



## THE CARDINAL KUNG FOUNDATION

July 1996

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Dear friends:

Last month, we observed the 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre. The students' democracy march, the liberty goddess, the tanks mercilessly running over students, the bullets, the blood, the scream, the wounded, the futile attempt to save them, the corpses, the lone man against a column of tanks, and finally the government's complete denial of the massacre. Aren't the above scenes still vivid in our minds? Yes, of course.

In the last two months, in the diocese of Boading where the Holy Mother appeared last year to 30,000 pilgrims in the Shrine of Dong Lu, **the Government mobilized this year 5000 soldiers with 30 armor cars and helicopters to close the Shrine.** They destroyed the Shrine, confiscated the statue of our Lady and jailed the bishops, priests, and lay leaders. They also destroyed other churches in Boading, forced the Roman Catholics to join the Patriotic Association, and coerced the students to betray their church. Tortures were frequently used if the Catholics did not obey.

Doesn't it appear that the Tiananmen tragedy is repeating again in Boading? Although the bloodshed of the Tiananmen Square is over, it's struggle continues. Boading is only one example. Other dioceses of the Roman Catholic Churches in China are also experiencing brutality and mounting suppression from the government. To the free world, life appears to have returned to "normal", so "normal" that president Clinton once again declared China the Most Favored Nation. Who, then, is the least favored?

The following Press Releases will keep you informed on this major escalation of the persecution.

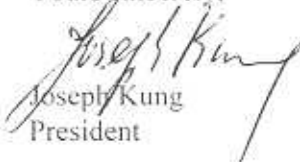
The persecuted Roman Catholic church in China wants only the basic right to practice its faith -- a right which is guaranteed by the United Nations; a right which is guaranteed by the Chinese constitution but never carried out!

Pray for Bishop Su Chimin, the Roman Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Boading, Hebei who is missing while in the police's custody. Pray for the persecuted Church in China who has been suffering for the last 47 years for its uncompromising fidelity to the Holy See. Pray for those brave people who assumed grave personal risks by giving us information to keep the world informed of the ongoing persecution in China.

It is very expensive and getting increasingly difficult to keep the lines of communication open with our friends in China during this turbulent time. The seminary, novitiate and elderly nun's home in Boading were all disbanded. We need to rebuild them. Can we rely on your help?

Your prayers, donations, and/or dissemination of the news regarding the suffering Roman Catholic church in China to your friends are deeply appreciated. May God Bless You.

Yours sincerely,

  
Joseph Kung  
President

Upon the Map of China  
Rests the Shrine and  
Our Lady of She-Shan  
Through Whom We Pray  
"There may be one fold  
and one shepherd"

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## PRESS RELEASE

June 17, 1996

### ***PERSECUTION*** OF ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN CHINA ***EXPLODED***

#### The Chinese Government ***Cracks Down*** on the Roman Catholics in Boading, Hebei

- **Destroyed** Our Lady of China Shrine at Dong Lu of the Diocese of Boading.
- **Confiscated** Our Lady of Lourdes Statue at the Shrine.
- **Barricaded** the pilgrim site with 5000 troops supported by 30 armored cars and helicopters.
- **Jailed** Father CUI Singang, Pastor of the Shrine
- **Jailed** Bishop SU Chimin of Boading. The government claimed the Bishop now missing.
- **Jailed** the Auxiliary Bishop of Boading, Bishop AN Shuxin.
- **Jailed** Fathers HU Duo and WEI Jing Kun, other Boading parish priests.
- **Detained, house arrested or severely restricted** the activities of dozens of other priests.
- **Jailed** ZHANG Da Peng, a lay leader of Boading Diocese. He is in bad health.
- **Destroyed** at least three underground churches and **Sealed** two others.
- **Disbanded** a Roman Catholic seminary with 150 seminarians and a novitiate with 35 novices.
- **Physically forced** Roman Catholics to register with the Patriotic Association, founded by the Chinese communist government.
- **Coerce** Roman Catholic students to leave their church, or risk dismissal.

This full-scale raid could not have happened without the direct mandate from the central government. It appeared to be a part of the carefully planned strategy to escalate the persecution to the Roman Catholics across the country in both large cities and small villages. Nor could this raid have happened without the full knowledge of the Patriotic Association bishops who are parts of the Chinese government machinery. The government used brutality to force Roman Catholics to join the Patriotic Association. Villagers refusing to register with the Patriotic Association were subject to severe disciplinary action including beatings. The Patriotic Association bishops must bear considerable responsibility for condoning the government's repressive religious policy.

Dong Lu was consecrated as the Shrine for Our Lady of China in 1932 by Pope Pius XI. Although the communists regarded pilgrimages to Dong Lu as an illegal religious activity and exercised everything in its power to stop this annual pilgrimage, tens of thousands of people braved the physical abuses, roadblocks, and other restrictions to pray at the shrine each May. Last year, the government blocked all roads to Dong Lu, stopped the sale of bus and rail tickets to anyone suspected of being Catholic going to Dong Lu or its neighboring towns, and confiscated driver's licenses of any Catholics driving to Dong Lu. Yet, over 100,000 Roman Catholics (underground) came to Dong Lu in May 1995.

It would appear that Holy Mother came to comfort her children, rewarding them for their enormous sacrifice and risk in their fidelity to Pope and in taking this pilgrimage to Dong Lu, with a spectacular apparition of her image and of the Holy Family in the sky over Dong Lu in May 1995. This miracle, witnessed by over 30,000 pilgrims, was certified by the Bishop of Boading.

The Roman Catholic Church in China, also known as the underground Church, is loyal to the Pope, but is illegal in China. In spite of its illegal status, the number of Catholics loyal to the Pope grew from 3 million in 1950's to 8 million at present. Patriotic Association is a pseudo church controlled totally by the Chinese government. Failing to destroy Roman Catholicism through persecution in early 1950's, the Chinese

Government created in 1957 the "Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association" to replace the Roman Catholic Church. The government did not allow people to choose religion according to one's conscience, and did not respect true freedom of religion as other civilized states do. The bishops of the Patriotic Association are appointed by the Chinese government and are consecrated without the permission of the Pope.

As an expression of friendship and reconciliation, a number of Roman Catholic institutions in the free world have given well over US \$ 5 million to the Patriotic Association while donating practically nothing to the underground Roman Catholic Church, probably in order not to jeopardize the friendship with the Chinese government by assisting an illegal church. Scores of foreign priests and religious sister are assisting the Patriotic Association's bishops and the Chinese government as English teachers, social workers, medical personnel and lecturers in the Patriotic Association seminaries. In the United States alone, approximately 50 Patriotic Association priests and seminarians are studying in over 12 major seminaries on scholarships.

It is apparent that such goodwill and generosity offered by the Roman Catholic institutions in the free world not only have not been reciprocated, but also have not brought about religious freedom to China. This goodwill and generosity in effect were interpreted by the Chinese government and the Patriotic Association as an approval of their repressive religious policy, thereby indirectly prolonging the religious persecution to the underground Church.

Moreover, the United States government also actively supported these Patriotic Association bishops and other related personnel by funding their many visits to this country and awarded China with the Most Favored Nation trade status, while assaults on Roman Catholic and other religions continue unabated. This policy, if not corrected, is tantamount to approving this repressive policy of the Chinese government to suppress religion and to abuse fundamental human rights. If the United States is truly concerned about universal human rights, It should not renew the MFN trade status for China this year because of its blatant violation of the universal right of freedom of religion.

Any Christian leaders, including Patriotic Association bishops, should speak with charity and fortitude against these direct attacks on Holy Mother and the shrine built to honor Her. They must not remain silent and condone such a brutal way of recruiting members for the Patriotic Association. Regrettably, the Patriotic Association bishops have yet to speak out.

It is precisely referring to these persecutions that Pope John Paul II said recently, "the great majority of Chinese Catholics precisely in order to live this fidelity in fullness, have chosen the path of suffering and silence. With deep affection, our hearts turn to these brothers and sisters of ours who suffer great hardship, thankful for their generous and heroic example...".The Lord adds "blest are those persecuted for holiness' sake, the reign of God is theirs." (Mt 5.10)

We appeal to the Roman Catholic Bishops of the United States and of the free world, all people of God, all Christian brothers and sisters, and all human rights advocates to speak out against such atrocities to our Holy Mother and to the Roman Catholic Church in China.

**PLEASE HELP TO STOP THE ALMOST 50 YEARS OF RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION IN CHINA.**

AN Shuxin 安樹新 CUI Singang 崔新剛 Hebei 河北 Su Chimin 蘇志民 Zhang Da Peng 張大鵬  
Boading 保定 Dong Lu 東呂 Hu Duo 胡鐸 Wei Jing Kun 魏景坤

## PRESS RELEASE

May 17, 1996

It is a *Crime* in China for a Roman Catholic Priest to

1. Offer Mass,
2. Administer sacraments,
3. Teach catechism & bible classes,
4. Promote the Roman Pontiff, and
5. Not to join Patriotic Association - a puppet "church" created by the Chinese Government in 1957.

**A Roman Catholic Priest was sentenced to  
2 years of reform through labor for these "crimes"**

Father Charles BoLe Guo, age 58, is a Roman Catholic priest in China. He was falsely accused of being a "counter-revolutionary" in 1956 and was sentenced to 5 years in prison. He was released early in 1957 through the government's recognition of his unjust sentencing. He was re-arrested again in December of the same year and sent to a labor camp in Qing Hai province. This time it was for 28 years until about 1985 without any specific charge being filed. It should be noted that this long period of "reform through labor" was completely glossed over in the attached "Decision Letter".

On the feast day of All Saints, November 1, 95, Father Guo was arrested again while celebrating Mass on a boat for about 250 fishermen. He was accused of "illegal religious activity"

The Cardinal Kung Foundation has recently received a copy of the "**decision letter**" issued by the "Reform Through Labor Management Committee" (attachment 1 in English, attachment 2 in Chinese) sentencing Father Guo for an additional two years for the following "crimes": *offering Mass, administering the Sacrament of the sick, promoting the Roman Pontiff, boycotting the puppet church of the State known as the Patriotic Association, establishing illegal underground evangelical church centers, organizing catechetical institutes and teaching bible classes for primary and high school students. As the result, Father Guo is once again in the labor camp.*

The "decision letter" is unequivocal evidence that there is no freedom of religion in China. The "crimes" with which Father Guo was charged represent nothing more than fulfillment of his priestly ministry. The Cardinal Kung Foundation hereby releases the exact text of the "decision letter" as a clear example to prove once again that not only there is no freedom of religion in China, but also faithful of many religions are gravely persecuted. Despite such clear evidence, many foreigners including Americans are misled in believing that China is a friendly country and that they should simply continue to accord such a repressive regime "most favored nation trade status". This is wrong. Elimination of that economic benefit should not most likely come from complaints that China is stealing intellectual property of other nations and engaging in unfair trade practices, but also should come from such blatant human rights violations which are apparently and conveniently passed over indulgently by business.

Attachment 1 (Original in Chinese)

This document is translated by The Cardinal Kung Foundation

THE PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT OF SOOCHOW,  
PROVINCE OF JIANGSU

REFORM THROUGH LABOR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

REFORM THROUGH LABOR DECISION LETTER

No. 96-020

**GUO BO LE**, Christian name, Charles, male, age 58, Shanghainese  
Race: Han  
Education Standard Attained: High School  
Work Unit: Liaoyang Middle School, Yangpu District of Shanghai, (retired)  
Current Address: No6, 20<sup>th</sup> Section of Yangsi Town North Street, Shanghai

Guo Bo Le was sentenced to 5 years imprisonment as a counterrevolutionary in 1956 and was granted early release in March 1957. In July, 1992, Guo was investigated by Changshou Public Security Bureau for involvement in numerous illegal religious activities. Subsequently, in September 1992, Guo was put on bail, awaiting trial by Shanghai Public Security Bureau. Again, on November 2, 1995, Guo was arrested by Wuxian City Public Security Bureau for conducting illegal religious activities and disturbing the order of the society.

The investigation revealed the following crimes:

Since November 1981, Guo Bo Le joined and has been active in the "underground" Catholic Jesuit secret organization, and received theology instruction. From 1990, Guo has visited Wuxian City, Xiang City, Taiping, Weitang, Changshou, Xu City, Xinzhuang, and Yangyuan districts, etc. and *carried out illegal evangelical work: offered Masses, administered Sacrament of the sick, administered other sacraments, promoted and supported the Roman Pontiff, instigated the people, boycotted the Patriotic Association, established illegal "underground" evangelical "church" centers, organized "underground" catechism instructions and bible classes for primary and high school students, and thus seriously disturbing the normal religious and social order.*

In accordance with Code No. 2, Section 3 of People's Congress: "Decision on Escapees, and Crimes of Former Labor Camp Prisoners and Reform Detainers", it is now decided that **Guo Bo Le be given 2 years of reform through labor.**

If one disagrees with this decision, an appeal may be filed with the Management Committee within 15 days of this decision.

Seal:

Reform Through Labor Management Committee of Soochow  
January 4, 1996

江苏省苏州市人民政府  
劳动教养管理委员会

劳动教养决定书

苏劳(96)字第 010 号

郭伯乐，圣名嘉禄，男，现年58岁，上海市人，汉族，文化高中，工作单位：上海市杨浦区辽阳中学(退休)。现住址：上海市南市区杨思镇北街20弄6号。

1956年因反革命罪判刑5年，1957年3月提前释放，1992年3月因流窜非法宗教活动被常熟市公安局收审，1992年9月被上海市公安局取保候审。1995年11月2日又因流窜非法宗教活动，扰乱社会秩序被吴县市公安局收审。

现查明郭伯乐犯有下列违法犯罪事实：

郭伯乐自1981年11月开始，积极参加天主教“地下”耶稣会秘密组织，接受神学指导。从1990年后，多次窜至吴县市湘城、太平、渭塘及常熟市徐市、辛庄、杨园等地区进行非法传教活动做弥撒、办终傅、行圣事，并吹捧罗马教宗，蛊惑人心，抵制爱国会，非法设立“地下”传教“堂”点，举办中、小学生“地下”读经班、修道班，严重扰乱了正常的宗教秩序和社会秩序。

根据全国人大《关于处理逃跑或者重新犯罪的劳改犯和劳教人员的决定》第二条，第3项之规定，现决定对郭伯乐劳动教养二年。

本人如不服本决定，在接到本决定后的十五日内，向本会提出申诉。

