

His Excellency
Mr. Xi Jinping
President of the People's Republic of China
Via Botschaft der VR China
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10179 Berlin

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Your Excellency;

Please forgive me for approaching you on behalf of the Chinese Catholic priest, the Rev. Peter Zhang Guangjun. He was taken away by officials after Sunday Mass on April 14, 2019 together with another Catholic believer, who was later released. The reasons for the arrest of the priest have never become publicly known despite numerous appeals. The officers detaining him treated him harshly during the arrest and even smashed the windows of his car.

Pastor Peter Zhang Guangjun had been arrested once before from January 10th to April 13th, 2011, when officers beat him with fists and sticks.

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 priest released.

Most respectfully,