



Gong Shengliang

Country: China

Sentence: Life imprisonment

Pastor Gong Shengliang (54) is the founder, and a respected and much loved leader, of the South China Church, an evangelical house-church fellowship with an estimated 100,000 members. Pastor Gong was arrested in August 2001 and charged with using a cult to undermine the enforcement of the law. At his trial in December 2001, he was sentenced to death. Intense international pressure led to that charge and sentence being overturned. In 2002, Gong was re-tried, convicted of crimes he did not commit and given a life sentence. His mental and physical health has suffered due to the harsh treatment in prison. In June 2003, he lapsed in and out of a coma and was bleeding internally, almost dying as a result of a savage beating.

On 12 April 2004, Pastor Gong was permitted a ten minute visit by his three sisters. Unable to walk unaided, he had to be carried to the visiting hall by four other inmates. When asked by his sisters why he had stopped writing letters to those outside prison, Gong responded, *'I don't have the strength to write. When I pick up my pen, there are lots of troubles'*. When one of the sisters complained of his injuries to the prison director, Sun Wenquan, she was told that Gong is a model prisoner in every respect except one: he refuses to denounce his faith in Christ, and he will not stop praying and preaching. At this stage Pastor Gong had already spent 411 days with his arms and legs chained. His daughters, Xiaoyan and Huali, are dedicated full time evangelists.

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**EMAIL ALERT
for prayer & action**

DECEMBER 2005



His wife Hu Guifang has been seriously traumatised by all that has happened and needs our prayers.

Today Pastor Gong remains incarcerated and under constant surveillance. We are seriously concerned about his health at this time, and at the prison officials' refusal to provide medical treatment or access to his lawyers. His family are allowed to visit once a month, but they are not permitted to meet face to face or discuss either faith or church.

PLEASE PRAY

- ▶ Pray that Pastor Gong and other imprisoned leaders in the South China Church will have their unjust sentences overturned.
- ▶ Pray for healing, for physical, spiritual and emotional strength.
- ▶ Pray for God to intervene and for Pastor Gong's release.
- ▶ Pray for the witness to the gospel in prisons throughout China
- ▶ Pray for Pastor Gong's wife and family, for grace, peace and for the provision of their needs.

'But while Peter was in prison, the church prayed very earnestly for him'
Acts 12:5

release INTERNATIONAL

THE VOICE OF THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Please write a short, polite letter to the following asking for the release of Gong Shengliang.

Sample letter to Government officials

I respectfully request your attention to the case of Pastor Gong Shengliang who is currently detained in Hongshan Prison, Jiangxia District, Wuhan City. The story of his particular case has been circulated around the world and is known to thousands of Christians.

I respectfully ask on behalf of the South China Church, that they be recognised as a genuine Christian organisation and not as a cult. I would also ask your government to release Pastor Gong Shengliang so that he might freely practise his religion in accordance with, The United Nations Declaration on Human Rights.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Please do not mention RI when you write.

Chinese Ambassador to the United Kingdom
Mr. ZHA Peixin, Ambassador,
Chinese Embassy to the United Kingdom,
49-51 Portland Place, London W1N 4JL
Fax: 020 7636 2981 / 5578
(Salutation: Your Excellency)

Mr HU Jintao
President
People's Republic of China
The State Council General Office
Yongneixijie
Beijing 100017
People's Republic of China
(Salutation: Your Excellency)

LI Zhaoxing
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China
Waijiaobu
2 Chaoyangmen Nandajie
Beijing 100701
People's Republic of China
Fax: 00 86 10 6596 1109 / 2660
E-mail: webmaster@fmprc.gov.cn
(Salutation: Your Excellency)

**In the case of Pastor Gong you may also write to the prison address below.
He may not be permitted to receive personal letters and you are unlikely to receive a response.**

Prison address:
Gong Shengliang
Prison Section Four Te Yi Hao
Hongshan Prison, Miaoshan Development Zone
Jiangxia District, Wuhan City
Hubei Province 430032,
People's Republic of China

Letters are frequently censored by officials, and may not be given to the prisoner for any number of reasons. Yet, it is important to remember that your letter can have a 'side benefit' that you may never have intended. Your letter lets the prison officials know that their prisoners are not forgotten. Letters sent to Christian prisoners are occasionally returned unopened. Sometimes, authorities refuse to give a prisoner their mail in order to make them feel isolated. In other cases, the prisoner may have been moved to a different camp and their mail is not forwarded. Keep writing. Don't be discouraged! Your letters are significant. They are a quiet and loving gift to your brothers and sisters.