

Ambassador Wang Min
Embassy of the People's Republic of China
PO Box 4058 AMB
0244 Oslo

Your Excellency,

I am writing to express my concern for the recent actions targeting of the Early Rain church in Chengdu. Since December 2018, the Early Rain church has experienced series of arrests. Their houses of worship, properties and private belongings have been confiscated and their worship meetings disrupted, even in private homes. The number of church members arrested and interrogated by police since December 9th now totals almost 200 persons, while 13 still remain in criminal detention. A large number of members report that they experience harassment and monitoring.

Your Excellency, I am concerned that the Early Rain church is targeted because of their faith and refusal to join the Three-Self Patriotic Movement in China.

Article 36 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of China of 1982 provides for the freedom of religion for citizens. No state organ may discriminate against citizens who believe, or do not believe, in any religion. The actions against believers peacefully practicing their faith constitute discrimination based on religion and represent a severe breach of their constitutional freedoms and human rights.

I humbly petition your intervention to ensure that Chinese authorities:

- immediately stop all actions targeting the Early Rain church that disrupt their peaceful practice of faith, including arresting group members, confiscating places of worship, disrupting church meetings in private houses, harassing church members and their employers and landowners, and confiscating religious literature;
- release and acquit the arrested church members.

I thank you in advance for using your influence as ambassador and conveying this message to the relevant authorities in your home country.

Yours sincerely,