

Sender:

President Xi Jinping
via Botschaft der
Volksrepublik China

Märkisches Ufer 54
10179 Berlin

Date: _____

Excellence,

Pastor Li Juncai from Zhongxin Church in Xinxiang in the Henan Province was taken into custody by the police on February 20th, 2019 along with three other community members, following a protest against the removal of the holy cross of their church. The official accusation reads as follows "disruption of public peace". Meanwhile all three parishioners were released, but Pastor Li still remains in custody.

Shortly after the arrest, the local government dispatched around 200 officials to break into the church thru a side door. Inside the building they shoved community members out of the way to replace the holy cross with a flagpole by using a crane. Then they attached the state flag to the flagpole. It remains unknown whether government officials ever tried before to erect the flagpole without undermining the buildings recognizability as a church, but nevertheless, this was what Pastor Li wanted to preserve.

Allow me to recall the article 36 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of China. It says: "The citizens of the People's Republic of China have the right to practise whatever religion one chooses." In this sense I ask you to stand up for religious freedom in your country and above all, for the release of Pastor Li Juncai.

Sincerely