1. Please provide comprehensive information on the treatment of Catholics in Fujian province.

In Fujian province, as in the rest of China, there is an official Catholic Church called the Catholic Patriotic Association, which owes its allegiance to the Chinese Communist Party; as well as an ‘underground’ Catholic Church which maintains its allegiance to the Vatican. Estimates of the number of Catholics in Fujian vary between 200,000 and 400,000. Fujian is generally regarded as one of the areas of China that applied regulations on religion more liberally than others, but some sources indicate that police and local officials continue to arrest underground Catholic priests and parishioners and to demolish churches. Sources consulted also indicate that Chinese authorities continue to appoint Bishops to dioceses in Fujian without the approval of the Vatican, and that local authorities take action against underground Catholics to serve the financial interests of local officials.

Arrests of Bishops and parishioners in Fujian

On 24 March 2010, Catholic news website Asia News reported the arrest of Fr. Liu Maochun, an underground Catholic priest from the diocese of Mindong in Fujian, for being involved in the organisation of a camp for university students. Another priest involved in the camp, Fr. John Baptist Luo Wen, is reported to have been previously arrested and released after fifteen days imprisonment. Asia News also reports that two other priests involved in the camp “received a notice of detention and expect to be taken into custody in the near future”.

A September 2005 Gospel Post claims that in Fujian, as in other provinces, it is the local authorities and not the central government who have been responsible for implementing official policy on religion. They reportedly “enjoy wide latitude” in acting against underground church groups, and “anecdotal accounts suggest that local authorities have
perpetrated religious freedom violations to serve the financial and political interests of local officials."\(^6\)

An August 2005 report from *BBC News* describes the death at 88 of Xie Shinguang, the bishop of the diocese of Mingdong in Fujian. He had served four separate prison terms during his life, totalling 28 years, and “according to the Vatican was kept under surveillance by the authorities until his death”. His diocese was said to number 75,000 followers.\(^7\)

In July 2005, *Asia News* reported the arrest of Fr. Lin Daixian, “an underground Roman Catholic priest belonging to the Pingtan parish of the Fuzhou diocese (Fujian)”, along with a seminarian and nine parishioners. The arrests took place during a Mass at a private home, and parishioners were reportedly severely beaten by police while trying to prevent the arrest of Fr. Lin.\(^8\)

An Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB) response to information request dated 7 September 2005 comments on the situation of Catholics in Fujian province, reporting the arrest of underground Catholic clergy in Changle in 2003 and parishioners attending catechism classes in 2002:

> Human Rights in China (HRIC) commented in 4 August 2005 correspondence to the Research Directorate that the treatment of Christians is poor in southern China, particularly in the rural areas, though the organisation could not elaborate, citing a lack of available information. In 2002, the Cardinal Kung Foundation reported that unregistered Catholics were arrested while attending catechism classes in Fujian (n.d.). In 2003, a group of seminarians in Changle, near Fuzhou, were also arrested while reading the book containing the day’s service during a picnic (Cardinal Kung Foundation n.d.).\(^9\)

The 2005 IRB report also cites a 2005 report from the Executive Secretary of the Hong Kong Christian Council, which states that “reports had been received of a few arrests of Catholic priests in the years 2003 to 2005, but overall most Christians in Fujian – Protestant and Catholic – were able to practise their faith according to their conscience”.\(^10\)

A May 2005 report by the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) contains the following unsourced information in its section on China:

> The government…continues its repression of the unregistered Roman Catholic Church in China, which maintains its allegiance to the Vatican. There are at least 20 Catholic bishops or priests under arrest, imprisoned or detained, including Bishop Su Zhimin, who has been in prison, in detention, under house arrest, or under strict surveillance since the 1970s. Clergy in Hebei, Fujian, and Heilongjiang provinces were harassed, detained and arrested during the past year.\(^11\)

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\(^10\) ibid

A July 2002 report from Agence France-Presse states that “thirty Roman Catholic worshippers, including 25 children, were detained for holding an illegal summer vacation church service in southeastern China’s Fujian province, police officials and a US-based religious group said Sunday”.12

**Church demolitions in Fujian**

A September 2006 report also sourced from Asia News claims that police and local officials in Pingtan, Fujian, destroyed an unofficial Catholic church built by local parishioners in Youtouchang village. According to this report, police have also threatened to destroy another unofficial church in nearby Ao Oian village.13

A May 2002 report from Agence France-Presse provides details of two churches torn down in Changle city. The churches were “relatively small, with 40 to 50 regular parishioners each”, and they were demolished using bulldozers. The five churches torn down the previous year in Changle and Fuping were reportedly larger, each having about 2500 for Sunday services. 20 to 30 priests from the churches were detained for about 10 days. A priest claimed that there seemed to be a crackdown underway, and that four or five other churches had been demolished in 2000.14

On the 1999 demolitions of Catholic churches in Fujian, DFAT advised:

According to a well-informed, long-term observer of the unofficial church from whom the Australian Embassy in Beijing sought advice in mid-1999, the authorities in Fujian demolished some churches earlier in 1999 to make the point that all structures must have planning approval. They also demolished a number of unapproved commercial and residential structures. The problem for members of the unofficial church is that planning approval is unlikely to be given for any but official church buildings, so that the existence of an unapproved building depends on the continued tolerance of the local authorities.15

**Other reports on Catholics in Fujian**

An article sourced from the Miami Herald, dated 14 January 2007, claims that the Chinese Communist party has “partially relaxed its grip on religious activity” and that in Nanping, in Fujian, “religion thrives”. The article also indicates that in Nanping “[a] state-controlled Catholic Church draws new members, as does a parallel but underground Catholic Church that’s loyal to the Vatican.”16

A May 2006 report from The Times notes the installation of a Catholic bishop in “Mindong diocese in southeastern Fujian province, where the Catholic Church is particularly strong but where most of the faithful are members of an underground church loyal to Rome”. The appointment was controversial “because it was sanctioned by China’s state approved church but has not been blessed” by the Pope.17

A May 2006 report by the Catholic news website Asia News comments on the installation of the new bishop: “yesterday’s gesture reflects the intention of the Patriotic Association

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(PA) to reaffirm its power over the official Church, filling vacant Episcopal offices in China with personnel it can trust”. The new bishop, Zhan Silu, was “recognised neither by the Vatican nor by the faithful of Mindong” and his masses had been “deserted by the faithful” and were attended only by “a few of his relatives and the odd PA employee”. The installation was “also an attempt to stand in the way of the choice made by the Vatican for another candidate” who was “a bishop of the underground church” and “much loved and respected”.  

Two older reports from the Canadian Immigration and Refugee Board, from 1999 and 2000, are included as attachment as they provide some useful, if dated, background material on Christians and the treatment of Catholics in Fujian. 

**List of Catholic Churches in Fujian**

The following list of Catholic churches in Fujian is sourced from Charbonnier’s 2008 publication *Guide to the Catholic Church in China*. Charbonnier does not specify in his guide whether these churches are official or unofficial, and his presentation of the information can be confusing. Nonetheless, the information follows below.

4 Dioceses: Fuzhou, Minbei, Mindong (Fu’an), and Xiamen.

4 Bishops, 2 unofficial; 30 priests; 200 sisters; 210,000 adherents.

Present official head: Auxiliary Bishop Lin Jiashan.

**FUZHOU DIOCESE**

West Gate Catholic Church  
164 Guxi Road, Fuzhou City, Fujian  
Priest: He Dunqian

Hongshanqiao Church (5 km w. of Fuzhou)  
Fanchuanpu Holy Rosary Church  
21 Xinmin St, Cangshan District, Fuzhou  
Priests: Wang Gengxian, Chen Minghua

Cangxiazhou Sacred Heart Church  
8 Jingyi Lane, Cangxiazhou  
Priest: Li Ronghua

Fuzhou Wanbian Catholic Church (8km south of Fuzhou)

**Minhou** (20km west of Fuzhou)

Shangjiezheng Qingzhou Laoguang Church  
Priest: Wang Wenhua

Shangjiexhang Bailucun Catholic Church

Xiaoxingcun Catholic Church

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Nanjiang Catholic Church
Nanxi Catholic Church
Nanyuzhen Catholic Church

**Minqing** (52km west of Fuzhou)
City Church, 47 North Grand Road

**Luoyuan** (72 km north of Fuzhou)
26 Beihuanlu Catholic Church

**Changle** (33km south-east of Fuzhou)
St Joseph Church
3 Sanfeng Lane, Changle

**Heshang Catholic Church** (6km east of Changle)
Longtian Guhuai St Joseph Church (10 km south of Changle)

Jinfeng (15km n-e of Changle)
Priests: Lin Jiashan, Ye Bo, Yang Shudoa (unofficial Bishop)

Tantou (5 km north of Jinfeng)
Meeting place, Catholics: 100 to 200

**Putian** (95 km s. of Fuzhou, 88km n-e of Quanzhou, formerly part of Xiamen Diocese)
City Church of Saint Joseph
City Shizijie Church, Putian shi, Fujian
Priests: Han Keyun from Shandong, Li Xinrong, Chen Lixiong
Gouxia Catholic Church

**Hanjiang** (15 km east of Putian)
Catholic church, 36 Tangbei
Priest: Chen Lixiong
Sisters: Huang Xiuying, Huang Yingge

Huangshi (10km south of Putian)
Dongyangcun Church
Daitouxiang (35km s. of Putian)
Yingtian Catholic Church
Zhanglin Catholic Church
Tingqi Catholic Church
Liucuo Catholic Church
Cengcuo Catholic Church

**Islands north of Daitouxiang**
Gaobei Catholic Church
Pinghai (44km south of Putian)
Rosary Church
Priest: Li Xinrong
Xiecuo St Joseph Church
Shangdian St Joseph Church
Shishi Sacred Heart Church
Daibeizhou O.L Fatima Ch.
Xiabian Saint Joseph Church
Hunan Holy Rosary Church
Nanri Island
Yanxia “enlightened village”
Catholic Church
Caohu Catholic Church
Xianyou (45km west of Putian)
Dapu Holy Rosary Church
Fuqing (35km south-west of Changle)
City church, Dongmenliqiao
Longtian Church of the Im. Heart of Mary
(consec. on 08-06-2002)
Jiangyin Island (35km south of Fuqing)
Yangbian Church
Priest: Liu Hongxing
Jiangjing (25km s-e of Fuqing)
Catholic community
Pingtan Island
146 Jiangzikou City Catholic Church
Priest: Zhang Hongwu

MINBEI (NORTH FUJIAN) DIOCESE
Administrator: Fr. Wu Yishun

Jian’ou Diocese
Jian’ou (kienow) (300km n-w of Fuzhou)
22 Bajiaolou Catholic Church
Priest: Chu Zhaohu

Shaowu Diocese
Nanping (230km n-w of Fuzhou)
New Catholic Church (07-12-2002)
107 Dongshan Road
Priest: Wu Yishun
Shaowu (400km n-w of Fuzhou)
Yanshan Catholic Church (09-05-2002)
277 Wusi Road Church
Guangze (nord de Shaowu)
St Joseph Church
Yanshan Catholic Church
Shaxian (south of Shaowu)
Catholic Community
Wuyishan (167km north of Nanping)
74 Nanmen Street Catholic Church
Priest: Fu Guigen
Jiangle (101km west of Nanping)
4 Yuhua lane, Jianshe Street Cat. Church
Priest: Guo Siting

MINDONG DIOCESE
Bishop: Zhan Silu
Huang Shoucheng (unofficial bishop)

**Fu’an** (191km north of Fuzhou)
City Catholic Church
68 Zhongxing Road East Rd
Priest: Duan Husheng

Kangcuo (46km south-west of Fu’an)
Muyang Catholic Church
148 Xicheng Street, Muyangzhen, Fu’an
Priest: Ling Chun
Muyunxiang Waifyingcun Cat. Church

**Xiapu** (64km south-east of Fu’an)
Shajiangzhen, 16 Chudianshangjie Church
Xiabaishizhen (73km south of Fu’an)
Dingtoucun Catholic Church
148 Tengjiang Road, Xiabiashi
Fu’an shi
Priest: Han Xiaogang (from Changzhi SX)

Ningde (73km south of Fu'an)
Ningde City Church
Qiaocheng qu, 1 North Avenue
Priest: Zhan Silu

Guiqi Catholic Community
Tashan (Donghutang) Wucuo Church
Wucuo, Tashan, Ningde shi
Dominican Sisters of China
Waitang Catholic Community
Priest: Liu Hezhong
Xiadun Catholic Church
Zhangwanzhen Nancheng
Xiadun Ruancuo

**Gutian** (120km west of Ningde)
Nanshan Road Catholic Church

**XIAMEN DIOCESE**
Administrator: Cai Bingrui
Priest: Shen Zhihong (2006-10-14)

**Xiamen** (300km south of Fuzhou)
Chapel north of the old city
15 Ci’an Road, 1st Fl.
Sisters: Cai Cuiqin, Shen Suman

**Gulangyu Sacred Heart Church**
34 Luijiao Road, Xiamen, Gulangyu, Fujian
Priest: Domingo Jiang Hengsan

**Zhangzhou** (69km west of Xiamen)
Sacred Heart Church  
Next to the park (Fanghua Road)  
Priest: Cai Bingrui  

Shipu Catholic Church (south)  
Houban Holy Rosary Church  
(Aupo) – Est of Zhangzhou  
Lingdong St. Joseph Church  
(10km east of Zhangzhou)  
**Longhai** (south-east of Zhnagzhou)  
Linxia (10km south of Zhangzhou)  
Our Lady of Lourdes Church  
Shimahzen (Longhai city)  
(23km east of Zhangzhou)  
Church of the Holy Family, 16 Jinjiang dao  
Priest: Cai Guoquan  
Gangweixiang Meishicun  
Church of the Immaculate Conception  
Gucheng Rosary Church  
Baishuizhen Zhuanglin Cat. Church  
Dapu Catholic Church  
**Yongding** (205km w. of Zhangzhou)  
Fengchengzhen Dongxiang  
Daxiangli Yongding Catholic Church  
**Quanzhou** (94km n-e of Xiamen)  
Catholic church  
Site: Huaxiang market  
Priest: Jiang Lianmo  
**Hui’an** (29km n-e of Quanzhou)  
Sacred Heart Church  
Zhangbanxiang Yutangcun  
Pilgrimage to St Joseph  
Lay leader: Sun Kunfeng  

**Tingzhou Diocese**  
Ninghua  
10 Hongxingping Cat. Church  

2. Please provide comprehensive information on the treatment of Catholics in Fuqing and Fuzhou.

There is insufficient information on the treatment of Catholics in Fuqing or Fuzhou to provide a comprehensive assessment. It is likely that the situation for Catholics in Fuqing and Fuzhou is similar to that of Catholics throughout Fujian province. The available information follows below.
**Fuqing**

The Chinese Wikipedia page on the diocese of Fuzhou estimates that there are 40,000 Catholics in Fuqing.  

A May 2002 *Agence France-Presse* article, sourcing information to a local Catholic resident, reports that two unofficial Catholic churches in Fujian were destroyed by police. The man also said that five large churches were “flattened” in Changle and nearby Fuqing the previous year.  

In his 2008 *Guide to the Catholic Church in China*, Charbonnier identifies two Catholic churches and a Catholic community in Fuqing (no definitive comment is made as to whether they are registered or underground churches).  

As noted in Question 1 above, Charbonnier identifies the Catholic churches and community in Fuqing as follows:

- Fuqing (35km south-west of Changle)  
  - City church, Dongmenliqiao  
  - Longtian Church of the Im. Heart of Mary  
    (consec. On 08-6-2002)  
  - Jiangyin Island (35km south of Fuqing)  
  - Yangbian Church, Priest: Liu Hongxing  
  - Jiangjing (25km s-e of Fuqing)  
  - Catholic community.  

The Chinese Wikipedia website for the Catholic Archdiocese of Fuzhou provides the following list of Catholic churches in Fuqing:

- 福清市: (Fuqing City)  
- 城关利桥天主堂 – Chengguan Lee Bridge Church/Chengtou - 35 kilometres north  
- 海口天主堂 – Haikou Church – 30 kilometres north  
- 龙田天主堂 – Lung Church/Longtian – 23 kilometres north  
- 江阴天主堂 – Jiangyin Church – 24 kilometres west  
- 渔溪天主堂 – Fishery Creek Church/Yuxi – 30 kilometres north west  
- 高山天主堂等 – Church and other mountain/Gaoshan – 5 kilometres.  

What appears to be a semi-official Chinese Catholic language site ([www.ccccn.org](http://www.ccccn.org)) provides clear references to three Catholic churches in Fuqing area: JiangJing, Longtian and Haikou:

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21 ‘Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Fuzhou’ 2010, Google translation of Wikipedia website, 10 May  
[http://translate.googleusercontent.com/translate_c?hl=en&u=http://zh.wikipedia.org/zh/%E5%A4%A9%E4%B8%BB%E6%95%99%E5%B7%9E%E6%80%BB%E6%95%99%E5%8C%BA&rurl=translate.google.com&usg=ALkJrhhpvLIH9MK2F6gUWB2TOUlpZoW3bg](http://translate.googleusercontent.com/translate_c?hl=en&u=http://zh.wikipedia.org/zh/%E5%A4%A9%E4%B8%BB%E6%95%99%E5%B7%9E%E6%80%BB%E6%95%99%E5%8C%BA&rurl=translate.google.com&usg=ALkJrhhpvLIH9MK2F6gUWB2TOUlpZoW3bg) – Accessed 11 May 2010 – Attachment 19.  
24 ‘Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Fuzhou’ 2010, Google translation of Wikipedia website, 10 May  
[http://translate.googleusercontent.com/translate_c?hl=en&u=http://zh.wikipedia.org/zh/%E5%A4%A9%E4%B8%BB%E6%95%99%E5%B7%9E%E6%80%BB%E6%95%99%E5%8C%BA&rurl=translate.google.com&usg=ALkJrhhpvLIH9MK2F6gUWB2TOUlpZoW3bg](http://translate.googleusercontent.com/translate_c?hl=en&u=http://zh.wikipedia.org/zh/%E5%A4%A9%E4%B8%BB%E6%95%99%E5%B7%9E%E6%80%BB%E6%95%99%E5%8C%BA&rurl=translate.google.com&usg=ALkJrhhpvLIH9MK2F6gUWB2TOUlpZoW3bg) – Accessed 11 May 2010 – Attachment 19.
Name: South China under the pastoral village of St. Joseph’s Church Hall
Province: Fujian cities and counties: Fuzhou Address: Jiang Jing Town, Fuqing City, Fujian Province, South China Morning Post, under the pastoral village of Code: 350,316

Name: Longtian Church Province: Fujian cities and counties: Fuzhou Address: Longtian Town, Fuqing City, Fujian Province Post Code three villages: 350,315

Haikou Church Province: Fujian cities and counties: Fuzhou Address: Haikou Town, Fuqing City, Village, Haikou Postal Code: 350,313.

A photograph of Longtian Catholic church is provided as Attachment 21.

**Fuzhou**

A 2005 list of Christian prisoners in China by the Open Doors group mentions that Zhang Ruipin, an underground Catholic priest from Fuzhou in Fujian, was arrested in 12 April 2003.

A 2008 report from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) noted that “a fact-finding mission to Fuzhou in 2000 by the Counsellor from the Canadian Embassy in Beijing commented on Fujian’s high degree of religious tolerance…”

In January 2000 Reuters News, citing Fides (an agency of the Vatican’s missionary arm), stated that thirteen church buildings were destroyed in 1999 in Fuzhou diocese of Fujian.

A list of Catholic churches in Fuzhou is provided in Question 1 above.

**Attachments**


2. ‘China’ 2010, Operation World website, 15 January


4. ‘Church destroyed in Fujian, another to follow shortly’ 2006, *Asia News*, 4 September


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8. Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2005, CHN100386.E – China: Situation of Catholics and treatment by authorities, particularly in Fujian and Guangdong (2001-2005), 7 September. (REFINFO)


10. ‘30 Catholics in southeastern China detained for underground services’ 2002, Agence France-Presse, 21 July. (FACTIVA)


19. ‘Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Fuzhou’ 2010, Google translation of Wikipedia website, 10 May

20. ‘Fujian – Fuzhou – Fuqing City’ (undated), Google translation of Roman Catholic Church nationwide online inquiry system website

21. ‘龙田天主教堂’ (Longtian Catholic Church) (undated),


23. Department of Immigration and Citizenship Country Research Section 2008, China’s Protestants and Catholics, November. (CISNET)