

June 3, 2026

The Honorable David Perdue
United States Ambassador to the People's Republic of China
U.S. Embassy Beijing

Dear Ambassador Perdue,

We write to you with deep concern regarding religious freedom and human rights in China, issues we understand are of significant interest to you.

We respectfully request that you or a representative from the U.S. Embassy attend the upcoming trial of several Christian pastors in Fuyang, Anhui Province. The trial is scheduled to take place from June 9 to 12, 2026, at the Fuyang Intermediate People's Court (Yingzhou District).

The defendants include three leaders from the Maizhong Reformed Church — a biblically faithful Presbyterian and Reformed congregation:

- Pastor Zhang Sen
- Pastor Chang Shun
- Elder Ma Tao

We are the wives of these men:

- Xu Chao, wife of Pastor Zhang Sen
- Li Yunyan, wife of Pastor Chang Shun
- Li Mei, wife of Elder Ma Tao

These three church leaders were arrested by Fuyang police on June 29, 2025, and have been detained for over eleven months in the Fuyang City Detention Center.

They are charged with “organizing illegal gatherings.” The specific acts cited in the indictment include:

- 1 Officiating at the wedding of fellow believers as invited pastors.
- 2 Visiting the detention center in March 2024 to welcome home a Christian who had been administratively detained for his faith.

These peaceful and pastoral activities are entirely consistent with the free exercise of religion.

Article 36 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of China explicitly guarantees Chinese citizens the freedom of religious belief.

Yet our husbands have been arbitrarily detained for nearly a year simply for faithfully serving their congregation, preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ without partiality, and loving others as themselves.

We humbly urge you to observe this trial in person or send embassy staff as observers. Your presence would send a powerful and encouraging message in support of religious freedom and the rule of law.

Court Address: Yingzhou District People's Court Fuyang City, Anhui Province
Court Telephone: 0558-2553903

Thank you for your attention to this matter. May God bless you and your important work.

Sincerely,

Xu Chao (wife of Pastor Zhang Sen)

Li Yunyan (wife of Pastor Chang Shun)

Li Mei (wife of Elder Ma Tao)

cc: Letters of invitation were concurrently delivered to:

The Honorable Jorge Toledo Albiñana, Ambassador of the European Union to the People's Republic of China

His Excellency André Haspels, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the People's Republic of China

Her Excellency Dr. Patricia Flor, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the People's Republic of China

His Excellency Bertrand Lortholary, Ambassador of the Republic of France to the People's Republic of China

His Excellency Peter Wilson, Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the People's Republic of China

Her Excellency Krystyna Marty, Ambassador of Switzerland to the People's Republic of China

His Excellency Per Augustsson, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Sweden to the People's Republic of China