



July, 2009

1. **International News**
2. **National News**
3. **Local News**
4. **Church and Religious News**

INTERNATIONAL & TAIWAN

China has quarantined all international travellers suspected of having **swine flu**, including 100 British children from various schools engaged in summer trips. China reported 1,537 cases of swine flu but no deaths to the end of July. (See Guardian, 26 July)

An Australian man and three Chinese working for the mining giant Rio Tinto have been **arrested and accused of using bribery to gain Chinese state secrets**. Stern Hu was working as part of Rio's iron ore sales team, which acts as the lead negotiator for international iron producers at annual meetings with China's steel manufacturers. Subsequently executives at five of China's leading steel makers have also been detained. In June, Rio pulled out of a \$19.5bn deal with China's Chinalco, preferring to negotiate with its main international rival BHP Billiton. China is Australia's leading trade partner, with iron ore exports worth \$14bn annually. (See BBC, 14 July, 3 August)

According to figures in a Greenpeace report launched in Beijing, **China's three main power generation companies produce as much carbon dioxide as the entire British economy**. The report emphasized the need for China's coal-powered generators to increase efficiency. The report also highlighted that China's energy firms are turning to renewable sources, with Guodian installing 2.88 gigawatts of wind power, making it the largest wind farm operator in Asia. China has aggressively increased installed wind power capacity from 6GW last year to 12.8GW in 2009. However a lack of wind resources and an inadequate national grid mean that many wind generators are failing to make any profit. (See Guardian, 27, 28 July)

China is seeking to **expand its peacekeeping worldwide** according to Ma Xiaotian who belongs to the General Staff of the People's Liberation Army. The PLA has conducted its first joint exercise with the Mongolian army on a peacekeeping theme. The PLA has contributed 13,000 personnel to UN peacekeeping missions since the late 1980s, and there are currently 2000 Chinese soldiers serving in 14 nations. (See China Daily, 4 July)

Ma Ying-Jeou, President of Taiwan, has also been chosen as the **new Chairman of his political party, the Kuomintang (Nationalist) party**. The move could be highly significant in allowing a potential meeting between President Ma and President Hu Jintao of the People's Republic, who is general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party. The two could meet as chairmen of their respective parties, sidelining disputes over Ma's title as President. President Hu sent 'Mr Ma' a telegram of congratulation on his appointment as Chairman. (See Guardian, 27 July)

Chinese students wanting to come to UK universities are facing delays of 7-8 weeks to get visas, with 40% being turned down under new UK visa regulations. In 2007-8 there were **45,300 students from mainland China and 9,000 from Hong Kong studying at British universities**. Students have to have an unconditional offer from universities to begin the application process, and so many who are

granted visas will miss the start of the new academic year. Some student advisors are telling students to apply for Australian universities instead, where delays are only 2-3 weeks. (See Guardian, 21 July)

The **Chinese Communist Party celebrated its 88th anniversary** on 1 July, releasing figures that it had a membership of 74,150,000, or 1 in 10 of the adult Chinese population. It has 10m applications for membership annually. (See ATO, 15 July)

The Namibian Defence Minister, Lieutenant-General Martin Shalli, was sacked from his post following **'serious allegations of irregularities' in his dealings with a Chinese company Nuctech**, formerly run by Hu Haifeng, son of Chinese president Hu Jintao. Namibia's Anti-Corruption Committee is continuing an investigation into a deal worth \$69m in which Nuctech was signed to provide security scanners for Namibia's airports and seaports. An employee of Nuctech has been arrested amid allegations that 'a Chinese firm' transferred 'millions of dollars' to the Lieutenant-General via a third party. Chinese netizens have been prevented from accessing the story which has not been reported in Chinese media. (See The Australian, 25 June)

NATIONAL NEWS

At least 197 people died, most of them Han Chinese, and 1800 were injured in the northwestern city of Urumqi as Uighurs and Han Chinese clashed in **China's worst riots for a generation**. The riots came after an initially peaceful demonstration on Sunday, 5 July by around 1000 Uighur students protesting the lack of investigation into the deaths of at least two Uighurs at the hands of Han co-workers at a toy factory in Shaoguan, Guangdong province, at the end of June. It is unclear why the Urumqi demonstrations turned violent, but Uighur youths went on the rampage throughout the evening and night, attacking Han Chinese with bricks and iron rods. Among the dead were 12 Uighurs shot dead by security forces. Two days later, around 3000 Han Chinese took to the street seeking revenge and complaining that officials had not done enough to protect them and their property, and they were being forced to take matters into their own hands. They were dispersed by riot police with tear gas. The Chinese authorities have blamed Rebiya Kadeer, an exiled Uighur businesswoman and political leader of the banned World Uighur Congress, for organising the demonstrations and violence from abroad, claiming that she heads a terrorist separatist network. The governor of Xinjiang Province, Nu'er Baikeli told reporters that ringleaders had orchestrated riots in over 50 locations across the city. Kadeer has denied the allegations and called for an international investigation and an end to the authorities' Go West policy which encourages Han Chinese migration into west China.

After the riots, 20,000 soldiers were sent to the city and a night curfew imposed; riot police cordoned off Uighur areas of the city and dispersed Han crowds using tear gas. Internet capacity was reduced sharply, while text messages and outgoing international calls were blocked as the government sought to restore order. Uighur mosques were closed all over Urumqi for a week and students were confined to their universities. An international media centre was established at an Urumqi hotel. President Hu Jintao cut short his trip to the G8 summit in L'Aquila to return to China, stressing that maintaining overall stability in Xinjiang was his first priority. An Algerian group linked with al-Qaida has called on Muslims to target Chinese workers and projects in Africa by way of retaliation for violence. There were also anti-Chinese protests in Indonesia and Turkey. Qin Gang, spokesman for the Chinese Ministry for Foreign Affairs, asked the Muslim world to 'understand the truth of the July 5th incident.' He added, 'Chinese and Muslim countries have a longstanding tradition of understanding and respecting each other ... the foundation of our relationship was built on mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit.' Police said they detained 1653 suspects after the riots, and that some would stand trial within two weeks. Urumqi's Communist Party chief, Li Zhi, has said those found responsible should be given the death penalty.

(See Guardian, 8, 10, 29, 31 July; Reuters, 19 July; SCMP, 7, 8, 15, 17 July; NYT, 8, 11 July; WP, 8, 10 July)

Heavy rain in south and central China since the end of June has caused **massive flooding in southern and central China**. Nearly 40m people in Chongqing, Hubei, Guangxi, Guizhou and seven other provinces have been affected. Nearly 1m people have been evacuated. In Guizhou province alone, the damage to property was estimated at 200m yuan (\$30m). In Guangxi, the Catholic Loving Heart Foundation has only just registered with the local government in April, but has sent church workers to each parish to assess damage and appeal for relief.

China's press has drawn attention to the **high rate of abortions** in the country. Official figures seen by the *China Daily* suggests that there are 13m abortions every year in China in state-run hospitals, compared to 20 million live births. The figure is probably higher given that many terminations in rural areas are carried out by unregistered local clinics. The reports suggest that most of the women who have abortions are single and aged between 20 and 29. Fifty percent were not using any form of contraception when they got pregnant. An official from China's National Population and Family Planning Commission said one reason behind the high rate was that family planning advice in China was targeted at married couples and needed to be expanded to single, young people at colleges and universities. (See Guardian, BBC, 30 July)

An investigative article in the *Southern Metropolis Daily* suggests that **eighty baby girls had been bought and sold in a rural county in Guizhou province**. The babies were confiscated by officials from families who could not afford the high fines (around \$3000) for having more than the allowed number of children (usually 2 in rural areas). The girls were then taken to orphanages and adopted by families overseas, mostly American. The orphanage and local officials split the adoption fees between them, according to the article. (See BBC, 2 July)

Chinese shares in the Beijing and Shanghai stock exchanges closed sharply down as rumours spread that the government was going to intervene. Shanghai's share index has already risen by 81% in 2009, and it is suggested that the government-run banks will cut lending to prevent another unsustainable market bubble. The Shanghai index almost quadrupled between August 2006 and October 2007, before collapsing in 2008, costing many people their life savings. (See Guardian, 29 July)

A leading official in China's Supreme People's Court has told the *Legal Daily* that China will **drastically reduce the use of the death penalty in coming years**, particularly by using the 'death penalty with reprieve' sentence instead. The death penalty would still be used for individuals who had committed extremely serious crimes which lead to 'grave social consequences'. The newspaper added that about 10% of death sentences had been overturned since the Supreme People's Court had won back the right to review all such sentences in January 2007. (See The Times, 30 July)

Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen has become the highest grossing film in Chinese history with receipts of 400m yuan (£35m) in its first four weeks of general release, bettering the previous mark held by *Titanic* released in 1997. (See Guardian, 20 July)

LOCAL NEWS

An outbreak of **pneumonic plague** killed two people and caused a small Tibetan town in western Qinghai province to be quarantined. A 32-year-old herdsman was the first to contract the illness and died two days later, several mourners at his funeral have also been infected, and the entire area has been quarantined. The bacteria is thought to be passed by fleas which live on rats and marmots in the area, and sporadic outbreaks have been noted in the remote region over several years. (See Times, 3 August)

Shanghai municipal officials have launched a publicity campaign to **encourage some couples to have second children**. Under the One Child Policy, couples who are themselves only children are allowed to have two children, and many young couples in Shanghai could now legally opt to have a second child. However many say that the financial cost of having children means they cannot afford more than one. The publicity comes as Shanghai's over-60s population exceeded 3 million or nearly 22% of the city's total population. By 2020, the retired proportion will be over 1/3. (See BBC, 24 July)

A court in Guizhou province has been the **first in China to accept a lawsuit by an environmental group against local authorities**. The All-China Environmental Federation (ACEF) alleges that the Land Resources Bureau in Qingzhen County, Guizhou, sold land to a drinks manufacturer in 1994, but that construction on the factory was never completed, and the site is therefore poisoning water in two nearby lakes. ACEF are calling for the local government to take back the land and make the site safe. (See AP, Guardian, 31 July)

Police have **detained the leading human-rights lawyer Xu Zhiyong**, days after his Gongmeng (Open Constitution Initiative) was forcibly closed down. The Gongmeng centre has earned a strong reputation for offering legal aid in politically sensitive cases, including representing families caught in the Sanlu baby milk scandal and Tibetans charged with rioting in Lhasa last year. The centre was closed last month amid claims that it owed 1.2m yuan (£100,000) in fines over tax irregularities following donations it received from the Yale Law Centre. According to the Hong Kong group, Chinese Human Rights Defenders, three other leading human rights lawyers have also been arrested in early July, they are Liu Ruping, Wang Ping and Wang Yonghang. All three have been involved in defending Falungong practitioners during court cases. (See Guardian, 30 July; AsiaNews, 15, 18 July)

In what may be the **largest incidence of industrial unrest in China so far this year**, steelworkers in Jilin Province beat to death the new general manager of a steel mill in Tonghua city, after they were told that 25,000 workers (most of whom are also shareholders) would lose their jobs. Other reports allege that the workers were angry that the general manager was on an annual salary of 3m yuan (\$438,000) while some workers from the plant had their salaries reduced last year to as little as 300 yuan (\$29) per month. Reports suggest that anywhere between 1000 and 30,000 workers were involved in protests which forced a halt to production. The protests only came to an end when the Jilin provincial government announced that the private steelmaker Jianlong had withdrawn its bid for the state-owned factory. (See Guardian, 27 July; China Daily, 27 July)

Macao has elected a new chief executive, Fernando Chui Sai-on. He will become the territory's third chief executive since it was handed back to China. Mr Chui gained a PhD in public health from the University of Oklahoma and comes from a wealthy Macanese family involved in construction, tourism and healthcare industries. (See UCAN, 30 July)

CHURCH AND RELIGIOUS NEWS

Anthony Liu Bainian, vice-chairman of the CCPA **has denied that national Catholic Congress scheduled for this year has been postponed**. The 'quite complicated' preparations are taking time to 'mature', as they include choosing representatives from the mainland's 97 dioceses and church working reports from each local church. The last congress was held in July, 2004, and since then both the chair of the CCPA bishop Michael Fu Tieshan (Beijing) and the head of the Bishops Conference, Joseph Liu Yuanren (Nanjing) have died. Reports in the Hong Kong press have suggested that the congress, scheduled every five years, would be postponed until 2010, perhaps to give more time to negotiations with the Vatican. (See UCAN, 27 July)

Catholic religious from 23 Chinese provinces gathered at a parish church in Taiyuan. The 78 women came from nearly every religious congregation in China, and took part in a Eucharistic procession dressed in their respective habits. At their meeting, the women reflected on the importance of family life and family prayer to consolidate and hand on the faith. (See AF, 3 July)

The Catholic seminary in Sichuan has celebrated its 25th anniversary with two days of activities on June 22-23. A review of activities in 2008 noted exchanges with other Catholic seminaries and the Protestant seminary in Chengdu. Further exchanges are planned with Buddhist and Daoist academies in the province according to its rector, Father Chen Gong'ao. The seminary recruits seminarians from Guizhou, Yunnan and Chongqing as well as Sichuan province. There are currently seven priests and 20 part-time teachers teaching a total of 53 seminarians. (See UCAN, 8 July)

Catholic and Protestant church leaders in Hong Kong have launched an ecumenical network to protect the rights of hundreds of thousands of migrant workers by asking for them to be included in provisions for a new minimum wage in the territory. The minimum wage legislation has passed through Hong Kong's Legco and is due to be implemented within the next two years. (See ENI, 23 July)

Joseph Tseng King-zi, the Catholic auxiliary bishop for Hualien in Taiwan, has completed the translation of the gospels and the Acts into Puyuma, a local language. The bishop, who is the only indigenous bishop in Taiwan, noted the difficulty that many of his fellow Puyuma Catholics had in

understanding masses in Mandarin Chinese, and set himself to translating the readings and gospel for the Mass each Sunday since 1974. While many of the younger generation of Puyuma are fluent in Mandarin Chinese, they are conscious that their mother-tongue may soon die out as there are only 10,000 Puyuma-speakers remaining. (See UCAN, 16 July)

The Shandong provincial CCC/TSPM held its annual **pastoral training class** at Weihai's Blessed Gate church between 6-10 July. Altogether 171 people participated from all over the province, with sessions being led by the provincial Religious Affairs Bureau. The pastors were urged to strengthen consciousness of the Three Self Principles, strengthen the bridge between the Party/Government and believers and to strengthen resistance to [foreign] infiltration. For the sixth year running, the CCC/TSPM committee at Qingxiong prefecture, Yunnan Province, have completed a training class for young pastors. Altogether 250 pastors have been through the class. The latest class commenced on 9 July. Other classes were also held at the Hebei Bible School, South Central Seminary, Chongqing, (See CCC, 17, 20, 21 July)

From 20-22 July, 2009, **the Jiangsu Christian Aixin Charitable Foundation** held a meeting entitled 'A Training Class on Churches' management of services for the elderly'. 44 representatives of churches from all over the province came to the meeting. It is the first meeting convened by the Foundation since it was set up in April. The meeting was held at the Amity Foundation's new office building and was also attended by members of the UFWD, the Jiangsu TSPM/CCC and the Amity Foundation. (See CCC, 27 July)

A member of the registered Zhutun CCC/TSPM Church in Henan Province, Ms. Zhang Xiuzhi, is appealing against a sentence of 're-education through labour' for 'disturbing social harmony'. Church members allege that she has been **detained for investigating corruption at the Zhengzhou Christian Council/TSPM committee**. On 18 May 2008, six Zhengzhou churches held a Disaster Relief Day to collect donations for earthquake relief in Sichuan province. The Zhutun church donated a total of 57,670 yuan (\$8,440) which was passed to the Zhengzhou committee to send on to Sichuan. However the church's donation was not included on a public list released by the municipal council in November. Ms Zhang, who is deputy director of the Zhutun church, was asked to find out why and sent out a prayer letter to the other churches asking for prayer in locating the funds. Later she alleged that the Zhengzhou council still had hold of the Zhutun donations. She was subsequently sacked from the church administrative committee for 'distributing flyers', and was subsequently arrested. She was sentenced on 30 April to one year's re-education through labour. (See China Aid, 30 July)

Wutaishan in Shanxi Province has been named a UNESCO world heritage site. Wutaishan is one of four sacred mountains to Chinese Buddhists, and houses 53 active temples, some buildings dating back to the Tang Dynasty. Yi Bo, spokesman for the Wutaishan Buddhist Association, placed the number of monks on the mountain at over 5000 with another 600 nuns, though the government now restricts the number who can come to study. 2.8m visitors came to Wutaishan in 2008, bringing in revenues of 1.4bn yuan (\$206m), and the number is expected to grow significantly with UNESCO's declaration. (See AFP, 7 July)

A Protestant house church in Sichuan has been closed down and three members detained. The Huaguan Town house church has been gathering since 2002 in a member's house, but later built a church with financial help from a Zhejiang fellowship. This church was raided in March and again in June by PSB officials who confiscated church property and accused the church of being a banned cult. The three members of the church were given 5 and 15 day administrative detentions. Wang Yi, the elder of another house church in Sichuan, has been told that the decision to abolish the Autumn Rain church was a mistake. Despite this admission by the Bureau of Civil Affairs, the church has not been allowed to resume meeting in its rented premises. (See China Aid, 23 July; 31 July).

3rd floor Bastille Court 2 Paris Garden London SE1 8ND
telephone +44 (0) 20 7654 7254 fax +44 (0) 20 7654 7222 email info@ctbi.org.uk www.ctbi.org.uk

House church leaders belonging to the **Chinese House Church Alliance (CHCA)** gathered from 20 provinces in Nanyang City, Henan Province on 4 July. They were celebrating the fourth anniversary of the founding of the CHCA, but at the end of the meeting officers from the PSB and RAB of Nanyang City photographed and videoed all those taking part and then the leaders taken to a nearby hotel for further questioning. Pastor 'Bike' Zhang Mingxuan took full responsibility for calling the meeting and all the leaders were released the same day. A Bible School run by the CHCA in Suqiao City, Jiangsu Province, was raided by the PSB on 16 July. Pastor Shi Enhao and 11 students were taken to the police station and questioned. The students were then sent back to their home provinces and ordered not to return for Bible Study. The CHCA school has been in existence for several years, but this is the first time it has been raided. (See China Aid, 6, 20 July)

A Christian youth camp in Nanyang City, Henan Province, was raided by PSB and RAB officials on 23 July. The twenty young people participating (all under the age of 18) were sent home, while the youth camp leaders were given undisclosed lengths of administrative detention. A youth camp in Tengzhou City, Shandong Province, was also raided on 13 July. Property was confiscated, the youth were taken to a nearby police station for interrogation and then sent home. Five Christians who organised the camp were detained for up to fifteen days. (See China Aid, 21, 28 July)

A Uighur Christian, detained since January 2008, faced trial on 28 July for 'revealing state secrets or intelligence to overseas organisations'. The case of Mr Alimujiang Yimiti has aroused considerable international attention, and his trial has repeatedly been postponed. Another Uighur Christian leader was sentenced to two years re-education through labour in September 2007. The results of this recent trial are not yet known. (See China Aid, 26 July)

In what could be a **test case regarding the rights of North Korean refugees in China**, a Christian lady Li Mingshun is being tried for smuggling 61 North Koreans across China's borders in early 2009. Ms Li, who is an ethnic Korean Chinese, became a Christian in 1985 and went on to co-found an underground seminary in Heilongjiang Province last year. She was arrested by the PSB in April and her family members were asked for 100,000 yuan in order to secure her release. Several Chinese house churches help smuggle North Korean refugees across the border to Mongolia which allows them to be given asylum in South Korea. (See China Aid, 5 July)

The United Nations has refused a bid from an international Christian NGO for 'consultative status' after opposition from China. The Dynamic Christian World Mission Foundation is based in Los Angeles and also registered in South Korea and works in educational fields in East and Central Asia. China opposed the DCWMF's application on the grounds that the Foundation refused to specify how many people it had working in the PRC. Consultative status would allow the Foundation the right to attend meetings and submit written and oral reports. (See CBS News, 28 July)

The China Desk Bulletin is a digest of published news sources. The China Desk is not responsible for the content of these items nor does it necessarily endorse all the views expressed. Please follow the links identified below to read the full report of each story. The monthly update is also available on the China Desk website www.chinaonlinecentre.org

ABBREVIATIONS AND SOURCES

AF	Agenzia Fides	www.fides.org
AFP	Agence France Presse	www.afp.com
AFPC	American Foreign Policy Centre	www.afpc.org
AP	Associated Press	www.ap.org
ATO	Asia Times Online	www.atimes.com
BBC	British Broadcasting Association	www.bbc.co.uk
CAA	China Aid Association	www.chinaaid.org
CASS	Chinese Academy of Social Sciences	
CBNN	Christian Broadcast Network News	www.cbn.com/CBN/news
CCC	China Christian Council [Protestant]	www.chinesechristianchurch.org.cn
CCP	Chinese Communist Party	
(C)CPA (Chinese)	Catholic Patriotic Association	
CPPCC	Chinese People's Political Consultative Congress	
CD	China Daily	www.chinadaily.net/news/
CHCA	Chinese House Church Association [Protestant]	
CRI	China Radio International	www.cri.com.cn
CWN	Catholic World News	www.cwnnews.com
	Chinaview	www.chinaview.cn
	China News [Zhongguo Xinwen She]	www.chinanews.com.cn
	China.org.cn	www.China.org.cn
	Da Gong Bao (Ta Kung Pao)	www.takungpao.com
DPA	Deutsche Presse-Agentur	www.dpa.com
EDA	Églises D'Asie	http://eglisie.mepasie.org
FT	Financial Times	www.ft.com
	Guardian	www.guardian.co.uk
HK	Hong Kong	
HRIC	Human Rights in China	http://gb.hrichina.org
	Independent	www.independent.co.uk
IHT	International Herald Tribune	www.iht.com
IPS	Inter Press Service	www.ipsnews.net
NPS	National People's Congress	
PBS	Public Broadcast Radio	www.pbs.org
RAB	Religious Affairs Bureau	
	Religious Intelligence	www.religiousintelligence.co.uk
	Reuters	www.reuters.co.uk
	Sky News	http://news.sky.com/skynews
SARA	State Administration for Religious Affairs	
SCMP	South China Morning Post	www.scmp.com
SOE	State Owned Enterprise	
	The Daily Telegraph	www.telegraph.co.uk
	The Times	www.timesonline.co.uk/
TSPM	Three-Self Patriotic Movement	
UCAN	Union of Catholic Asia News	www.ucanews.com
UFWD	United Front Work Department	
UNPO	Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization	
WP	Washington Post	www.washingtonpost.com
	Xinhua	http://www.xinhua.org/

3rd floor Bastille Court 2 Paris Garden London SE1 8ND

telephone +44 (0) 20 7654 7254 fax +44 (0) 20 7654 7222 email info@ctbi.org.uk www.ctbi.org.uk