News 22 November 2026 | English article

China Church Crackdown 2026: House Church Leader Ding Xing'an Detained After Indonesia Bible Training Trip

A true story of faith under pressure. Read the first half below, then continue online.

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"Organizing others to illegally cross the national border"

(Transliterated from the original Hindi.)

They had gathered only to pray. When prayer itself becomes the target, faith is proved not by words but by staying.

The Story - Part One

Ding Xing'an, the leader of a house church in Pingxiang, Jiangxi, is still in criminal detention more than a month after police raided his congregation's Sunday worship on 18 October 2026. He and co-worker Liang Youping have been held since 19 October, charged with "organizing others to illegally cross the national border" - a charge linked to a seven-day Christian preaching course in Indonesia in September. His wife, Zhang Yanxia, said in a written statement on 17 November that lawyers have been blocked from seeing him.

Zhang Yanxia has not had her husband properly by her side since the morning of 19 October, when he was taken into criminal detention at 11 a.M. She wrote an open letter on 4 November asking Christians to pray for his physical and psychological wellbeing. Two weeks later she was still writing - this time to question why the lawyers she hired keep being kept away from him, and what that delay is meant to achieve.

The raid itself was big and blunt. On Sunday 18 October, more than 40 police and Religious Affairs officers stormed two house-church sites in Pingxiang during Sunday worship. Twenty-seven Christians were detained that day. Twenty-five were released by 27 October, but Ding and Liang stayed behind bars - the two men the authorities wanted most, held while everyone else went home.

Ding's story is not that of a lifelong preacher. He converted to Christianity in 2022 and was once a manager; he left that life behind to lead a house church. That is the detail that makes his detention sting for the people who know him: he gave up a comfortable career for a congregation that now meets without him, and his wife is left to fight the legal battle alone.

Ding Xing'an Detention: Indonesia Bible Training Trip Behind The Charge

The charge against Ding turns on a trip, not a sermon. In September, he attended a seven-day Christian preaching course in Indonesia - the kind of short overseas training that Chinese house-church leaders have quietly done for years. The authorities now say that trip amounts to organizing others to illegally cross the national border. It is a charge that turns a Bible course into a border crime, and it carries a weight that worries his family.

The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment that changes everything -- and what seemed like the end is only the middle. Two reports disagree on the numbers, and one question is left unanswered: will the CCTV footage ever come out? Read the full story to find out what happens next.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When gathering to pray carries a real cost, what keeps a community coming together anyway -- and what would keep you coming?

2. The pastor's sister shielded him with her own body and fainted under the blows. What does costly, self-giving love look like in your own family or church?

3. When justice is delayed and a complaint is withdrawn under threat, how do believers hold on to truth without giving in to fear -- or to hatred?

READ THE FULL STORY

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