

Religious Prisoners Representative Cases of Concern

Adil Qarim

Authorities in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region detained Adil Qarim, an imam at a mosque in Kucha county, Aqsu district, during a “security sweep” of Kucha in the aftermath of a reported series of bomb attacks in the county on August 10, 2008. An individual accused of involvement in the August 10 incident had attended the mosque. Adil Qarim denied having any links to the attack. His current whereabouts are not known.

Suggested Questions for Officials: Where is Adil Qarim being held? Have authorities pursued charges against him, and if so, on what grounds? Has Adil Qarim had access to a lawyer?

Gedun Thogphel (*Gengdeng Cuopei*)

更登措培(音)

Gengdeng Cuopei is one of four monks of Khangmar Monastery, located in Hongyuan county, Aba prefecture, Sichuan province, who were reportedly detained in January 2003 after they led prayers for the Dalai Lama. He was reportedly sentenced to 12 years’ imprisonment in August 2003 and transferred to Aba Prison, located in Mao county, Aba prefecture.

Suggested Questions for Officials: What law did Gengdeng Cuopei and his colleagues violate? What is Gengdeng Cuopei’s current status, including his health? Do family members visit him each month? Has he received a sentence reduction or extension?

Gong Shengliang

龚圣亮

Gong Shengliang is a Protestant pastor and leader of the unregistered and banned South China Church. He was detained in August 2001 and sentenced in October 2002 to life imprisonment for “rape” and “causing deliberate injury.” The evidence and charges against Gong reportedly are based on information obtained through torture. Gong reportedly has been tortured in custody. He is serving his sentence at the Hongshan Prison in Wuhan, Hubei province. His family says he suffers from multiple ailments.

Suggested Questions for Officials: How is Gong’s health? Is he receiving adequate medical care? Will there be an investigation into the reported torture against Gong? Gong has served seven years of his sentence. Will authorities consider releasing him on medical parole?

Wang Xin

王欣

Authorities detained Falun Gong practitioner Wang Xin in March 2001. Officials accused Wang, and five others detained around the same period for Falun Gong-related activities, of using the Internet to download materials from foreign Falun Gong Web sites and of printing leaflets to post and distribute in Beijing. On December 13, 2001, the Beijing No. 1 Intermediate People’s Court found the six guilty of using a heretical sect to undermine implementation of the law, and sentenced Wang to nine years in prison. The Beijing High People’s Court rejected an appeal in February 2002. Wang reportedly has been tortured in prison. Wang is serving his sentence, which will be complete on March 13, 2010, at Huazi Prison, Liaoning province.

Suggested Questions for Officials: How is Wang’s health? Wang has served more than half of his nine-year sentence. Will he be granted parole? Will there be an investigation into the reported torture against Wang?

Wang Zhong

Authorities detained unregistered Catholic priest Wang Zhong on July 24, 2007, days after he had organized a ceremony in Hebei province to consecrate a new church registered with the government. A court in Zhangjiakou city, Hebei, sentenced Wang on November 14, 2007, to three years in prison for “organizing an unlawful meeting.” Wang’s attorney presented a permit at the trial indicating that local authorities had approved both the church construction and the consecration ceremony. No information is available on the prison location at which Wang is serving his sentence.

Suggested Questions for Officials: Where is Wang serving his sentence? Has there been an appeal in this case? Has Wang had continued access to his lawyer?