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China Arrests Beijing House Church Pastor Edward Cui After 100-Officer Raid

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

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"Pastor Xianfeng Edward Cui, founder of Beijing's unregistered Jiaquan Church, was formally arrested on 23 October 2026 on fraud charges, his wife Jin Young Gu has confirmed to The Associated Press"

(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

Pastor Xianfeng Edward Cui, founder of Beijing's unregistered Jiaquan Church, was formally arrested on 23 October 2026 on fraud charges, his wife Jin Young Gu has confirmed to The Associated Press. Cui, who has been in custody since a police raid on his congregation on 4 September, is being held at the Shijingshan District Detention Center in Beijing. The charge centres on offerings given by church members, a claim supporters say is a pretext for punishing a church that refuses to register with the state.

The raid occured on the morning of 4 September, when around 100 police officers moved on the church as about 50 members gathered in a hotel conference room to prepare for its 20th-anniversary celebration. Eight Christians were placed in criminal detention that day.

Seven were later released on bail. Only Cui remains behind bars, and his formal arrest, seven weeks later, turned a detention into a criminal case.

Cui founded Jiaquan Church in 2006, and for two decades it grew as one of Beijing's best-known unregistered congregations, meeting outside the state-approved Three-Self system. By 2019 the authorities had sealed the congregation's worship facility, forcing members to gather in smaller groups.

In 2023 officials warned Cui to lead only one church, with fewer than 100 people. He kept preaching, and the congregation kept meeting.

For Jin Young Gu, the arrest notice ended weeks of uncertainty. Gu, a Korean national, has been denied a visa to return to China since 2023, and she has followed her husband's case from outside the country.

She told the AP that the fraud charge rests on the congregation's offerings, money given freely by believers for the life of the church. Her account is now the clearest public record of what happened to Cui, and it has put a human face on a case the authorities have not explained in public.

When the offering plate becomes evidence in a court case, faith itself feels like it is on trial. Yet believers keep giving, keep praying, and keep gathering in small rooms where no camera is watching. Hope, for them, is not a feeling but a habit: show up, sing softly, and trust that God sees what the state cannot.

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?

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