



October 15, 2025

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Rubio:

On Behalf of the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ), I write to express our concern over the recent detention of Pastor Jin “Ezra” Mingri, a respected Christian leader and founder of Zion Church in China. Pastor Jin was forcibly taken from his home in Beihai, Guangxi province, on October 10, 2025, reportedly under charges related to “illegal use of information networks” a vague and politically weaponized accusation frequently used to silence peaceful religious expression.

The arrest is part of a broader and escalating campaign by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) to suppress religious freedom and dismantle unregistered house churches. Zion Church, whose network has grown to over 10,000 members, despite repeated government harassment, represents a beacon of faith and resilience. The CCP’s actions, including forced closures, destruction of religious symbols, and mass detentions, constitute clear violations of China’s obligations under international law, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The ACLJ has long advocated for persecuted Christians in China, including our representation of the family of Pastor John Cao, a U.S. legal permanent resident who was unjustly imprisoned for his humanitarian work along the China-Burma border. Pastor Cao’s case underscores the CCP’s hostility toward faith-based service and international engagement.

As former Chair of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China (CECC), you have consistently championed religious liberty and exposed the CCP’s human rights abuses. Your

exceptional leadership at the State Department continues to be critical in confronting these violations and we applaud your quick condemnation regarding this matter.

Accordingly, we respectfully request the U.S. Department of State to continue:

- To demand the immediate and unconditional release of Pastor Jin Mingri and all detained religious leaders.
- To condemn the CCP's systematic persecution of Christians and other religious minorities through official statements and diplomatic channels.
- To prioritize religious freedom in all bilateral engagements with the Chinese government, including trade, security, and human rights dialogues.

Pastor Jin's case is emblematic of the CCP's disregard for fundamental freedoms and its ongoing campaign to criminalize and eradicate faith. We urge the State Department to act swiftly and decisively to protect Pastor Jin and reaffirm the United States' commitment to defending religious liberty worldwide.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to human rights and religious freedom.

Respectfully,



CeCe Heil
Senior Counsel and International Legal Director
American Center for Law and Justice