

CHINAID

对华援助协会



Annual Report on Persecution of Chinese House Churches by Province

From January 2006 to December 2006

China Aid Association
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Introduction

No one would have expected that the annual persecution report of 2006 would start with astounding news issued by the persecutor. According to a reliable source, recently Mr. Yie Xiaowen, the director of the Chinese State Administration for Religious Affairs (SARA), revealed in two internal meetings held at Beijing Universities and the Chinese Academy of Social Science that the number of Christians in China reached 130 million by the end of 2006, including about 20 million Catholics.

It is even more beyond human expectation that “the unprecedented growth of the Chinese church has happened under ceaseless persecution,” as said by Bob Fu, the president of China Aid Association, with whom anyone would agree after reading this annual report about persecution in China.

During the period covered by this report, from January 2006 to December 2006, the Chinese government continued its general crackdown on unregistered house churches, but the strategies used have changed to some degree with the shifting domestic and international situation.

Reported incidents of raids on house churches have decreased in 2006 as compared to previous years. This tendency became clear in the second half of the year. Another development is that, although Public Security Officials still held house church leaders detained in the raids for extended periods, most church members were released after short interrogations on the spot. This strategy effectively decreased the number of arrests, but had the effect of transferring the pressure onto the church leaders, who were sometimes

held for weeks or months. There is clear evidence that a number of these leaders were tortured and physically abused during the time they were held.

CAA has compiled a set of statistics outlining, the number of arrests, the number of detentions (for over 10 days), and the number of imprisonments (for more than a year) that have been reported to them by reliable sources during 2006. Given the population the geographical size of China as well as the desire of Public Security Officials to keep such arrests hidden from the outside world it would be impossible to measure the exact number that have occurred. As an example of this difficulty it should be noted that since these statistics were compiled an interview by an RFA reporter (<http://www.rfa.org/mandarin/shenrubaodao/2007/01/16/zongjiao/>) with a Christian lady detained named Liu Xiaoduo from 16th -17th January, has revealed that she came in contact with a group of more than 50 Christians during her detention. They had been arrested as a result of their Christmas celebrations on the 23rd and 24th December. The presence of these Christians may never have been known if it was not for this interview.

These statistics should also be viewed in light of the fact that much of the Chinese House Church understandably remains hidden from the authorities.

According to CAA sources alone, the government detained over 600 Christians in 2006. This figure is less than 2005 when more than 2000 arrests were reported. This reflects the Public Security Officials new tactic of interrogating church members during a raid rather than officially arresting them.. Most of the reported detentions in 2006 were church leaders.

The three provinces where the most arrests took place were Henna, Zhejiang, and Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (XUAR). The protestant house church movement is particularly strong in Henan and Zhejiang provinces.

By comparison, the local officials closed and demolished more house churches in 2006 than 2005. Three house churches were demolished in Zhejiang province in 2006,

including the large ongoing building of a house church in Xiaoshan. House church demolitions were also reported in Jilin and Fujian provinces. The issue of the government's occupying the church property in Tianshui, Gansu was settled through a compromise by the church. In addition it was reported that some churches in Guangdong province, Shandong province, Anhui province, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, and Shanghai were forcibly closed.

A new tendency was to target house church leaders with criminal accusations. Pastor Cai Zhuohua, a house church pastor in Beijing, was convicted in November 2005 of "illegal operation of a business" for printing and giving away Bibles without government authorization. Two other house church pastors, Liu Yuhua and Wang Zaiqing, were also reportedly detained and sentenced under the same accusation in 2006. Mr. Zhang Rongliang, a leader of the China for Christ house church network in Henan province, was sentenced to prison for seven years and six months under the charge of "illegally crossing the national border and fraudulently obtaining a passport" in June 2006.

Another new development was banning house churches as cults; repression of unregistered Protestants for involvement in cults became more prominent in mid-2006. After being classified as a cult, House churches in Langzhong city, Sichun province were severely persecuted in 2006. However, the case of the controversial "Three Grades of Servants" sect is not included in our statistics.

The Chinese government continues to maintain strict control over the state-controlled Three-Self Patriotic Movement (TSPM), which leads the registered Protestant church in China. For example, the local Religion Administrative Bureau evicted Pastor Hu Qinghua, a pastor of a TSPM church in Pinglu, Shanxi, in June 2006.

The Chinese government also continues to restrict relationships of unregistered Chinese Protestants with fellow believers abroad, in contravention of international human rights standards. Meetings between house church leaders and Protestants visiting China to conduct theological or organizational trainings were raided in Henan province, Yunnan

province, and Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (XUAR). Officials have banned some house church leaders from traveling abroad, including the famous legal scholar Dr. Fan Yafeng. Senior government officials continue to incite suspicion of overseas Christians by accusing them of religious infiltration intended to weaken China.

Province	Zhejiang	Henan	Anhui	Xinjiang	Beijing	Sichuan	Inner Mongolia	Jilin	Shandong	Hubei	Yunnan	Shanxi	Jiangsu	Guangdong	Gansu	Fujian	Shanghai
Events	4	5	4	5	5	Unknown	3	3	4	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1
Arrests	72	174	79	57	3	Unknown	13	42	77	31	89	0	13	0	0	0	1
Detentions	5	4	38	22	0	14	3	2	5	10	0	2	2	0	0	0	0
Imprisonments	8	2	1	0	1	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Persecution by Province in China from January 2006—December 2006

Province	Zhejiang	Henan	Anhui	Xinjiang
Events	4	5	4	5
Arrests	72	174	79	57
Detentions	5	4	38	22

Imprisonments	8	2	1	0
Province	Beijing	Sichuan	In Mongolia	Jilin
Events	5	Unknown	3	3
Arrests	3	Unknown	13	42
Detentions	0	14	3	2
Imprisonments	1	4	1	0
Province	Shandong	Hubei	Yunnan	Shanxi
Events	4	2	2	2
Arrests	77	31	89	0
Detentions	5	10	0	2
Imprisonments	0	0	0	0
Province	Jiangsu	Guangdong	Gansu	Fujian
Events	2	2	1	1
Arrests	13	0	0	0
Detentions	2	0	0	0
Imprisonments	0	0	0	0
Province	Shanghai			
Events	1			
Arrests	1			
Detentions	0			
Imprisonments	0			

Persecution by Province in China (Zhejiang Province)

Date	Description	Punishment	Arrests
3-2	2 Christians detained in Shanyang County (山阳县)	Detention	2
7-29	A Church building in Xiaoshan (萧山) destroyed.	Church Destroyed	
7-29	60 Christians arrested in 7.29 Xiaoshan event (萧山教案)	Detention	60
8-15	Writer Zan Aizong(咎爱宗) was under custody for 7 days.	Detention	1
8-21	A Church building in Shaoxing (绍兴) destroyed.	Church Destroyed	
12-11	Writer Zan Aizong(咎爱宗) was put under house arrest.	House Arrest	1
12-14	A Church building in Shaoxing (绍兴) destroyed.	Church Destroyed	
12-14	Tu Shichang was put under house arrest.	House Arrest	1
12-22	8 Christians sentenced to imprisonment for involvement in 7.29 event.	Imprisonment	8

Summary: 3 Churches destroyed, 72 arrested, 5 detained, 8 imprisoned.

Persecution by Province in China (Henan Province)

Date	Description	Punishment	Arrest
3-6	A registered church in Xiangcheng County (项城县) attacked, 3 arrested.	Detention	3
3-13	A Christian meeting in Wen County (温县) attacked, 80 arrested.	Detention	80
4-12	Li Huimin (李会民) in Nanle County (南乐县) sentenced to reeducation through labor.	Reeducation	1
5-28	Li shunmin (李顺民) in Zhoukou (周口) arrested.	Detention	1
5-28	A Christian meeting in Zhoukou City (周口市) attacked, 28 arrested.	Interrogation	28
7-8	Zhang Rongliang(张荣亮) in Fangcheng County (方城县) sentenced to imprisonment	Imprisonment	1
7-19	A house church in Zhumadian (驻马店) attacked, 60 arrested.	Interrogation	60

Summary: 174 arrested, 4 detained, 2 imprisoned.

Persecution by Province in China (Anhui)

Date	Description	Punishment	Arrests
3-1	36 Pastors in Huinan (淮南) arrested.	Detention	36
7-25	Pastor Li Lizhong (李利中) in Huinan (淮南) detained.	Detention	1
8-3	A house church in Huinan (淮南) attacked, 40 arrested.	Interrogation	40
8-3	2 church leaders detained.	Detention	2
10-9	Wang Zaiqing(王在庆) in Huinan (淮南) sentenced to imprisonment.	Imprisonment	1
12-7	A house church in Tongling (铜陵) closed.	Church Closed	

Summary: 80 arrested, 39 detained, 1 imprisoned.

Persecution by Province in China (Xinjiang)

Date	Description	Punishment	Arrests
2-13	A Christian meeting in Yili (伊犁) attacked, 13 arrested.	Detention	13
10-18	A missionary arrested and detained in Uramqi.	Detention	1
10-20	A Christian meeting in Huocheng (霍城), Yili (伊犁) attacked, 15 arrested.	Interrogation	13
10-20	7 Christians put under custody in Huocheng (霍城), Yili (伊犁).	Detention	7
10-26	A Bible training attacked in Uramqi, 35 arrested.	Interrogation	35
12-23	Lou Yuanqi(娄元启) detained in Huocheng (霍城).	Detention	1

Summary: 57 arrested, 22 detained

Persecution by Province in China (Beijing)

Date	Description	Punishment	Arrests
1-15	Ark Church attacked.		
1-10	Pastor Jin Tianming(金天明) interrogated.	Interrogation	1
5-15	Pastor Chu Wei (储伟) interrogated.	Interrogation	1
12-7	Missionary Xiu Linbin's (修丽彬) home attacked.		1
12-22	Mr. Gao Zhisheng (高智晟) sentenced imprisonment.	Imprisonment	1
12-24	The house church of Pastor Cai Zhuohua attacked.		

Summary: 3 churches attacked, 4 arrested, 1 imprisoned.

Persecution by Province in China (Sichuan)

Date	Description	Punishment	Arrests
6-27	Some Christians in Langzhong (阆中) arrested.	Interrogation	Unknown
6-27	14 Christian leaders in Langzhong (阆中) were put under custody.	Detention	14
7-25	4 Christian leaders in Langzhong (阆中) were reeducated through labor.	Imprisonment	4

Summary: Unknown number of Christians arrested, 14 detained, 4 imprisoned.

Persecution by Province in China (Inner Mongolia)

Date	Description	Punishment	Arrests
8-9	Sister Wu Guilan (吴桂兰) was reeducated through labor.	Imprisonment	1
8-19	A house church in Wuhai City (乌海市) closed.	Church closing	
12-29	A Christian meeting in Duolun County (多伦县) attacked, 3 arrested.	Detention	3

Summary: 1 church closed, 1 church attacked, 3 detained, 1 imprisoned.

Persecution by Province in China (Jilin)

Date	Description	Punishment	Arrests
1-4	A house church in Dehui (德惠) attacked, 40 arrested.	Interrogation	40
7-14	A Christian couple (王金花夫妇) in Jilin City (吉林市) interrogated for 72 hours.	Detention	2
10-26	A house church in Jilin City (吉林市) destroyed.	Church destroyed	

Summary: 1 church destroyed, 1 church attacked, 42 arrested, 2 detained.

Persecution by Province in China (Shandong)

Date	Description	Punishment	Arrests
4-26	2 Christians in Linchu County detained.	Detention	2
6-11	A house church in Wendeng (文登) attacked, 31 arrested.	Interrogation	31
6-11	3 Christians in Wendeng (文登) detained.	Detention	3
9-1	A house church in Shouguang (寿光) attacked, 40 arrested.	Interrogation	40
12-26	A Lawyer from Beijing beaten by ruffians hired by government.		1

Summary: 2 churches attacked, 77 arrested, 5 detained.

Persecution by Province in China (Hubei)

Date	Description	Punishment	Arrests
3-20	A house church in Xiantao City (仙桃市), 1 arrested.	Interrogation	1
7-21	A house church in Anlu (安陆市) attacked, 20 arrested, 10 detained.	Detention	10

Summary: 2 churches attacked, 31 arrested, 10 detained.

Persecution by Province in China (Yunnan)

Date	Description	Punishment	Arrests
3-23	A missionary conference attacked in Kunming (昆明市) attacked, 85 arrested.	Interrogation	85
7-24	4 missionaries beaten in Mengla County (勐腊县) by the police.	Abused	4

Summary: 1 meeting attacked, 89 arrested, 4 abused.

Persecution by Province in China (Shanxi)

Date	Description	Punishment	Arrests
3-16	2 house churches in Baihe (白河) leaders detained.	Detention	2
7-25	A TSPM church pastor in Pinglu(平陆) evicted.		1

Summary: 2 detained, 1 evicted.

Persecution by Province in China (Jiangsu)

Date	Description	Punishment	Arrests
3-23	2 Christian leaders arrested in Changzhou (常州市).	Detention	2
5-10	11 church leaders arrested in Suqian (宿迁市).	Interrogation	11

Summary: 2 churches attacked, 13 arrested, 2 detained.

Persecution by Province in China (Guangdong)

Date	Description	Punishment	Arrests
3-23	2 house churches in Guangzhou (广州) closed.	Church closed	

Summary: 2 churches closed

Persecution by Province in China (Gansu)

Date	Description	Punishment	Arrests
11-23	Church property conflict in Tianshui (天水) settled by Church's compromise.		

Summary: Church Site changed

Persecution by Province in China (Fujian)

Date	Description	Punishment	Arrest
9-1	A house church in Pingtan (平潭) destroyed.	Church Destroyed	

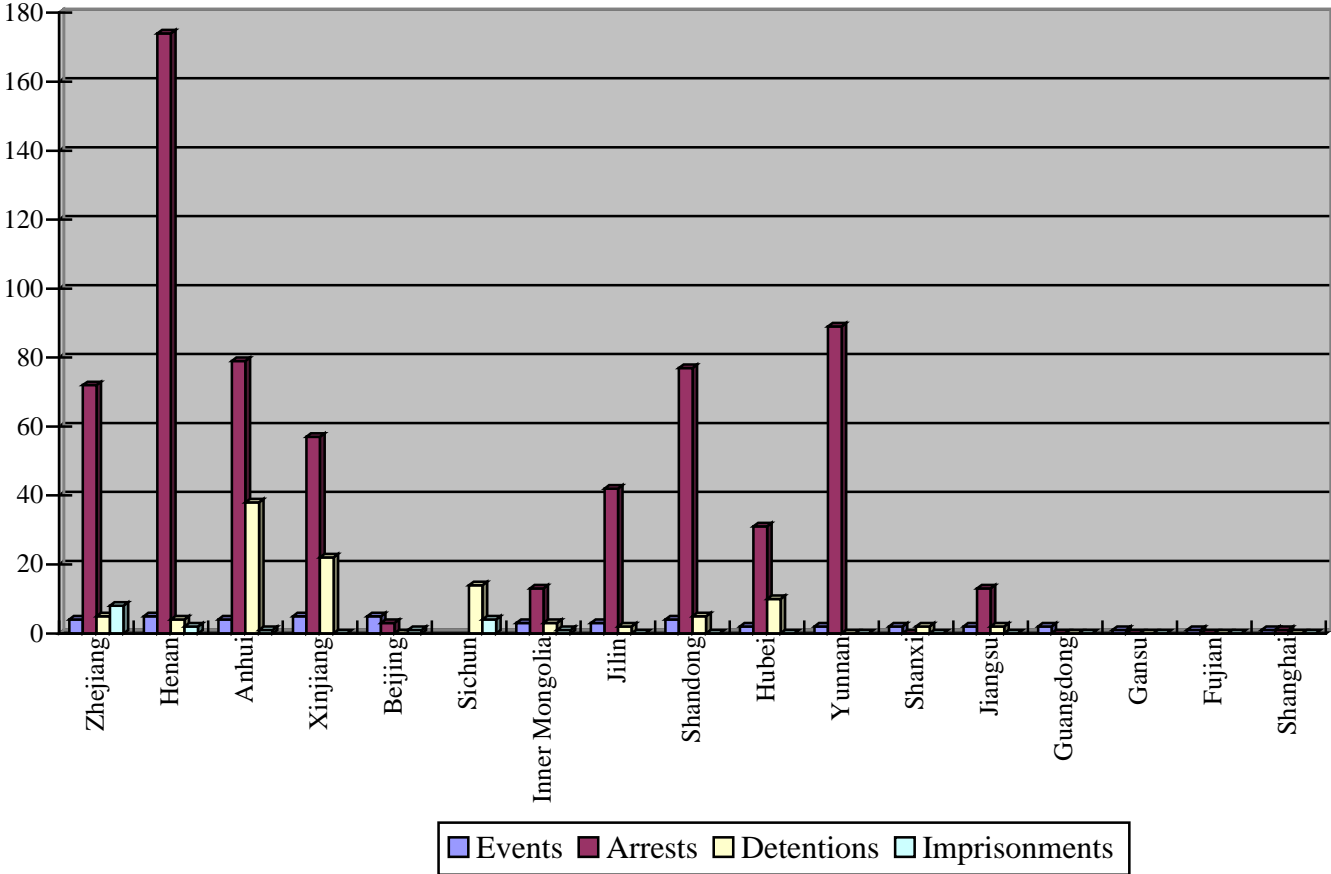
Summary: 1 church destroyed.

Persecution by Province in China (Shanghai)

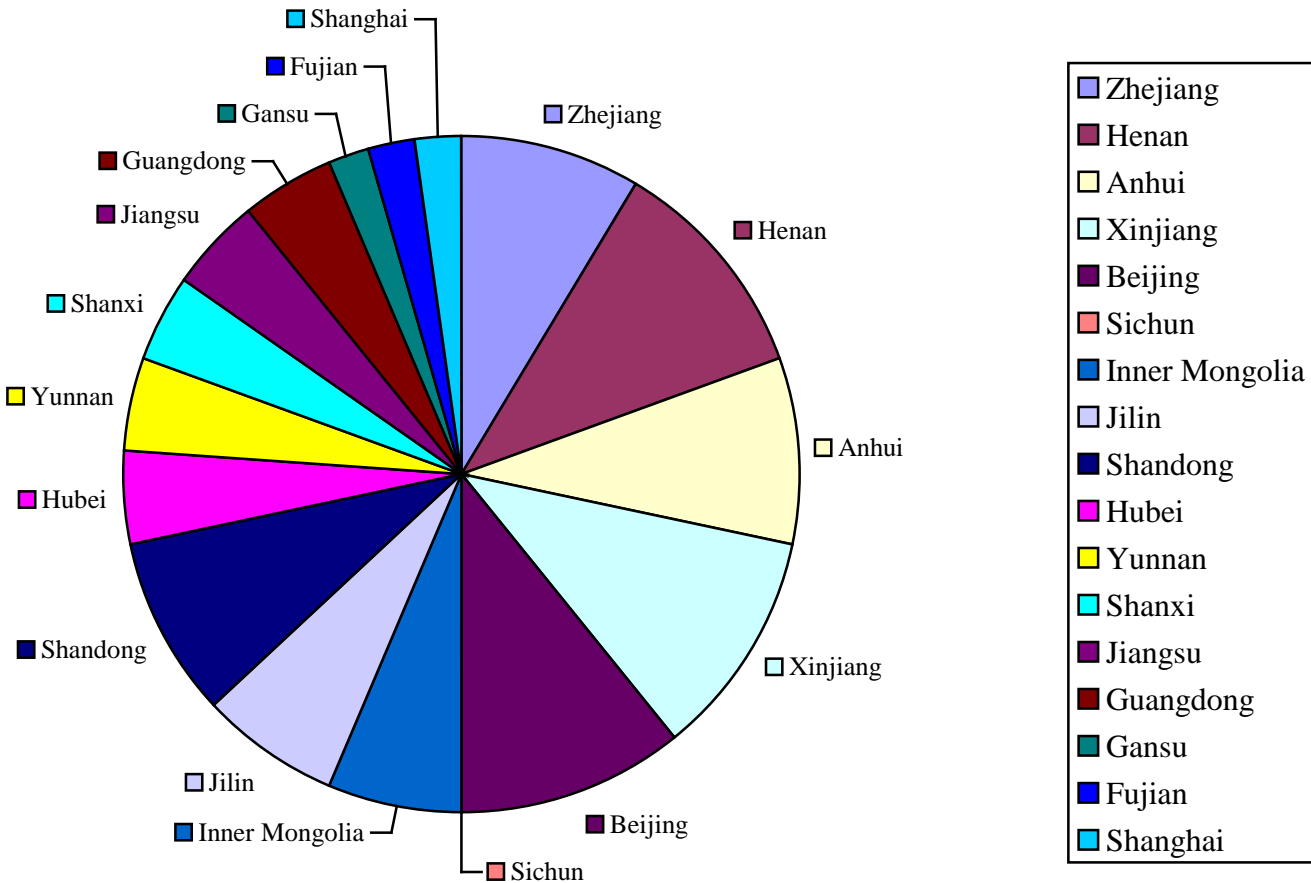
Date	Description	Punishment	Arrest
12-9	Police forced Pastor's girlfriend to leave him.		

Summary: Intervened into the pastor's personal life, but failed.

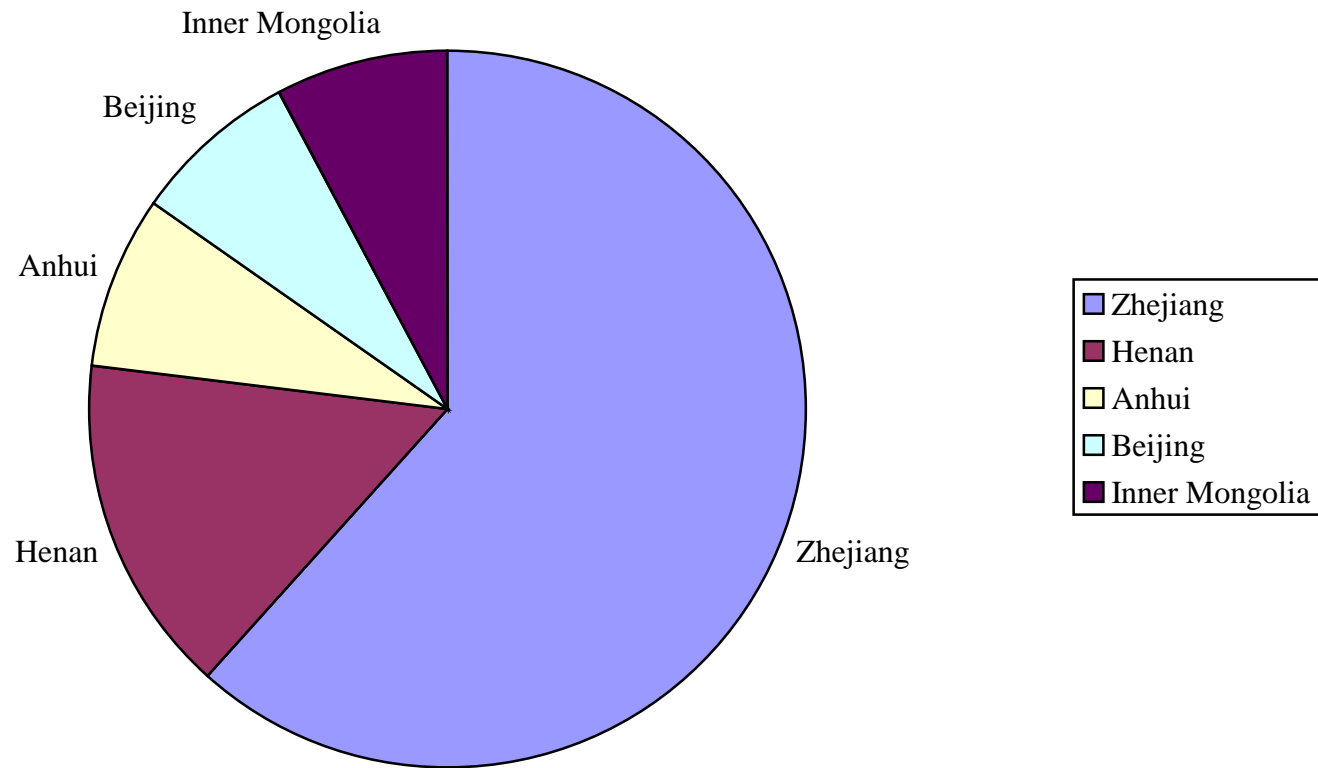
Persecution by Province in China



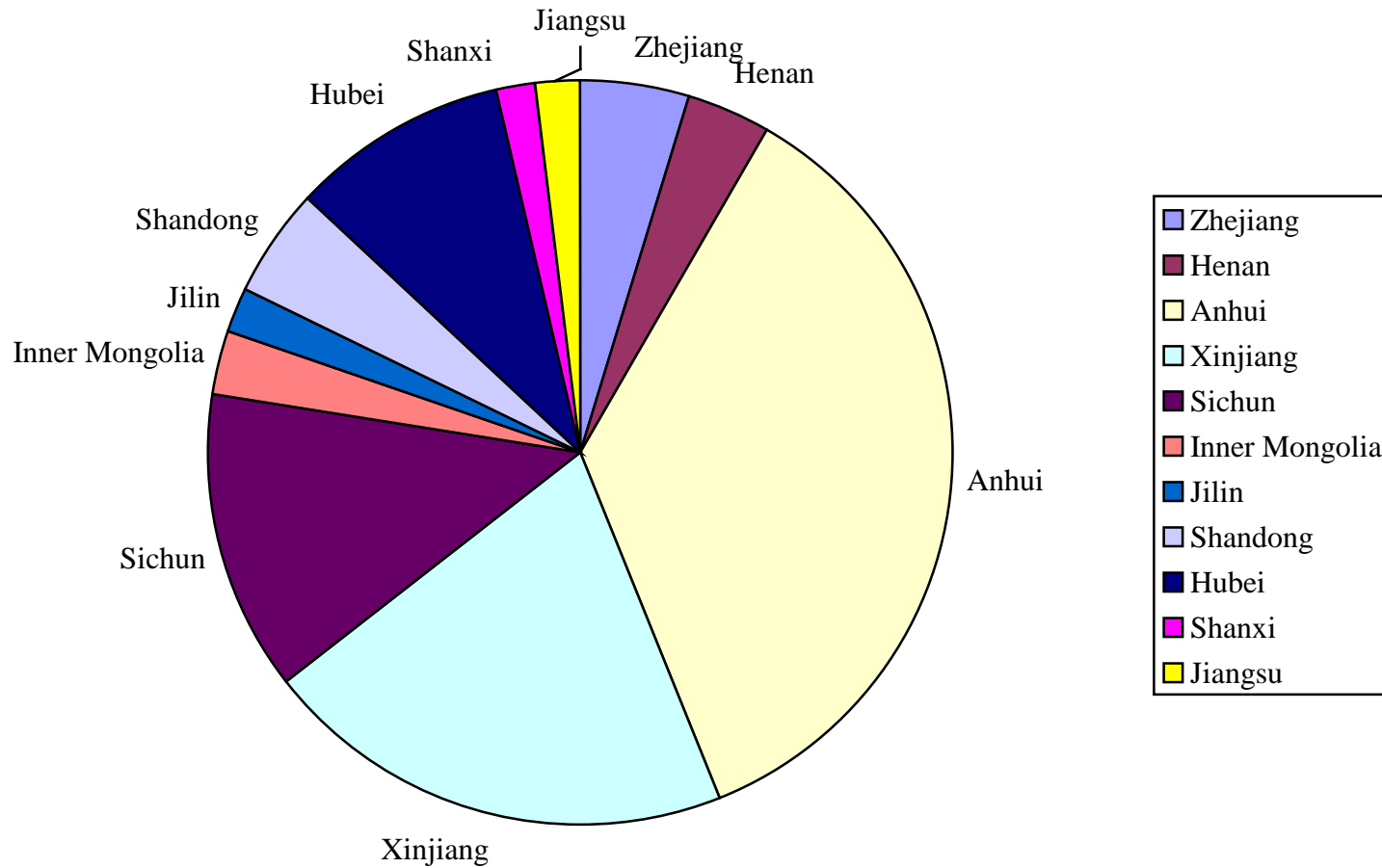
Christians Arrested by Province in China



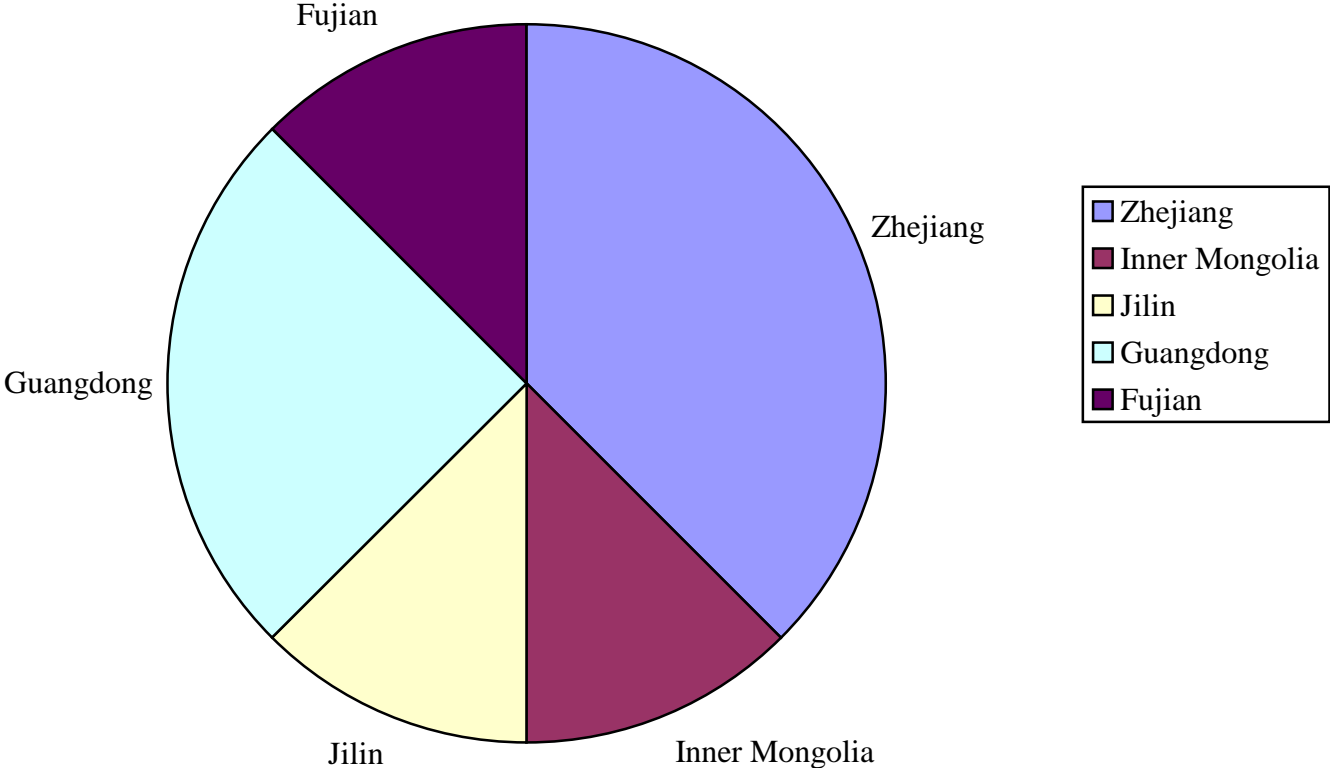
Imprisoned Christians by Province in China



Detained Christians by Province in China



Churches Destroyed or Closed by Province in China



Conclusion

As mentioned already the above lists of persecution in the different provinces of China from January 2006 to December 2006 are by no means complete because of the difficulties obtaining details.

According to CAA sources alone, the Chinese government arrested 651 Christians in 17 provinces in 2006, among which about 100 were detained more than 10 days, 18 Christians were sentenced to imprisonment for more than 1 year, 4 churches were destroyed, 4 were closed. The many church members who went through the traumatic experience of being interrogated during a raid are not included in these statistics.

Most of the reported detentions and imprisonments were church leaders. Teaching and leadership training gatherings are viewed with particular hostility by the government whose aim is to control the indoctrination of new generations of Christians.

In comparison with 2005, local officials closed and demolished more house churches in 2006. Three house churches were demolished in Zhejiang province in 2006, including a large on-going building of a house church in Xiaoshan. House church demolitions were also reported in Jilin and Fujian provinces. The issue of government's occupying the church property in Tianshui, Gansu province was settled through a compromise by the church. It was also reported that some churches in Guangdong province, Shandong province, and Anhui province, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, and Shanghai were forcibly closed in 2006.

In addition to arrests, interrogations and the destruction of churches, homes of Chinese Christians have been searched, crowds of peaceful protestors have been charged with electric shock batons, and access to Bibles and teaching has been restricted. It is impossible to measure the wider effects of this intimidation and restriction.

The changing strategies and tactics of Public Security Officials; interrogations on the spot, accusing church leaders of criminal activities and banning protestant movements as cults suggests that the Chinese authorities are becoming increasingly concerned about appearing more tolerant of Christians in the eyes of the international community. However there seems to be less evidence of a genuine change in their broad policy.

The province-by-province report shows that Zhejiang and Henan provinces, where the Protestant House Church movement is particularly strong, had the worst persecution against House churches in the past 12 months. 246 pastors and believers were arrested in 9 raids from January 2006 to December 2006, 3 churches were destroyed, 10 were sentenced to imprisonment, and many of the arrested were abused while detained. After the raid on March 13, 2006 in Wen County, two arrested Christian ladies, ages 72 and 21 respectively, were forced to stripe off their cloths during the interrogation. A disabled Pastor Li Gongshe was severely beaten breaking one of his ribs.

The second most severe Christian persecution occurred in Anhui province, Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (XUAR), and other provinces.

“Zhejiang and Henan province should be put on notice having the worst religious persecution record,” said Rev. Bob Fu of CAA, “It is morally imperative for any conscientious foreign investors in Henan to address this serious issue.”

Communicate your concern to the Zhejiang and Henan province authority:

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