

China's Prophetic Prominence

Conflict with the United States

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

We are all familiar by now with the adverse issue the U.S. has with China's Communist Party over human rights; rights which are all but nil in China. Following is a 2019 report on China's violations from an organization called HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH:

President Xi Jinping, born in 1953, has indicated his intent to rule indefinitely after China's legislature amended the constitution in March 2018 to scrap term limits for the presidency. This move was also emblematic of the increasing repression under Xi's rule.

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) also strengthened its power over the government bureaucracy in a major overhaul of central government structure in March. The party oversees a powerful new government body, the National Supervisory Commission, which is empowered to detain incommunicado anyone exercising public authority for up to six months without fair trial procedures in a system called "liuzhi."

In October, Meng Hongwei, then-president of Interpol, the international police organization, and China's vice minister for Public Security, disappeared upon return to China and was assumed to be held in "liuzhi." The CCP also subsumed state bodies in charge of religious, ethnic, and overseas Chinese affairs under a party agency, the United Front Work Department.

Authorities dramatically stepped up repression and systematic abuses against the 13 million Turkic Muslims, including Uyghurs and ethnic Kazakhs, in China's northwestern Xinjiang region. Authorities have carried out mass arbitrary detention, torture, and mistreatment of some of them in various detention facilities, and increasingly imposed pervasive controls on daily life. New regulations in Tibet now criminalize even traditional forms of social action, including community mediation by religious figures. In Hong Kong, a region promised "a high degree of autonomy" under the Sino-British Joint Declaration, the Chinese and Hong Kong governments hastened their efforts in 2018 to undermine people's rights to free speech and political participation.

Human rights defenders continue to endure arbitrary detention, imprisonment, and enforced disappearance. The government maintains tight control over the internet, mass media, and academia. Authorities stepped up their persecution of religious communities, including prohibitions on Islam in Xinjiang, suppression of Christians in Henan province, and increasing scrutiny of Hui Muslims in Ningxia.

Authorities increasingly deploy mass surveillance systems to tighten control over society. In 2018, the government continued to collect, on a mass scale, biometrics including DNA and voice samples; use such biometrics for automated surveillance purposes; develop a nationwide reward and punishment system known as the "social credit system"; and develop and apply "big data" policing programs aimed at preventing

dissent. All of these systems are being deployed without effective privacy protections in law or in practice, and often people are unaware that their data is being gathered, or how it is used or stored.

In 2018, animated by the global #MeToo movement, a number of Chinese women stepped forward exposing people who they said had sexually harassed them. Government censorship dampened subsequent public outrage.

In one of its only human rights concessions all year, Chinese authorities allowed Liu Xia, an artist and the widow of 2010 Nobel Peace Prize winner Liu Xiaobo, to leave for Germany in July after eight years of legally baseless house arrest. However, the decision of authorities to bar her family members from also leaving reflects Beijing's campaign to punish dissent and restrict expression globally.

The case of human rights lawyer Wang Quanzhang is emblematic of authorities' ruthlessness toward human rights defenders and those activists' fortitude. Beijing police detained Wang amid a national crackdown on human rights lawyers and activists in August 2015; while detained he was reportedly tortured with electric shocks and forced to take medications. In July, Wang was finally allowed to meet his lawyer for the first time. Charged with "subversion of state power," he could face life imprisonment if convicted. During Wang's detention, Li Wenzu, his wife, along with families of other lawyers and activists detained during the crackdown, have campaigned relentlessly for his release despite having to endure incessant intimidation and harassment.

Authorities continued politically motivated prosecutions and disbarments of human rights lawyers. In January, police detained lawyer Yu Wensheng, charging him with "inciting subversion of state power" and "obstructing public duties." Judicial authorities revoked or suspended the licenses of over a dozen human rights lawyers, and even some who retain licenses have been unable to find work due to police pressure on employers.

In 2018, the courts handed down lengthy prison terms to a number of prominent human rights activists after protracted and sham prosecutions. In July, a Wuhan court sentenced veteran democracy activist Qin Yongmin to 13 years in prison for "subversion of state power." Qin, 64, has previously spent a total of 22 years in prison or in "Re-education Through Labor."

Authorities also tried to silence Chinese human rights defenders abroad by harassing and detaining their families in China. In January 2018, Guangzhou authorities forcibly disappeared Li Huaiping, wife of Chen Xiaoping, a US-based journalist for the Chinese-language Mirror Media Group. The disappearance came shortly after Chen interviewed Guo Wengui, a Chinese billionaire fugitive who exposed corruption among China's ruling elite. Authorities continually harassed the China-based family members of Canadian human rights activist Anastasia Lin, banning them from travel abroad and threatening to persecute them "like in the Cultural Revolution."

ABORTION

Criticizing China on abortion might seem like the pot calling the kettle black. But while 35 million babies have been aborted in the U.S. over the last 47 years since 1973, China aborts about that many every 5 years.

Information on abortion statistics are hard to come by, but following are reports from a number of agencies.

Abortion has been legal in China since 1953, although sex-selective abortions were banned starting in 1994. China was the first country to approve mifepristone, the abortion-inducing drug also known as RU-486, and by the late 1990s it was widely available---by prescription and on the black market---all across China. The government estimated that 9.2 million abortions were performed in 2008, up from 7.6 million in 2007. But the count only includes those done at hospitals. State media has reported the total could be as high as 13 million. If accurate, that would give China one of the highest abortion rates in the world. [Source: Mark McDonald, New York Times, July 30, 2009]

Abortions at registered clinics in China cost about \$88. Wu Shangchun, a research official with the National Population and Family Planning Commission, told China Daily that about 10 million abortion-inducing pills are sold annually in China. China has mobile abortion clinics---vans equipped with a bed, body clams, suction pumps and other tools used to perform abortions. Among the other heroic deeds performed by a pilot, one Chinese newspaper reported, was the fact that he "persuaded his wife, pregnant for the first time, to have an abortion."

According to the Encyclopedia of Sexuality, published in the early 1990s, in China, abortion as a secondary measure to terminate an unwanted pregnancy is not only a legal right, it is even a legal responsibility. If a woman already has a child, she will be asked to terminate her unplanned pregnancy by abortion in the first trimester and even as late as the second trimester. Generally speaking, in mainland China one third of pregnant women have undergone an abortion. From 1985 to 1987, 32,000,000 abortions were done, 80 percent of these pregnancies being the result of failed contraception. [Source: Zhonghua Renmin Gonghe Guo, Fang-fu Ruan, M.D., Ph.D., and M.P. Lau, M.D. Encyclopedia of Sexuality]

Alexa Olesen of Associated Press wrote: "The country legalized abortion in the 1950s, but it did not become common until the government began enforcing a one-child limit to stem population growth. From fewer than five million abortions a year before 1979, the number jumped to 8.7 million in 1981, a year after the policy was launched. It peaked in 1983 at 14.4 million before coming down as Beijing relaxed the policy to allow rural couples a second child if their first was a girl. An aggressive, and often coercive, prevention campaign also reduced abortions. In 1983 alone, authorities sterilized 21 million people and fitted 17.8 million women with intrauterine devices. The next year, abortions declined sharply to 8.9 million." [Source: Alexa Olesen Associated Press, January 10, 2011]

"It used to be that Chinese women only had an abortion if the foetus had birth defects or if they got pregnant after having their first child," an anaesthesiologist told AP. "Society

is different now. It's much more open, too open actually, and puberty is starting much younger, but schools and parents are not discussing these things with the kids." [Source: Alexa Olesen Associated Press, January 10, 2011]

Until the 1990s, doctors asked for women's marital status at abortion clinics, which were part of the family planning system that limited urban couples to one child. Now, government data shows that nearly two thirds of women who have abortions are between 20 and 29, and most are single. [Source: Reuters, July 30, 2009]

According to government data released in August 2009, 13 million abortions a year are performed in China, mostly on single young women. The true figure is thought to be much higher. The numbers included only abortions performed at hospitals and did include those done at unregistered rural clinics, where a lot of abortions are performed, or medication-induced abortions. According to the data about 10 million abortion pills are sold every year and half the women who get abortion used no contraception. [Source: China Daily]

Even the official figure shows a marked increase in Chinese abortions, based on statistics from 2003, the last year for which reliable data are available. In a joint report, the World Health Organization and the Guttmacher Institute put the number of abortions in China at 9 million, out of a total of 42 million worldwide that year. In the United States, which has a population less than one-quarter that of China, official figures from the Center for Disease Control show there were 820,000 abortions performed in 2005, excluding California, Louisiana and New Hampshire for which no figures were provided. [Source: Reuters, Mark McDonald, New York Times, July 30, 2009]

The number of abortions has risen dramatically with the one-child policy. Statistics for the country as a whole are difficult to come by. But there is some regional data. In surveys conducted in Shanghai in 1987 and 1991, some 47 percent of married women questioned had at least one abortion; and more than third (36.8 percent) of those who had abortions had at least two. Abortions are performed even after the sixth month of pregnancy if the babies are "outside the plan." [Source: U.S. News and World Report]

Summary

Setting aside the financial and military conflict we have with China, the two areas above are absolutely egregious. The U.S. still permits Christianity while China prohibits or restricts nearly all forms of religion. For these reasons, the Lord will hold the Chinese Communist Party accountable at the end of time.