



Li Ying

Occupation: Journalist

Country: China

Sentence: Fifteen years' imprisonment

In China in recent years, much of the persecution has been directed at the leaders and members of the Hubei-based South China Church. Founded in 1991 by Pastor Gong Shengliang, the 50,000 member SCC had fellowships in at least seven provinces. The SCC also published 30 editions of a magazine called 'Salvation and China,' edited by Pastor Gong's niece, Li Ying.

In April 2001, the government banned the SCC as a 'heretical organization', and between May and December, dozens of men and women were arrested and tortured, including Pastor Gong and Li Ying. Having been arrested many times, Li Ying is currently serving a 15 year prison sentence for her role in the publication of this underground church's magazine. Li Ying originally received a sentence of death by execution for 'illegal publishing' but international attention and pressure caused a higher court to reduce her sentence following a retrial in October, 2002. Charges were dismissed against four other women, but when they announced plans to file a lawsuit against their torturers, they were re-arrested within hours and sent without trial for three years of hard labour.

Sister Li's whole family believes in God. Speaking about her daughter, Li Ying's mother said, 'Li Ying knows to follow the Lord means suffering. Her suffering for Jesus is a glory.' Li Ying cannot have a Bible and is forced to work 15 hours each day on materials to be exported out of China.

Through our international network of missions, Release International serves persecuted Christians in 30 countries around the world by supporting pastors and Christian prisoners, and their families; supplying Christian literature and Bibles; and working for justice.

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**EMAIL ALERT
for prayer & action**

SEPTEMBER 2005



PLEASE PRAY FOR

- ▶ Pray that Li Ying and other Christians, who experience suffering, prison and death rather than denying Christ will remain strong in their faith.
- ▶ Pray the South China Church and similar 'underground' house churches will continue to share the gospel of our Lord.
- ▶ Pray for the Communist leaders in China to come to know Christ.
- ▶ Pray for Li's family, for ongoing 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

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THE VOICE OF THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

PLEASE WRITE IN SUPPORT OF LI YING

Please write a short, polite letter to the following asking for the release of Li Ying.

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)

President of the People's Republic of China
HU Jintao
The State Council General Office
Yongneixijie
Beijingshi 100017
People's Republic of China
Telegram: President Hu Jintao, Beijing, China
(Salutation: Your Excellency)

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China
LI Zhaoxing
Waijiaobu
2 Chaoyangmen Nandajie
Beijingshi 100701
People's Republic of China
Tel: 00 86 10 6596 1114
Fax: 00 86 10 6596 1109 / 2660
E-mail: webmaster@fmprc.gov.cn
Telegram: Minister of Foreign Affairs, Beijing, China
Salutation: Your Excellency
(Fax is likely to be more effective than e-mail)

Note: In the case of Li Ying, you may also write to the prison address below.

Li Ying may not be permitted to receive personal letters and you are unlikely to receive a response.

Prison address:

Li Ying
The Third Section
Female Prison of Wuhan City
No. 81, Bao Feng Yi Lu
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.