

WOMAN DIES OVER BIBLES

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Note from Pastor Kevin: I have been in China twice for the purpose of taking Bibles to the underground church. The second time the Public Security Bureau (PSB) detained us before we could drop off the Bibles. Because we were Westerners, they only took our funds, questioned us, then deported us out of the country. For those who live in China, the result of being caught with a Bible or giving it away can be severe, in this case resulting in a sister being beaten to death.

I encourage you to call the Chinese Consulate (415-674-2900) and voice your displeasure with the government's treatment of Chinese Christians. It is important that you realize the following when talking to them.

- 1. To the Chinese, losing face is nearly worse than death. Therefore, you should include informing them that their actions of killing a defenseless woman simply because she is handing out Bibles (which are in nearly every home in America), and then lying about how she died, is causing them to lose face in the eyes of the world.*
- 2. The leaders feel that if they do not control every detail of their 1.2 billion population's life, that the society will fall into chaos which the government won't be able to stop.*
- 3. The West views the fall of Russian communism and the Berlin wall as a great thing which gave additional freedoms to a formally enslaved people. The Chinese see it as a great disaster which could be repeated in China if the forces that were at work in Europe were allowed to flourish in China. The force they most fear is the role religion (Catholic church) played in bringing about the changes in Europe. This is why they are arresting and killing Christians. You need to encourage them that true Christians just want to worship and obey God, work hard, and love those who persecute them. The Bible does not tell its followers to bring down the government, but rather to pray for those who are in authority.*
- 4. As part of 3 above, the recently published book by David Aikman, "Jesus in Beijing" has contributed to the recent harsh crackdown on Home Churches and their leaders. This book talks about how the growing underground church will cause the government to change. This brings great fear to the Chinese government leaders.*

Beijing - A 34-year-old woman has allegedly been beaten to death in jail on the day she was arrested for handing out Bibles in southwest China's Guizhou province, state media said on Sunday.

Police in Guizhou's Tongzi county arrested Jiang Zongxiu, a farmer, on June 18 on suspicion of "spreading rumours and inciting to disturb social order",

the Legal Daily said.

They had planned to detain her for 15 days, the report said, alleging Jiang died in police custody the afternoon she was arrested.

Her mother-in-law, Tan Dewei, who was arrested with Jiang but later released, told reporters police kicked Jiang repeatedly during interrogation.

Police later informed Jiang's family she had died of a sudden illness and turned over her body to the family, but relatives saw the body was covered with bruises and blood stains, the report alleged.

Jiang's husband and other villagers in neighbouring Chongqing municipality, where Jiang lived, said she was in good health before the arrests and was responsible for doing most of the family's farm work.

Bibles not easily available

An operator manning the phones at the Guizhou police station on Sunday said she was not aware of the incident. Other police officials could not be reached for comment.

The incident has generated a strong public reaction in Jiang's hometown in Chongqing's Jijiang county, the report said, with local residents demanding an investigation into the cause of death.

Jiang's case highlights increasing public disgust with police tactics and China's continuing crackdown on religious practitioners.

The Chinese government, while allowing people to practice state-approved religions, such as Christianity, in government-sanctioned churches, forbids proselytising.

Bibles are banned from book stores and are not easy to obtain.