

Bishop Vincent Guo Xijin



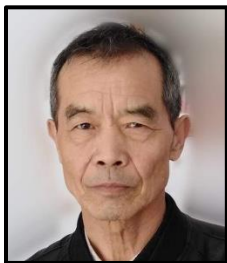
In 2018 was demoted to the position of auxiliary bishop, to make way for a bishop preferred by the government. He was evicted from his home on January 15, 2019, the day that China initiated its highest-level emergency response to the coronavirus. The 61-year-old prelate was forced to sleep on the doorstep of the church administrative building. After international criticism, he regained access to his apartment, but its utilities were shut off. Under constant government pressure, he found it impossible to carry out his episcopal ministry and returned to his family's home in 2020.

Bishop James Su Zhimin



The Catholic bishop of Baoding diocese in Hebei province, appointed by Pope John Paul II, Bishop James Su Zhimin has become one of the world's longest political prisoners. While leading a religious procession in 1996, Bishop Su was taken into police custody and nothing has been learned about him since. Under Mao, he had been imprisoned for 26 years and severely tortured.

Bishop Augustine Cui Tai



The 70-year old Catholic bishop Augustine Cui Tai, of Xuanhua Diocese, Hebei province, has been in detention without due process for most of the last 13 years. On June 19, 2020, Bishop Cui Tai was mostly recently taken into detention, after being released for several months.

Fr. Lu Genjun



On November 2, 2020, Fr. Lu Genjun, vicar general of Baoding, was also taken into custody and secretly detained. He has been repeatedly incarcerated, including for an eight-year period between 2006 and 2014.

Pastor Wang Yi



Pastor Wang Yi is among China's most prominent Christian voices and founder of the underground Early Rain Covenant Church in Chengdu, was sentenced in December 2019 to a nine-year prison term.

Pastor John Cao



American resident Pastor John Cao was sentenced in 2017 to seven years of imprisonment for illegally crossing China's border into Myanmar to give aid.

Catholicism and Protestantism, though among China's five state-recognized religions, are viewed with hostility by the CCP as "Western influences." In fact, Catholicism was introduced to the country by the 16th century priest Matteo Ricci and the Protestant Church became firmly rooted in 19th century. As the CCP wages a broad war against religion, wielding an iron fist and sophisticated technology in equal measure, it raises the question: Will these churches be able to survive the current century? It may depend on the response of those of us who have religious freedom.

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