



October, 2009

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

INTERNATIONAL & TAIWAN

President Ma Ying-Jeou of Taiwan has called for **lasting peace with the mainland**. His calls came on the sixtieth anniversary of the last major battle between Communist and Nationalist forces which happened on Kinmen (Quemoy Island) and largely ended Communist military attempts to invade Taiwan. About 5000 soldiers were killed. (See DPA, 25 Oct)

China was the '**honoured guest**' at the **world's premier book festival** in Frankfurt this year. After several years of preparatory talks, the Chinese sent an official delegation led by vice-president Xi Jinping. The Chinese officials walked out of a number of fringe events which were addressed by Chinese dissidents, nor did they allow the controversial Chinese story teller Liao Yiwu to attend. In all 2000 Chinese publishers and authors attended, as part of China's 'policy of promoting its culture around the world. 20 new Chinese novels were translated into German specifically for the book fair. Despite these intense preparations, some Chinese officials reflected that they did not think they had been fully welcomed as guests. (See NYT, 19 Oct)

A meeting between President Obama and the Dalai Lama has not been scheduled until after the President's summit meeting with Chinese President Hu Jintao next month, despite the Dalai travelling to Washington in early October. After recent trips to Taiwan and Japan, the Dalai Lama has said that Beijing over-politicises his international travels. Human Rights groups have criticised the Obama administration for capitulating to Chinese pressure. (See Washington Post, 5 October)

The US Department of State Report on International Religious Freedom has been published on the internet. The chapter on China can be found at <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2009/127268.htm>.

Chinese **trade with Latin America** has topped \$140bn in 2009, expanding rapidly in the last ten years. The biggest deals this year have been with Venezuela (\$4bn) and Brazil (\$10bn) for oil exports and exploration. (See AsiaNews, 28 Oct)

The China International Fund has begun negotiating a **cash-for-oil/minerals deal with Guinea**, despite widespread Western condemnations and possible sanctions after a recent government massacre in that country. A £4.4bn deal would see Chinese soft loans to Guinea in return for preferential interests in its reserves of bauxite, uranium, iron and off-shore oil. Rwandan President Paul Kagame told a German newspaper that 'the Chinese bring what Africa needs: investment and money for governments and companies. I would rather the Western world to invest in Africa rather than handing out development aid.' Such Chinese deals across Africa have meant that the fastest-growing Chinatowns are now in Zambia and the Congolese province of Katanga. (See The Times, 13 October; BBC, 10 October)

Chinese special forces have been sent on three vessels to rescue a ship hijacked by Somali pirates in the Indian Ocean. The De Xin Hai was carrying 76,000 tonnes of coal from South Africa to India. The pirates have threatened to execute the whole crew if a rescue attempt is made. (See SCMP, 21 Oct)

NATIONAL NEWS

China's **National Day celebrations for the sixtieth anniversary of the founding of the PRC** passed off according to plan on 1st October. President Hu Jintao appearing at Tiananmen Square in front of portraits of his four predecessors, greeted the massed ranks of Party members, troops and school children. Chinese celebrities from various walks of life including athletes, scientists and astronauts also took part. Under the theme of 'The Motherland and I: Marching Together', President Hu reminded the country of how far they had come and looked forward to further peaceful development. His speech was later studied by work units and churches across the country. Much of Beijing including the international airport was temporarily closed. Among the invited guests to the celebrations were the Catholic archbishop of Hong Kong, Mgr John Tong Hon, the chair of the TSPM, Elder Fu Xianwei, and the president of the CCC, Revd Gao Feng. Some young Catholics in Shenzhen celebrated the day by organising prayers and singing contests. Despite efforts by officials to keep petitioners away from Beijing during this period, many people were still detained in the Beijing area during the celebrations to prevent disturbances or their contacting foreign media. (See WSJ, 1 Oct; AsiaNews, 1, 2, 7 Oct.; CCC, 10 Oct)

China's leaders have made tough statements on **slowing its growth of carbon dioxide emissions** in the lead up to the Copenhagen Summit. They have committed to peak emissions by 2050, but senior reports by the Energy Research Institute, Tsinghua University and the State Council Development Research Centre have suggested that peak emissions might be reached between 2030 and 2040. A substantial part of China's fiscal stimulus package has been aimed toward green energy technology, raising the target for renewable energy generation to make up 15% of the total by 2020. Installed wind power capacity has doubled for each of the past five years, while China is doubling its nuclear power capacity with new power stations. Finally China's government has now brought in a carbon intensity target for each percentage of GDP growth. However the continuing strength of Chinese heavy industry and the difficulty of measuring emissions in China remain to be addressed. (See BBC, 19 October)

Chinese President Hu Jintao addressed a **major international conference on the media in Beijing**, promising that China would 'continue to make government affairs public, enhance information distribution, [and] safeguard the legitimate rights and interest of foreign news organizations ...' He told the World Media Summit, which included figures like Rupert Murdoch (head of NewsCorp), Tom Curley (head of AP) and Richard Sanbrook (BBC global news director), that the foreign media had an 'important role' in showing the world the changes taking place in China and in promoting global peace. (See AP, 9 Oct)

This year's Chong Yang festival was the occasion for vice-premier Hui Liangyu to call for close attention to the **livelihood of China's elderly population**. China's population has been officially aging since the 2000 census showed that 1 in 10 Chinese are over 60. In 2007, the figure was 13.6%. This is still only half the ratio in most industrialised Western countries, but China's relatively low level of per capita income means that many elderly are very poor. According to an Asian Development Bank specialist, 'China's ageing society is coming much earlier and much faster than expected.' (See SCMP, 26 Oct)

Over 10,000 retired scientists and intellectuals have signed a petition to the central government urging that they have contributed hugely to China's rapid rise but have been **mistreated by China's pension system**. The group were among the first to graduate from Chinese universities after Liberation in 1949 and retired in the 1990s or early 2000s, but lost their 'senior specialist' rank prior to retirement leading to poor pension provision of around RMB430 (£40) a month. Higher medical costs and living expenses mean that many are now living in poverty. (See SCMP, 18 Oct)

Estimates suggest that **China has 150,000 street children** living rough on city streets. A Guangzhou aid centre has 1000 children coming through its doors every year, where they are treated, given food, and then sent back to their families. It estimates that 60% will end up on the streets again. The Chinese

news agency Xinhua suggested that there are 1m homeless Chinese children in 2007. Some independent Chinese charities like Sun Village have been set up, and government investment aims to double the number of children's homes to 300 by 2010. (See Radio Free Asia, 12 Oct)

Chinese **officials have been warned against inappropriate personal behaviour**, such as visiting brothels and 'vulgar' places of entertainment, which will now earn them black marks on their assessment forms. According to reports in Xinhua, the Party is linking such behaviour and the keeping of mistresses as major reasons for graft and corruption amongst officials. However proposals to force top officials to make public their income, investments and property portfolios have not been enacted. (See AP 23 Oct.)

LOCAL NEWS

Two **Tibetan 'criminals' convicted of roles in the Lhasa riots of March 2009 have been executed**, confirmed a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, who said they had been tried according to the law. Lobsang Gyaltzen and Loyak were found guilty of setting fires to retail outlets, resulting in the deaths of six people. These executions were denounced by a British minister and by the Swedish EU presidency. Such statements were condemned by China as interference in an internal matter. (See BBC, 28 Oct; ANI, AP, 31 Oct)

Six Uighurs convicted of murder and other crimes related to this summer's violence have also been sentenced to death. Another Uighur, Tayirejan Abulimit, has been sentenced to life imprisonment for his role in the riots which left nearly 200 people dead and 1,700 injured. An Al-Qaida video tape has been found which labels China an enemy of the Islamic World. Beijing maintains that it will follow a policy of ethnic equality and religious freedom, as well as working with the international community to combat terrorism. (See BBC, 12 Oct; Zhongguo Tongxun She, 10 Oct.)

A **revival of a Confucian festival** in Cicheng township brought thousands of people out in the vicinity of Zhejiang. The festival celebrated the two traditional virtues of *ci* (mercy/charity) and *xiao* (filial piety). Such celebrations had been ridiculed during the Maoist era. This one also included pop concerts by local celebrities and stories of the 10 'most moving' cases of exhibiting these virtues from around the nation. The local festival was part of the nationwide Chongyang festival, which is dedicated to the elderly. (See SCMP, 27 Oct)

New efforts to **combat the phenomenon of 'little emperors'** have brought together psychiatrists and health authorities in Guangzhou and Beijing. China's one-child policy has led to a whole generation of only children, 'prone to exaggerated feelings of superiority and ... liable to have trouble building close relationships.' An education programme aimed at single-child families and sponsored by the prestigious Renmin University has begun intervention work in the capital for the first time. Camps for unruly adolescents in Guangzhou are hugely over-subscribed, with places costing RMB27,000 (£2,500). At such three month camps, teenagers receive military-style training, psychological counselling, and emotion-management courses. As the 'one-child generation' starts parenting its own single-children behavioural problems are being exacerbated, say the organisers. (See SCMP, 8 Oct)

CHURCH AND RELIGIOUS NEWS

The former 'underground' Catholic bishop of Baoding, (Hebei) **Mgr Francis An Shuxin, has been officially recognised and agreed to work with the CPA**. The bishop had spent ten years in detention until August, 2006. His decision to join the open church, in one of the heartlands of the 'underground' community, has caused some dissension, with some 'underground' priests saying that it is still too early to formally join the open community. The Vatican maintains that cooperation with the CPA is 'incompatible with the Catholic faith'. Three other local underground bishops remain unaccounted for, including Mgr Julius Jia Zhiguo who was most recently detained again in March. (See UCAN, 29 Oct)

The '**underground' Catholic bishop of Wenzhou, James Lin Xili, has died at the age of 91**. He was ordained clandestinely in 1992 as the first bishop of Wenzhou, and detained after 1998. He has been under house arrest ever since, despite intermittent stays in hospital. His funeral mass was attended by at least five thousand Catholics from both communities in the city. The funeral was held at the

registered Qiligang church, and local officials cooperated with the arrangements for managing the massive crowds which attended. Priests from both the open and 'underground' communities helped organise the mass. Wenzhou diocese holds around 120,000 Catholics. (See UCAN, 14 Oct)

Three 'underground' Catholic priests from Hebei province have been detained for over three months, while one other has been persuaded to join the open church according to source in the diocese. Government departments have denied that they are holding the priests but refused to help locate them. Other underground priests are under strict surveillance. The late underground bishop of Xuanhua allowed his priests to obtain registered priest cards since 2005 and encouraged worshippers to go to registered churches, but some in the diocese say the time is not yet right for full unity. (See EDA, 22 October)

A new HK documentary of the Catholic Cardinal Zen Ze-kuin has won an award in Italy. *Zen's Law* was made by the journalist Doris Law Suk-yi and follows the cardinal from 2007 until early 2009, concentrating on his struggles on behalf of social minorities in Hong Kong and on the mainland. The film won the award at the Religion Today Film Festival. (See UCAN, 29 October)

The Vatican has opened a new exhibition entitled 'To the Heights of History. Matteo Ricci. Between Rome and Beijing', to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the death of the best known Jesuit missionary to China. The exhibition includes an introduction to the scientific knowledge of the time, through Ricci gained an entrée into the Ming court, some of Ricci's groundbreaking Chinese maps, copies of his Chinese translations and works of Chinese tapestry and statuary. It is also thought that the exhibition will move to Shanghai as part of the 2010 Expo. (See VIS, 28 Oct; UCAN, Zenit, CNS, 29 Oct; AF, 30 Oct)

Revd Gao Feng, President of the CCC, met with Revd Dr Samuel Kobia, head of the World Council of Churches in Shanghai. President Gao explained some of the challenges of the rapidly growing church, that there is only one trained pastor for every 40,000 Christians which means many churches rely on untrained lay leadership. (See CP, 21 October)

Chinese vice-president and senior politburo member, Du Qinglin, together with UFWD director for Shanghai, Yang Xiaodu, visited the CCC office in Shanghai on 21 October. They met with Elder Fu Xianwei and President Gao Feng, together with former President, Revd Cao Shengjie and secretary-general of the TSPM, Revd Xu Xiaohong. The visiting dignitaries visited the former Anglican Holy Trinity Church next door to the office which is reaching the final stages of restoration. (See CCC, 21 October)

In a bid to **strengthen standardisation across all 19 Protestant seminaries and Bible Schools**, the CCC facilitated an 'Exchange on Chinese Christian Theological Educational Administration' from 27-28 October. Presidents and deans of study from all nineteen institutions, forty people in all, met together with President Gao Feng, secretary-general of the CCC Kan Baoping, President of the Chinese Theological Research Institute Dr Zhou Yongjian and international consultant Professor David Baer. Other classes during the two day exchange were given by Dr Manfred Waldemar Kohl and President of Fuller Seminary, Dr. Richard Mouw. (See CCC, 28 Oct.)

Franklin Graham, son of Billy Graham and head of the Christian aid organisation Samaritan's Purse, preached to 10,000 Chinese at one of China's largest churches, Bethel Church in Baoding. This was the second time Graham has preached in China, and he was asked during this visit to open Bethel Church's new six-storey lay-training centre. (See CP, 19 October)

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The unregistered Beijing Pastor Zhang Mingxuan has been released from detention after the National Day celebrations. Zhang and his wife were given a forced 'vacation' to Henan province so as to prevent them being in the capital. (See ChinaAid, 8 Oct)

The Fushan branch of the 50,000 strong, unregistered Linfen Protestant Church in Houzhou City, Shanxi, has been given temporary leave to remain open, but its senior pastor Wang Xiaoguang, his wife, and ten other senior leaders remain in detention after attempting to petition Beijing. The church building has remained closed by security personnel ever since an initial raid on 26 September and city officials say that the situation has to be resolved in the next few weeks. They have cited a list of alleged illegal activities by Wang, but have yet to make them public. (See ChinaAid, 7 Oct)

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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://eglasiemepasie.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/

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