

# Prisoners of faith

**release**  
PRISONERS

EMAIL ALERT

APRIL 2011

## Jiang Tianyong China



Photo : Crossfire

High-profile Christian lawyer Jiang Tianyong, who has tirelessly campaigned for religious freedom in China, was seized by police on February 19. The authorities have refused to tell his family where they are holding him or to reveal details of any charges against him. Other lawyers have also been arrested. In an interview just days before his arrest Jiang told Release International of his concern for fellow human rights lawyer Gao Zhisheng. Gao, who was initially abducted from his home in Shaanxi province on February 4, 2009, has now been missing for more than two years. Jiang then went on to share how he believed that his own abduction – and likely torture – was also just a matter of time:

‘My only hope is that the day comes later,’ he said, ‘but I cannot avoid it at all.’

Jiang (41) was a co-signatory to an open letter condemning the current police crackdown on lawyers and human rights activists. During the interview Jiang shared very honestly how as a human being he would naturally be fearful of being tortured. However, he then went on to say that nothing should stop the pursuit of justice.

Prior to his abduction on February 19, he had been detained at a local police station where his head was knocked against the wall. On another occasion following a trip to the United States where he testified before the US House of Representatives on

issues of religious freedom, he was forcibly arrested and his wife beaten in front of their terrified seven-year-old daughter.

His arrest took place as Jiang visited his brother. Then the following day at around midnight, two police officers together with four plainclothes security agents arrived at Jiang’s brother’s home (where Jiang’s family had stayed on a temporary basis), claiming they were from the Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau (PSB). They insisted on searching the house, stating that Jiang had been arrested on suspicion of committing a crime. When Jiang’s wife, Jin Bianling, asked to see their identification, they refused. They then confiscated Jiang’s computer and threatened to take her into custody also.

Please pray for this brother, who in seeking to serve, protect and defend others, has lost his own freedom and been treated so harshly by the authorities in China. In a challenging response to a question about the situation in China, Jiang affirmed his faith and said, ‘I hope God will protect me and my family, but on that day when things happen I can only lift this up to his hand. Please pray that the Lord will strengthen me and give me wisdom.’

HELPING CHRISTIANS IMPRISONED FOR THEIR FAITH

**‘I am in chains for Christ’**

Philippians 1:13

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## PLEASE PRAY

- ▶ That Jiang, Gao and other Christian lawyers will be released
- ▶ That God will strengthen Jiang and give him wisdom
- ▶ That God will comfort, strengthen, protect and support Jiang's wife and family

## PLEASE WRITE

When writing please do not mention Release International, or advance your political opinions or include anything which could be insulting to the authorities.

Sample letter :

His Excellency Mr Liu Xiaoming  
Embassy of the People's Republic of China  
49-51 Portland Place,  
London W1B 1JL

Your Excellency,

I am writing to express my concern that the Chinese authorities have detained Christian lawyer Jiang Tianyong since February 19, 2011. He was at the home of his brother when several Public Security Bureau officers forcibly took him away. He is now being held at an undisclosed location.

Jiang is a loyal citizen who cares deeply for the nation of China, its people and its international reputation. He has sought to serve his fellow Chinese citizens by employing his skills as a lawyer. He is a loving husband and a proud father. His wife and family have also been monitored and harassed by the same Chinese authorities and are, as a result of his arrest, deeply concerned for his safety. Jiang Tianyong suffers from high blood pressure and is required to take regular medication.

I am deeply concerned about Jiang Tianyong's welfare and why he is being detained; this act of arbitrary detention itself is in violation of Chinese law and I formally request that he be released.

Yours respectfully,

Release International produces the Prisoners of Faith alert every month as part of its ministry to support persecuted Christians. To receive your own copy free of charge by email, please register your details at [www.releaseinternational.org/signup](http://www.releaseinternational.org/signup).

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