

Pastor Jailed Without Charges: What Trump Must Demand From China

President Donald Trump has pledged to personally intervene for a Christian pastor imprisoned by the Chinese Communist Party without charges since October, bringing the case directly to Xi Jinping during his upcoming high-stakes visit to Beijing.

Pastor Ezra Jin's arrest, along with dozens of his church members, represents the brutal anti-Christian persecution that continues under CCP rule. Jin remains locked up with no formal charges filed against him. Making matters worse, the regime is actively harassing his lawyer, effectively destroying any hope of a fair trial.

The public pressure campaign led by Jin's daughter, Grace Jin Drexel, a Senate staffer, has succeeded in pushing the case to the highest levels of American leadership. Trump has committed to raising Pastor Jin's imprisonment when he sits down with the Chinese president.

Jin's case isn't the only one on Trump's agenda. He's also expected to press Xi about Hong Kong businessman Jimmy Lai, a British passport holder sentenced to 20 years in prison for pro-democracy activism. For the nearly eighty-year-old Lai, it amounts to a death sentence. When Beijing began erasing the freedoms Hong Kong was promised after the handover, Lai could have fled. He stayed and fought instead, leading to his arrest in 2020.



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Trump has said multiple times he'll try to secure Lai's release. Success would mark more than a moral victory. It

would reassert America's role as the defender of global liberty.

The visit comes with economic tensions still simmering. Just over a year has passed since Trump's Liberation Day trade war, which hit China harder than any other nation with tariffs exceeding 100% at one point. Despite the pressure, China remains one of America's largest trading partners.

Beyond trade and human rights, Taiwan looms large. The island produces 90% of the world's advanced computer chips. If China conquers Taiwan, Beijing gains a stranglehold on critical technology and leverage over the entire global economy.

China's aggression extends to other American allies. Japan and the Philippines face mounting pressure as Beijing illegitimately claims sovereignty over territory within their exclusive economic zones. China has been building artificial islands to stake claims in the South China Sea. Xi wants Trump to abandon Tokyo and Manila. That's not an option.

The threat doesn't stop at foreign shores. Counterintelligence operations within the United States focus heavily on Chinese operatives, with dozens of arrests made against Chinese nationals for spying. China also ranks among the largest perpetrators of transnational repression, harassing and suppressing dissidents living on American soil.

Millions suffer under CCP oppression. Christians face arrests, torture, and indefinite detention without trials or access to lawyers. The regime's hostility toward religious freedom and basic human dignity shows no signs of easing.

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