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ARTICLE

China Conducts Mass Arrests Of Christians Right Before Christmas





BY SA MCCARTHY/THE WASHINGTON STAND DECEMBER 24, 2025

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Hundreds of Christians in China will likely spend Christmas in jail this year, according to a recent report. Starting on December 13, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) mobilized "more than a thousand police officers, SWAT units, anti-riot forces, and firefighters" in the Zhejiang Province's Yayang Town in Wenzhou City, raiding churches and conducting mass arrests of Christians, ChinaAid reported.

"Belongings of relevant individuals were illegally confiscated, roads leading to the church were completely blocked by police, and Christians in Yayang Town were unable to enter the Yayang church. The operation lasted nearly five days, yet no public statement was issued by officials," the outlet noted. "Within just the first two days, several hundreds of people were taken away for questioning. On December 16 and 17, at least four more individuals were detained."

Two local Christians, 58-year-old Lin Enzhao and 54-year-old Lin Enci, were labeled "principal suspects of a criminal organization" by the CCP, with locally-posted wanted posters charging the two with "picking quarrels and provoking trouble," which ChinaAid noted is a "commonly used charge" by the CCP against religious and political dissidents.



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Over the past several years, CCP officials in Yayang Town have attempted to forcibly destroy church property, including symbols such as crosses, and install CCP propaganda and imagery, such as the five-star Red Flag and the CCP's constitution. Enzhao and Enci were key figures in opposing the CCP's efforts.



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Following the mass arrests this month, the CCP hosted an "Elimination of Six Evils" demonstration, with SWAT officers and riot police deployed en masse "to demonstrate force, intimidate local Christians, and create an atmosphere of fear, framing the earlier law enforcement actions as 'results of the anti-organized crime campaign,'" by which the government means the crackdown on Christians.



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According to ChinaAid, police have stationed vehicles at the homes of known Christians, "disrupted" communications among Christians in the area, and have even gone "door-to-door" questioning church members and asking them to denounce Enzhao and Enci.

"Government-driven public opinion campaigns are spreading defamatory rumors portraying Christians as 'unpatriotic' or belonging to a 'cult,'" ChinaAid reported. "This approach aligns with China's recent trend of criminalizing certain religious activities. On September 29, China's leader reiterated in a speech the need to 'systematically advance the Sinicization of religion.' Earlier, mass arrests at Beijing Zion Church saw pastors and church members detained on fabricated charges of 'fraud.'"

In comments to The Washington Stand, ChinaAid founder and Senior Fellow for International Religious Liberty at Family Research Council Bob Fu said, "The massive pre-Christmas assault on churches in Wenzhou is a chilling reminder that the Chinese Communist Party fears the light of Christ most when it shines brightest.

To raid churches days before Christmas is not only an attack on Christians -- it is an assault on human dignity, conscience, and the hope that faith brings to a wounded world." He continued, "History teaches us that no regime has ever succeeded in extinguishing faith through force. These pre-Christmas attacks will only strengthen the resolve of China's house churches and further expose the moral bankruptcy of state-sponsored persecution."

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) and other religious liberty watchdogs have repeatedly warned that China's totalitarian regime is enacting human rights abuses against religious groups within the nation's border. A USCIRF report late last

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designate China as a "country of particular concern" (CPC) due to the CCP's brutal oppression of Christians and other religious dissidents.

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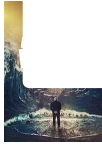
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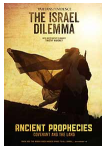
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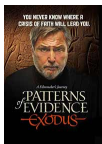
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