

*English translation of the verdict paper (Certain Information Redacted)*

People's Court of Zengdu District, Suizhou City, Hubei Province Criminal Judgment

(2024) E 1303 Xing Chu No. 454

Prosecuting organ: People's Procuratorate of Zengdu District, Suizhou City, Hubei Province.

Defendant: Yang Zhijin (also known as Yang Zhiquan, Yang Zhiquan; nicknames: Seventh Uncle, Seventh Brother), male, born on February 13, 1949, citizen ID number 4129xxxxxx, Han ethnicity, junior high school education, farmer, residing at No. 64, Shenzhuang, Shenzhuang Village, Yuehe Town, Tongbai County, Nanyang City, Henan Province. In connection with this case, he was criminally detained by the Zengdu District Branch of the Suizhou City Public Security Bureau on March 19, 2024, and arrested by the same bureau on April 25, 2024. He is currently detained in the Suizhou City Detention Center.

Defense counsel: REDACTED, lawyer from REDACTED Law Firm.

The People's Procuratorate of Zengdu District, Suizhou City, Hubei Province charged the defendant Yang Zhijin with the crime of organizing and using a cult organization to undermine the implementation of the law in Indictment Su Zeng Du Jian Xing Su [2024] No. Z14 and initiated a public prosecution before this Court. This Court formed a collegial panel in accordance with the law, applied ordinary procedure, and held an open court session to hear the case. The People's Procuratorate of Zengdu District, Suizhou City, assigned procurators Zhang Yuxiang, Yang Dan, and Zhang Yaqi, together with procuratorial assistant Xia Lingling, to appear in court to support the prosecution. The defendant Yang Zhijin and his defense counsel Wen Yu appeared in court to participate in the litigation. After deliberation by the collegial panel and discussion by the judicial committee, the case is now concluded.

The prosecuting organ alleges:

In 1984, Xu Yongze, a resident of Zhenping County, Henan Province, established the "Full Range Church" in Pingdingshan City, Henan Province. In November 1995, the General Office of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the General Office of the State Council forwarded the "Notice of the Ministry of Public Security on the

Investigation and Ban of Cult Organizations such as the ‘Shouters,’” which explicitly designated the “Full Range Church” as a cult organization and ordered its banning in accordance with the law. The “Full Range Church” spreads and promotes heretical teachings such as “believing in Jesus leads to heaven, not believing leads to hell,” “everyone is sinful and must confess and repent,” “believing in Jesus can cure diseases,” and “crying for rebirth,” and engages in proselytizing to minors and interfering with freedom of marriage. These activities seriously disrupt the State’s administration of religion, education, and marriage, and undermine the implementation of State laws. The “Full Range Church” has established, from top to bottom across the country, a general assembly, major districts, pastoral districts, large sub-districts, medium sub-districts, and small sub-districts. Around 1995, the Suizhou Pastoral District was established, with six large sub-districts under it: Tong-Sui, Xiang-Zao, Jingshan, Xiaogan, Wuhan, and Honghu. The Tong-Sui Large Sub-district is divided into medium sub-districts including Sui-Nan, Sui-Bei, Tongbai, Yuehe, and Xiaolin. The Sui-Nan Medium Sub-district is further divided into small sub-districts including Suizhou urban area, Tang Town, Anju, Lishan, and Wandian. Since the 1980s and 1990s, the Sui-Nan Medium Sub-district Church (hereinafter referred to as the “Sui-Nan Medium Sub-district Church”) of the “Full Range Church” has organized and carried out church activities in accordance with instructions from the higher-level Tong-Sui Church. It has set up “caring limbs” to arrange and manage all church affairs through “communication meetings”; a “holy assets custody group” to manage the accounts and revenues/expenditures of church offerings; a “preaching group” to arrange “gospel messengers,” “youth preachers,” and “children’s preachers” to promote heretical teachings to believers; a “door-training group” to specially train preachers for the church; a “youth marriage group” to introduce partners to marriage-age youth in the church; “reception homes” to provide their own residences for church gatherings; and “revival groups,” “happiness small groups,” and “holy music teams” to promote heretical teachings through gatherings, training, weddings, funerals, and other activities.

The Sui-Nan Medium Sub-district Church has a tightly organized structure with clear division of labor between higher and lower levels. Through online and offline gatherings and training, it promotes heretical teachings to deceive the masses, has extensively recruited more than one hundred believers, and has encouraged believers to regularly donate one-tenth of their income to the church, thereby amassing a total of RMB 1,057,357 (hereinafter referred to as RMB). The defendant Yang Zhijin is one of the responsible persons of the Tong-Sui Large Sub-district Church. Together with Song Yude, he manages the Tong-Sui Large Sub-district Church and its subordinate medium and small sub-district churches, including the Sui-Nan Medium Sub-district Church. He has represented the higher-level church in attending “door-training” sessions, vow-renewal ceremonies, and other activities

in Suizhou, where he promoted cult heretical teachings. During 2022 and 2023, Yang Zhijin and Song Yude jointly collected RMB 200,000 in offerings remitted by the Sui-Nan Medium Sub-district Church. On March 19, 2024, public security officers arrested Yang Zhijin at his home in Shenzhuang Village, Yuehe Town, Tongbai County, Henan Province. On the same day, public security officers searched his residence and lawfully seized items including a hymn book, the Hong Kong-published New Testament, notebooks, calendars, and a tablet computer.

In court, the prosecuting organ presented or read evidence including documentary evidence, witness testimony, appraisal opinions, search records, identification records, and the statements and defenses of the defendant Yang Zhijin and his co-defendants, alleging that the defendant Yang Zhijin's conduct constitutes the crime of organizing and using a cult organization to undermine the implementation of the law.

The defendant Yang Zhijin disputed both the charged offense and the facts, claiming that he had not participated in any cult and opposed cults. The main defense arguments of his counsel were: the defendant Yang Zhijin does not constitute the charged offense; the "heretical teachings" alleged by the prosecuting organ are core content of Christianity; the prosecuting organ failed to prove that Yang Zhijin promoted "crying for rebirth"; Yang Zhijin did not participate in the "Full Range Church" cult organization and did not engage in any conduct of using a cult organization to undermine the implementation of the law. The evidence on record cannot prove that Yang Zhijin joined the "Full Range Church," which did not deify its primary members, did not restrict personal freedom, and did not actively undermine the implementation of any laws. Therefore, Yang Zhijin should be declared not guilty.

After trial, the following facts are confirmed:

Co-defendant Song Yude (handled in a separate case) has, since 1981, distributed reactionary publications from overseas religious reactionary forces that infiltrated China in Sui County, Hubei Province, and Tongbai County, Henan Province. In June 1982, at a gathering in the home of Wang Shouquan in Xiejiawan Village, Huaihe Town, Sui County, Hubei Province, Song Yude was appointed by Xu Yongze, founder of the "Full Range Church," as the overall person in charge of the "Hubei-Henan Border Church." In 1984, Xu Yongze formally established the "Full Range Church" in Pingdingshan City, Henan Province. The church distorts and twists Biblical teachings, promotes and spreads heretical doctrines such as "believing in Jesus can cure diseases" and "crying for rebirth" to proselytize, seriously disrupting the State's religious administration and undermining the

implementation of State laws. On April 10, 1986, Song Yude was sentenced to eight years' fixed-term imprisonment and three years' deprivation of political rights for the crime of counter-revolutionary incitement. In November 1995, the Ministry of Public Security's "Opinions on the Investigation and Ban of Cult Organizations such as the 'Shouters'" explicitly designated the "Full Range Church" as a cult organization and ordered its banning in accordance with the law.

The "Full Range Church" has established, from top to bottom nationwide, a general assembly, major districts, pastoral districts, large sub-districts, medium sub-districts, and small sub-districts. Around 1995, the Suizhou Pastoral District was established, with six large sub-districts under it: Tong-Sui, Xiang-Zao, Jingshan, Xiaogan, Wuhan, and Honghu. The Tong-Sui Large Sub-district is divided into medium sub-districts including Sui-Nan, Sui-Bei, Tongbai, Yuehe, and Xiaolin. The Sui-Nan Medium Sub-district is further divided into small sub-districts including Suizhou urban area, Tang Town, Anju, Lishan, and Wandian. Since the 1980s and 1990s, the Sui-Nan Medium Sub-district Church has organized and carried out church activities in accordance with instructions from the higher-level Tong-Sui Church. It has set up "caring limbs" to arrange and manage all church affairs through "communication meetings"; a "holy assets custody group" to manage the accounts and revenues/expenditures of church offerings; a "preaching group" to arrange "gospel messengers," "youth preachers," and "children's preachers" to promote heretical teachings to believers; a "door-training group" to specially train preachers for the church; a "youth marriage group" to introduce partners to marriage-age youth in the church; "reception homes" to provide their own residences for church gatherings; and "revival groups," "happiness small groups," and "holy music teams" to promote heretical teachings through gatherings, training, weddings, funerals, and other activities. The Sui-Nan Medium Sub-district Church has a tightly organized structure with clear division of labor between higher and lower levels. Through online and offline gatherings and training, it promotes heretical teachings to deceive the masses, has extensively recruited more than one hundred believers, and has encouraged believers to regularly donate one-tenth of their income to the church, thereby amassing a total of RMB 1,057,357 through the "holy music teams."

The defendant Yang Zhijin is one of the responsible persons of the Tong-Sui Large Sub-district Church. Together with Song Yude, he manages the Tong-Sui Large Sub-district Church and its subordinate medium and small sub-district churches, including the Sui-Nan Medium Sub-district Church. He has represented the higher-level church in attending "door-training" sessions, vow-renewal ceremonies, and other activities in Suizhou, where he promoted cult heretical teachings. During 2022 and 2023, Yang Zhijin and Song Yude jointly collected RMB 200,000 in offerings remitted by the Sui-Nan Medium Sub-district Church. On September 10, 2023, after learning that some members of the Sui-Nan

Medium Sub-district Church had been arrested by public security organs, Song Yude, together with Yang Zhijin, Guo Mingjun of the Xiang-Zao Church, and Zhou Xiunong (both handled in separate cases), came to Suizhou carrying offerings from the Tong-Sui Church and Sui-Nan Church to hire lawyers for the arrested persons. On March 19, 2024, public security officers arrested Yang Zhijin at his home in Shenzhuang Village, Yuehe Town, Tongbai County, Henan Province. On the same day, public security officers searched his residence and lawfully seized items including a hymn book, notebooks, calendars, and a tablet computer.

The above facts are confirmed by the following evidence, which was presented, examined, and cross-examined in court (see pages 4–17 of the original judgment for the detailed evidence list, including case-filing registration forms, decision to file the case, household registration information, seizure lists, church documents, witness testimonies, co-defendant statements, and a large amount of documentary evidence, physical evidence, and appraisal opinions).

The defenses and defense arguments raised by the defendant Yang Zhijin and his counsel have been found by this Court to be untenable (see the Court’s evaluation on pages 18–19 of the original judgment).

This Court holds:

The defendant Yang Zhijin, in collusion with others, used a cult organization to deceive the masses who did not know the truth, thereby undermining the implementation of the State’s laws and administrative regulations. His conduct constitutes the crime of organizing and using a cult organization to undermine the implementation of the law. The defendant Yang Zhijin, together with co-defendant Song Yude, managed the Tong-Sui Large Sub-district Church and its subordinate medium and small sub-district churches, including the Sui-Nan Medium Sub-district Church. He represented the higher-level church in attending “door-training” sessions, vow-renewal ceremonies, and other activities in Suizhou, where he promoted cult heretical teachings. He played a principal role in the joint crime and is therefore a principal offender. Because Yang Zhijin carried out cult activities across provincial boundaries, he shall be given a heavier punishment in accordance with the law. The seized items in this case shall be disposed of by the seizing organ in accordance with the law. In order to crack down on cult crimes and protect the normal order of social administration, in accordance with the provisions of Articles 300(1), 25(1), 26(1), 47, 52, 53(1), and 64 of the Criminal Law of the People’s Republic of China; Items 8 and 9 of Article 2 and Item 2 of Article 8 of the Interpretation by the Supreme People’s Court and the

Supreme People's Procuratorate on Several Issues Concerning the Application of Law in Handling Criminal Cases of Organizing and Using Cult Organizations to Undermine the Implementation of the Law and Other Crimes; and Article 200 of the Criminal Procedure Law of the People's Republic of China, the judgment is as follows:

1 The defendant Yang Zhijin is guilty of the crime of organizing and using a cult organization to undermine the implementation of the law and is sentenced to fixed-term imprisonment of three years and two months, and a fine of RMB 8,000. (The term of imprisonment shall be calculated from the date the judgment is executed. One day of prior custody shall be credited as one day of the term. That is, from March 19, 2024, to May 18, 2027. The fine shall be paid within ten days after the judgment takes effect.)

2 The items already seized in this case shall be disposed of by the seizing organ in accordance with the law.

If dissatisfied with this judgment, you may appeal to this Court or directly to the Intermediate People's Court of Suizhou City, Hubei Province, within ten days from the second day after receiving this judgment. If the appeal is filed in writing, one original and four copies of the appeal petition shall be submitted.

Presiding Judge: Wang Xun Judge: Zhang Qiang Judge: Xu Yan

May 21, 2026

Clerk: Fan Wei