



RISING RESTRICTIONS in CHINA

JUNE 2020

SITUATION IN HONG KONG

A national security law is passed giving Chinese officials the ability to crack down on a wide range of "offenses" committed by Hong Kong citizens. These include "secession", "subversion", "terrorism" and "collusion with foreign forces". The law dismantles the "one country two systems" arrangement that Hong Kong has had with Beijing since its handover from the United Kingdom in 1997. The law is a complete reversal of the freedoms Hong Kong enjoyed since the 1980's.

MARCH / APRIL 2020

DEMOLITIONS

Church buildings and crosses are destroyed in Anhui, Henan, Jiangsu and Qinghai. In 2019, hundreds of Protestant churches were raided and closed. 100 mosques were destroyed (adding to the thousands already destroyed in Xinjiang). Thousands of residences located near the Yachen Gar Tibetan Buddhist center in Sichuan Province were demolished. 6000 monks and nuns were displaced.

FEBRUARY 2020

NEW NATIONAL REGULATIONS

The regulations state that "Religious organizations must support the leadership of the Communist Party of China" and "adhere to the direction of Sinicization of religions. The regulations give the Chinese government oversight over the functioning and administration of religious organizations – from finances, staff changes to ordinations. Organizations are required to teach ideology belonging to the Chinese Communist Party.

SEPTEMBER 2020

UIGHUR MUSLIM CRISIS

China is selected to sit on the United Nations Human Rights Consultative Group. It is one of five nations tasked with screening initial applications and making recommendations for independent UN experts. This comes despite the fact that 11 million Uighur Muslims – a Turkic speaking ethnic group – are under heavy Chinese Communist Party surveillance in Xinjiang. It is reported that 1–3 million live in 1,300 camps. These camps initially focused on the "re-education" of Uighurs. The focus is now on forced labour for the textile industry. A number of reports show that Uighurs are tortured and harvested for their organs in these camps. 80% of Uighur women are on track to have abortions or to be sterilized. Uighur children have been placed in boarding schools. Families have been torn apart. This comes as part of China's efforts to ban children's faiths since 2018.

MAY 2020

THE IMPACT OF COVID

CSW reports that 200 police raid a church in Fujian Province on World Press Freedom Day. Individuals are assaulted. An online Easter service is disrupted in Chengdu despite relaxation to COVID restrictions. Medical supplies being donated to a Wuhan church for a local hospital are intercepted by police and the Red Cross, which is controlled by the government. The Chinese government remains silent about the number of COVID cases among the Uighur population in Xinjiang.