

His Excellency
Mr. Xi Jinping
President of the People's Republic of China
Via Botschaft der VR China
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Your Excellency;

Please forgive me for approaching you on behalf of the incarcerated Christian pastor, the Rev. Li Juncai of the Zhongxin Church near the town of Xinxiang in Henan Province.

He and three other parishioners were arrested by the police on February 20, 2019 after the four had protested against the removal of the cross from their church. "Disruption of public service" was the charge against them. The three parishioners have since been released, while the pastor remains in detention.

Shortly after the arrest, the government dispatched around 200 officers to break open the lock on a side door, while protesting parishioners were pushed aside. With the help of a construction crane, the cross was replaced by a flagpole in order to let the national flag fly there. I consider this action a violation of religious freedom.

Please excuse me, Excellency, for taking the liberty to remind you of Article 36 of the "Constitution of the People's Republic of China," where it states:

"Citizens of the People's Republic of China shall enjoy freedom of religious belief. No state organ, social organization or individual shall coerce citizens to believe in or not to believe in any religion, nor shall they discriminate against citizens who believe in or do not believe in any religion."

This is why I humbly beseech you, dear Mr. President, to advocate the observance of religious freedom in the "People's Republic of China" and to do everything in your power to have the incarcerated pastor released.

Most respectfully,