET: http://www.chinaaid.org/english/press_releases/5.htm

'Religion – Superstition – Atheism' 2005, *Chinese Law & Religion Monitor*, January-March, Vol. 1, No. 1, China Aid Association, pp.44-45

THE EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP OF CANADA

The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada “offers trusted research and analysis to help Evangelicals think through the issues of the day.”

The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada 2008, *Broken Promises: The Protestant Experience with Religious Freedom in China in Advance of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games*, June

INTERNET: <http://files.efc-canada.net/si/Religious%20Freedom%20Internationally/RLC/EFC-China-Report-June-2008.pdf>

This 26 page report provides information on the Protestant House Church movement in China and “documents trends that illustrate the continued repression of freedom of religion in advance of the 2008 summer Olympics.” Appendix 2 provides a list of individuals and groups who have been targeted in connection to their Christian faith between 2001 and 2007:

In the lead-up to the Beijing Olympic Games, the human rights situation in China appears to have worsened. In an effort to ready Beijing for the event, the CPC [Communist Party of China] initiated a crackdown on all forms of opposition to government practices, removing evidence of human rights abuse that could damage Beijing's image on the world stage. This includes an increased volume of arrests, sentences, torture cases, executions, and other forms of persecution of all religious or political groups which find fault with the CPC.

HOLY SPIRIT STUDY CENTRE (Hong Kong) (<http://www.hsstudyc.org.hk/>)

This group has news on the Catholic Church in China. It has a list of arrests of Catholics up to 2006. It produces *The Bridge* magazine on the Church in China. It has no recent major reports.

Holy Spirit Study Centre 2002, *The Church in China: A Review January 2001-December 2001*

INTERNET: <http://www.hsstudyc.org.hk/chinews.html>

This report contains information on the situation of the Catholic Church in China in 2001. It includes arrests or deaths of priests and other church members, ordinations and other news.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND (CTBI) – Publisher of the *China Study Journal*

The *China Study Journal* is published three times a year by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI), is kept in hard copy in the MRT-RRT Libraries. It contains articles and reports on mainstream and non-mainstream churches.

Report of the U.S. Religious Leaders Delegation to the People's Republic of China 1998

Argue, D, McCarrick, TE & Schneier, A 1998, *Religious Freedom: A Report of the U.S. Religious Leaders Delegation to the People's Republic of China, February*

This ten page report mainly covers discussions between the delegation and both government officials and religious leaders. While recognising the continuing problems for unofficial groups, the delegation felt that the new willingness of the Chinese government to hold a dialogue with the West on the issue of religious freedom was an optimistic sign.

D) BOOKS – MRT-RRT Library (date order)

Charbonnier, Fr Jean 2008, *Guide to the Catholic Church in China 2008, China Catholic Communications, Singapore*

MRT-RRT Library 282.51 GUI, the library also has copies of this guide from 2000 and 2004

This 603 page book gives information on the Catholic Church in each province and city of China and includes maps, names of priests, statistics.

Lambert, Tony 2006, *China's Christian Millions, 2nd edn, OMF Publishing, Monarch Books, London

MRT-RRT LIBRARY 275.0951 LAM, the Library also has a copy of the first edition from 1999

Tony Lambert is an expert on the Protestant community in China and has written frequently on Christianity in China, currently for OMF International (formerly Overseas Missionary Fellowship). This 288 page book contains useful discussion of Protestant house churches and includes a survey of each province as well as statistical information. It has chapters on the house church movement, the growth of the church and the situation in Henan and Anhui in particular. The tone of the book is supportive of evangelical Protestantism. Unfortunately the book does not have an index.

Kindopp, Jason & Hamrin, Carol Lee (eds), 2004, *God and Caesar in China, Brookings Institution Press, Washington D.C.*

MRT-RRT Library 322.10951 KIN

This book contains an index and the following essays:

- Kindopp, Jason 2004, 'Fragmented yet Defiant: Protestant Resilience under Chinese Communist Party Rule'
- Kindopp, Jason 2004, 'Policy Dilemmas in China's Church-State Relations: An Introduction'
- Bays, Daniel 2004, 'A tradition of State Dominance'
- Spiegel, Mickey 2004, 'Control and Containment in the Reform Era'
- Chan, Kim-kwong 2004, 'Accession to the World Trade Organization and State Adaptation'
- Wiest, Jean-Paul 2004, 'Setting Roots: The Catholic Church in China to 1949'
- Madsen, Richard 2004, 'Catholic Conflict and Cooperation in the People's Republic of China'
- Xu, Yihua 2004, "'Patriotic" Protestants: The Making of an Official Church'
- Liu, Peng 2004, 'Unreconciled Differences: The Staying Power of Religion'
- Hamrin, Carol 2004, 'Advancing Religious Freedom in a Global China: Conclusions'

Aikman, David 2003, *Jesus in Beijing: How Christianity Is Transforming China and Changing the Global Balance of Power*, Regery Publishing, Washington

MRT-RRT Library 275.1 AIK

This 344 page book covers the house church movement up to 2002. It has a useful index and mentions a number of the major churches in China

Johnstone, Patrick & Mandryk, Jason 2001, 'China', *Operation World*, 6th ed, Paternoster Lifestyle, Cumbria, pp.159-181

MRT-RRT Library 264.1 JOH

This survey is critical of the Chinese policies towards unregistered churches. It does contain a unique survey of each of 31 China's provinces and municipalities, noting numbers of Catholics, House churches, TSPM as well as a description of Christians in the province.

Barrett, David, Kurian, George & Johnson, Todd 2001, 'China', *World Christian Encyclopaedia: A Comparative Survey of Churches and Religions in the Modern World*, 2nd Edition, Vol. 1, Oxford University Press, pp.191-198

MRT-RRT Library

This book contains a description of the history and the current situation of the Church in China. It also contains lots of statistical tables and lists.

Madsen, Richard 1998, *China's Catholics: Tragedy and hope in an emerging civil society*, Uni of California Press

MRT-RRT Library 282.5109045 MAD

This 183 page book contains a discussion of Catholic issues and has a useful index.

Boyle K. & Sheen J. 1997, 'China', *Freedom of Religion and Belief: A World Report*, pp.176-188

MRT-RRT LIBRARY Ref 291.1772 BOY

This report examines the implementation of state regulations on religion as well as the situation of Catholics, Protestants, Confucianists, Taoists, Chinese Buddhists, Muslims, Tibetan Buddhists and folk religions. It notes the variety of approaches in different regions towards unregistered religious organisations. Some unregistered groups are seen as benign and are tolerated whereas those seen as dangerous are repressed. The most recent examples of repression are from 1993.

Hunter, A. and Chan, K.K. 1993, *Protestantism in Contemporary China*, Cambridge University Press

MRT-RRT Library ref 280.40951 HUN

This 290 page book contains useful discussion of Protestant issues, house churches and the TSPM. It also includes a good index with details on particular churches and cities.

E) DOCUMENTARIES – MRT-RRT Library (date order)

'Jesus in China – Controlling Christianity' & 'Jesus in China – Challenging the State' (24 June 2008): Two-part *PBS Frontline* documentary by reporter Evan Osnos. (Duration: 9.09 minutes & 13.52 minutes)

INTERNET:

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/video/flv/generic.html?s=frow03p20a&continuous=1>

MRT-RRT Library 33542

As the world spotlight hits China this summer, reporter Evan Osnos goes inside one of the country's most important, but least understood movements – China's underground churches. A joint project of "Frontline/World" and the Chicago Tribune, "Jesus in China" examines the wave of Christianity that has been sweeping across the country in recent years and the different ways the Chinese ruling party – officially atheist – is now racing to control it. Probing this volatile religious and political fault line, Osnos travels to the "Bethlehem of China" in Henan Province, gains access to unregistered "megachurches" in China's fastest-growing cities, and finds a number of Communist Party members and independent activists willing to come out publicly as Christians.
(<http://www.rmpbs.org/content/index.cfm/show/73428>)

'God in China – The Struggle for Religious Freedom' (28 June 2007): This documentary was written and directed by Raphaela Schmid, Director of the Becket Institute and produced by Yago de la Cierva of *Rome Reports TV News Agency*. It was shown on *ABC TV* at 9.15 pm on Sunday 10 August 2008. (Duration: 1 hour)
MRT-RRT Library 33139

The film's focus is on the state of religious freedom in China. Despite the Chinese government's opposition, China has thriving underground religious communities that the government has been unable fully to control. Members of these communities were interviewed for the film, and offered their unique perspectives on the struggle for religious freedom in China. Practicing religion is an act fraught with peril in China, and many clergymen have been arrested for adhering to their faith, rather than yielding to state directives.

Becket Fund International Director Angela C. Wu said, "Religious freedom is the best marker of an open society because it implicates free speech, freedom of association, and even property rights. This film is an incisive look at a poorly understood and underreported phenomenon in a country whose human rights record has not kept pace with its economic growth." (<http://www.becketfund.org/index.php/article/686.html>)

F) PRESS OR JOURNAL ARTICLES (date order)

'Christianity in China – Sons of heaven' 2008, *The Economist*, 2 October
INTERNET: http://www.economist.com/world/asia/displaystory.cfm?story_id=12342509

This short article provides information on the number of Christians in China:

ZHAO XIAO, a former Communist Party official and convert to Christianity, smiles over a cup of tea and says he thinks there are up to 130m Christians in China. This is far larger than previous estimates. The government says there are 21m (16m Protestants, 5m Catholics). Unofficial figures, such as one given by the Centre for the Study of Global Christianity in Massachusetts, put the number at about 70m. But Mr Zhao is not alone in his reckoning. A study of China by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, an American think-tank, says indirect survey evidence suggests many unaffiliated Christians are not in the official figures. And according to China Aid Association (CAA), a Texas-based lobby group, the director of the government body which supervises all religions in China said privately that the figure was indeed as much as 130m in early 2008.

Buckley, Chris 2008, 'Chinese "house" church seeks to sue government', *Reuters*, 19

September

INTERNET: <http://in.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idINIndia-35553620080919?sp=true>

This article reports on Qiyu Blessings Church in Sichuan (underground) which wants to take the Shuangliu County Bureau of Religious Affairs to court for stopping a service in May:

Wang's congregation of 40 or so usually gathers in a rented room in Chengdu, where it is generally tolerated by authorities.

But when in May it tried to worship in a hotel in Shuangliu, on the city's rural outskirts, officials stopped the service. The officials also took bibles, said Wang.

Since then, their services in the city have not been stopped.

This was typical of the government's tense relationship with the house churches, said Wang.

...“Generally, they (officials) don't interfere if we restrict ourselves to our usual space for worship,” said Wang. “But if we try to move out for worship or training, then they step in to stop us. But we want them to act within the law, not arbitrarily.”

Wang said he had sent his writ to a Chengdu court and was waiting on its decision whether to allow a hearing. He said he was not hopeful. An earlier administrative appeal was rejected.

Osnos, Evan 2008, ‘Christianity booms as China eases up’, *Charleston Gazette*, 29 June FACTIVA

This article reports that “Christianity is sweeping the country” and “posing a sensitive challenge to the officially atheist Communist Party.” The article continues:

Christianity – repressed, marginalized and, in many cases, illegal in China for more than half a century – is sweeping the country, overflowing churches and posing a sensitive challenge to the officially atheist Communist Party.

By some estimates, Christian churches, most of them underground, now have roughly 70 million members, as many as the party itself. A growing number of those Christians are, in fact, party members.

...The boundaries of what is legal and what is not are constantly shifting. A new church or Sunday school, for instance, might be permissible one day and taboo the next, because local officials have broad latitude to interpret laws on religious gatherings.

Overall, though, the government is permitting churches to be more open and active than ever before, signaling a new tolerance of faith in public life.

Cody, Edward 2008, ‘Chinese government rethinks religion/Communist party now believes faith can restore social harmony’, *Houston Gazette*, 26 January FACTIVA

This article reports on a change in the Chinese Communist Party's attitude towards religion:

“We must take full advantage of the positive role that religious figures and believers among the masses can play in promoting economic and social development,” Jia Qinglin, a member of the Politburo's Standing Committee, told a meeting of government-connected religious

officials Wednesday.

Hu presided over a special Politburo study session last month on the expanding role of religion in China. Two of the party's religion specialists were called in to explain the phenomenon to China's 25 most powerful men, most of whom grew up with the Marxist idea that religion is a hostile force and, in China, foreign infiltration with ties to the colonial past.

In a speech to the group, Hu seemed to break with that tradition, suggesting the moral force of religion can be harnessed for the good of the party. "We must strive to closely unite religious figures and believers among the masses around the party and government," he said, according to the official account, "and struggle together with them to build an all-around moderately prosperous society while quickening the pace toward the modernization of socialism."

Liu, the Christian leader shown in the photo with Hu, noted that the president also for the first time included discussion of religion in the party's 17th National Congress in October. Religion should no longer be considered sabotage of the party's economic and social plans, Hu told fellow party members, but rather a positive force that can be enlisted to help put the plans into effect.

"This tells people what the party's attitude toward religion is," Liu said. "The party is now more concerned about the active role that religion can play in society."

The number of religious believers in China has long been difficult to determine. Faced with the party's traditional hostility, many believers have kept their faith hidden. But a government-sponsored survey last year found the number may reach 300 million, nearly a quarter of the population.

Most of those professing belief said they identified with China's traditional religions, such as Buddhism, Taoism and Islam. But those identifying themselves as Christians accounted for as many as 40 million, the survey found, most of them Protestants. Specialists have estimated the number of Catholics at 12 million, divided between those in Liu's government-sponsored Patriotic Catholic Association and those in informal churches who look on the pope as their leader.

'China's rising number of young Christians gear up for Easter' 2007, *Agence France Presse*, 5 April

FACTIVA

This short article provides information on the growing popularity of Christianity, including amongst young people, in Chongqing municipality in central China.

Kristof, Nicholas D. 2006, 'Keeping Faith In China', *New York Times*, 25 June

FACTIVA

Kristof's view is that "persecution is the exception in a country where tens of millions of people worship pretty openly and usually without any penalty. In half of China's provinces, there were no known arrests at all. The security authorities don't normally bother to raid ordinary house churches or even spy on them much, but the police do apply pressure on those that are considered potential troublemakers."

Yeo, K. K. 2006, 'Home Grown', *The Christian Century*, 10 January

FACTIVA

This article contains a general profile of the growth of Christianity in China as well as

indigenous churches. Yeo also notes:

The primary distinction in Chinese church life is that between registered and unregistered churches. ...No great theological chasm exists between registered churches and unregistered churches. ...However, there is a difference between registered and unregistered churches in political attitude. ...Most unregistered churches do not believe that Christianity should collaborate with a government that does not love or honor God.

Lambert, Tony 2006, 'House-Church Networks: An Overview', *Global Chinese Ministries Newsletter*, March, April & May (Parts 1, 2 & 3)

INTERNET: http://www.omf.org/omf/us/resources_1/newsletters/global_chinese_ministries/;
http://www.omf.org/omf/us/resources_1/newsletters/global_chinese_ministries/gcm_newsletter_2001_2006/gcm_march_2006;
http://www.omf.org/omf/us/resources_1/newsletters/global_chinese_ministries/gcm_newsletter_2001_2006/gcm_april_2006;
http://www.omf.org/omf/us/resources_1/newsletters/global_chinese_ministries/gcm_newsletter_2001_2006/gcm_april_2006

This three-part article profiles the following groups:

- The Jesus Family (Yesu Jiating) and the Little Flock Or Local Church
- Fangcheng Church and China Gospel Fellowship
- The Anhui-Based Networks, the Lixin And Yingshang Networks and the Wenzhou Networks

'The Christian Churches of China' 2004, The Religion Report programme on ABC Radio National, 11 August

INTERNET: <http://www.abc.net.au/rn/talks/8.30/relrpt/stories/s1173298.htm>

An interview with two specialists on Christians in China, David Aikman (former Time Magazine bureau chief in Beijing and author of *Jesus in Beijing*) and Anthony Lam (Senior Research Officer at the Holy Spirit Study Centre in Hong Kong). This is a good overview of the current situation.

Tears of the Oppressed 2004, *Brief: Christians in China – For the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Eighth Australia-China Human Rights Dialogue*, October

This 15 page report provides general information on Christianity in China as well as information on recent acts of repression.

Wesley, Luke 2004, 'Is the Chinese Church Predominantly Pentecostal?', *Asian Journal of Pentecostal Studies*, Vol. 7, No. 2, pp. 225-254

INTERNET: <http://www.aps.edu/ajps/04-2/04-2-LWesley.pdf>

This 30 page report provides information on whether the Christianity in China is mainly Pentecostals.

Marquand, Robert 2003, 'In China, pews are packed', *The Christian Science Monitor*, 24 December

INTERNET: <http://www.csmonitor.com/2003/1224/p01s03-wosc.html>

The article notes that “Christianity – in both the official and unofficial churches – is again gaining momentum in China, and is a source of some consternation for the party leadership.”

Bays, Daniel 2003, ‘Chinese Protestant Christianity Today’, *The China Quarterly*, Vol. 174, No. 3, June, pp.488-504

MRT-RRT LIBRARY

Daniel Bays reports that writers on Chinese Christianity have widely varying points of view and conflicting claims. He notes:

Like all religious believers in China, Protestants have to live with state control of and interference in their activities. For TSPM pastors and congregations, that means monitoring by the state, required political study for pastors, certain restrictions on acceptable topics for preaching and intervention in church personnel matters. Autonomous groups are vulnerable to much more coercive and punitive state action, including physical harassment, detention, fines, and labour re-education or criminal proceedings and prison sentences.

...According to a senior official interviewed in 1991, referring to religious believers, intellectuals, and journalists:

In fact all policies concerning these people are the same. They are part of the overall ideological control mechanism. The basic principle is simple: if they are obedient, then we treat them well. If they are not, then we discipline them.

...Whether from religious principle, aversion to administrative interference or any number of other reasons, including personal animosities towards TSPM leaders or the fact that in some rural areas no TSPM church exists nearby, many Protestants choose to function as autonomous entities. So it seems likely that sporadic tension between a substantial number of Protestants and the state will continue. (pp.492-3)

He also notes the existence of traditional popular cultural practices among rural Protestant groups and that the “great majority of Chinese Protestants live in rural areas, and many have only minimal knowledge of the Christian doctrines and ritual behaviour that would be familiar to most urban Christians.”

Lambert, Tony 2003, ‘Survey of the Chinese Church’, Parts I-IV, *Global Chinese Ministries Newsletter*, March, April, July-August & October

INTERNET:

http://www.omf.org/omf/us/resources_1/newsletters/global_chinese_ministries/gcm_newsletter_2001_2006

This province by province survey of Christians in China is shorter version of the survey by Lambert in his book *China’s Christian Millions* (above).

Cheng, M.M.C. 2003, ‘House Church Movements and Religious Freedom in China’, *China: An International Journal*, Vol. 1, No. 1, March, p.16.

CISNET China CX141345

This paper “studies the “nonregistered” Protestant house churches with reference to their historical roots and current sociopolitical context.”

Kindopp, Jason 2002, China’s war on “cults” *Current History*, Vol. 101, September

2002, pp.259-266

INTERNET: http://www.currenthistory.com/org_pdf_files/101/656/101_656_259.pdf

Chinese leaders are well aware of precipitating another Falun Gong-style campaign against another religious group, and appear eager to avoid doing so. Stung by the Falun Gong's tenacity and exhausted by the extraordinary measures required to flog its adherents into submission, they no longer have any illusions about the difficulty of wiping out religious groups that specialise in producing righteous martyrs.

Freedom House 2002, *Report Analyzing Seven Secret Chinese Government Documents*, 11 February

This 81 page report analyses the seven secret Chinese government documents on cults.

4. USEFUL WEBSITES ON CHRISTIANITY IN CHINA

Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) <http://www.aidtochurch.org/>

ACN is an international Catholic charity under papal jurisdiction which publishes an annual report reports on Christians in many countries

Amity News Service <http://www.amitynewsservice.org/index.php>

Amity News Service has a directory of TSPM (official Protestant) churches and some news.

Amnesty International <http://www.amnesty.org/>

Asia News <http://www.asianews.it/>

Asia News is a Catholic news service.

Cardinal Kung Foundation <http://www.cardinalkungfoundation.org/>; please see <http://www.cardinalkungfoundation.org/press/index.htm> for a chronological list of press releases on Catholic Church in China.

The Cardinal Kung Foundation is concerned with the Catholic Church in China.

CatholicCitizens.Org <http://www.catholiccitizens.org/search/default.asp?query=china> has some reports on China, but there is no China page.

China Aid Association http://www.chinaaid.org/english_site/index.php

China Aid Association, established in 2002, is a non-profit Christian organisation "with a mission to explore the truth, to tell the truth and to preserve the truth on the issue of religious freedom in China, particularly focusing on the fate of the unofficial church."

Christian Solidarity Worldwide <http://www.csw.org.uk/> has news reports and longer reports on China.

Compass Direct News <http://www.compassdirect.org/> has some news reports on China. Compass Direct is a "Christian news service".

Forum 18 <http://www.forum18.org/>; please see <http://www.forum18.org/Analyses.php?region=3> for reports on China.

Holy Spirit Study Centre (HSSC) <http://www.hsstudyc.org.hk/>

The HSSC is an organ of the Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong.

Human Rights Watch <http://www.hrw.org/>

International Christian Concern <http://www.persecution.org/suffering/index.php>; please

see <http://www.persecution.org/suffering/news.php> to search for reports on China.

MonitorChina.Org http://www.monitorchina.org/chinese_site/index.php
 This website contains links to the substantial Chinese Law and Religion Monitor journals.

Prisoner Alert <http://www.prisoneralert.com/>
 Prisoner Alert is a Ministry of Voice of the Martyrs (see below).

Union of Catholic Asian News <http://www.ucanews.com/>; please see <http://www.ucanews.com/category/daily-news/china> for reports on China.
UCA News is a Catholic news service in Asia.

United States Commission On International Religious Freedom
http://www.uscirf.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1383&Itemid=1
 This website contains links to expert testimony before the commission, press releases etc.

Voice of the Martyrs (Australia) <http://www.persecution.com.au/>; please see <http://www.persecution.com.au/news/countrynews.asp?cID=chin> for reports on China.
 Voice of the Martyrs “is an international, evangelical, inter-denominational faith mission, committed to serving today’s persecuted Christians around the world.”

Voice of the Martyrs (Canada) <http://www.persecution.net/>; please see <http://www.persecution.net/china.htm> for reports on China.

Worldwide Religious News (WWRN) <http://www.wwrn.org/>; please see <http://www.wwrn.org/int.php?con=17> for reports on China – choose a topic from ‘Contents’ on the right.
 WWRN “is a non-profit service providing the international academic and legal community with up-to-date religious news from around the world.”

Worthy News <http://worthynews.com/> has news reports on China.
Worthy News is a Christian news service.

Zenit News Agency <http://www.zenit.org/index.php?l=english> has news reports on China.
Zenit News Agency is a Catholic news service.

LESS USEFUL WEBSITES

China for Jesus <http://www.chinaforjesus.com/> (nothing since 2002)
 China for Jesus is a website written by Mainland Chinese believers.

Christian Research Institute <http://www.equip.org/> (a few reports)
 The Christian Research Institute provides “Christians worldwide with carefully researched information and well-reasoned answers that encourage them in their faith and equip them to intelligently represent it to people influenced by ideas and teachings that assault or undermine orthodox, biblical Christianity.”

Christian Missions International <http://www.cmi.org.tw/> (in Chinese)

Committee for Investigation on Persecution of Religion in China
<http://china21.org/English/index.htm> (one report since 2005)
 The Committee for Investigation on Persecution of Religion in China is a non-profit organisation which was founded in New York in 2000. It consists “of thousands of Christians called upon by God most of whom are secretly investigating and collecting information on religious persecution in China.”

Free Church for China <http://www.freechurchforchina.org/> (four reports since 2002 – two in 2007 and two in 2004)
 Free Church for China is a website

Hudson Institute, formerly Freedom House’s Centre for Religious Freedom
<http://www.hudson.org/>; please see

http://www.hudson.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=research_publications_list&resType=China
for reports on China

The Hudson Institute “is a non-partisan policy research organization dedicated to innovative research and analysis that promotes global security, prosperity, and freedom.”

International Coalition for Religious Freedom <http://www.religiousfreedom.com/>; please see <http://www.religiousfreedom.com/wrpt/Chinarpt.htm> for the *Religious Freedom World Report – China*

The International Coalition for Religious Freedom “is a non-profit, non-sectarian, educational organization dedicated to defending the religious freedom of all, regardless of creed, gender or ethnic origin.