

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

On December 9, 2018, police in the City of Chengdu arrested Christian parish leader Qin Defu and more than 100 other members of the "Early Rain Covenant Church." This father of four adopted children was sentenced to four years in prison on November 29, 2019 for "illegal business activities." Qin was responsible for the writings of his "Early Rain Covenant Church."

The authorities had initially presented Qin with the prospect of release if he accepted a state-appointed defense lawyer, but that did not materialize. At first, he was allowed to choose a lawyer but not to meet with him. A complaint against this ruling was unsuccessful.

Please permit me, Your Excellency, to remind you of Article 36 of the "Constitution of the People's Republic of China," which states that: "Citizens of the People's Republic of China enjoy freedom of religious belief."

Therefore, dear Mr. President, I humbly beseech you to advocate freedom of religion and to support the unconditional release of Mr. Qin Defu.

Most respectfully,