

## DOCUMENTATION

### *Identifying and Banning of Cultic Organizations – A Document from Public Security Ministry*

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To Public Security offices and bureaus of all provinces, autonomous regions, metropolises and those at the Xinjiang production and construction regiments.

Pursuant to the spirit of “Opinion on Relevant Issues Concerning Dealing with some Socially Harmful Qi Gong Organizations” issued by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council (Central Directive [2002] No. 5), and in accordance with the “Decision on Banning of Cult Organizations, Preventing and Punishing Cult Activities,” issued by the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress,” with reference to the “Interpretations on Relevant Issues on the Application of the Law Concerning Dealing with Criminal Cases Involving Organizing and Utilizing Cult Organizations,” issued by the Supreme Court and the Supreme Procuratorate,” this notice is issued in response to relevant issues concerning the identification and banning of cult organizations as follows:

- 1) Any organization with the following characteristics shall be identified as a cult:
  - a) Those that set up illegal organizations in the name of religion, Qigong, etc.
  - b) Those that deify their leaders.
  - c) Those that initiate and spread superstitions and heterodox beliefs.
  - d) Those that utilize various means to fabricate and spread superstitious and heterodox [or cultic]

beliefs to excite doubts and deceive the people, recruit and control its members by various means.

- e) Those who engage in disturbing social order in an organized manner that brings injury to the lives and properties of the citizens.

2) The identification of cultic groups shall be done by the Public Security Offices [local and prefectural,] the Public Security Bureau (provincial) and the Public Security Ministry (national) of the different provinces, autonomous regions and the metropolises in accordance with the different situation of the activities of the cultic organizations in each location.

Those cultic organizations that engage in their activities in a certain province shall be identified (as cultic) by the Public Security Bureau of that province or autonomous region, and metropolises after the local public security offices have identified them. Those cultic groups that carry on their work across the provinces, autonomous regions, etc. shall be identified as cults by the Ministry of Public Security [of the central government].

3) When an organization is suspected of being involved in cultic activity, local public security authorities shall immediately conduct an investigation, to find out their basic situation and collect necessary criminal evidence. When they consider such an organization fitting the characteristics defined for a cult, the local public security authorities shall submit a written report to the Public Security Bureau or office of that province, or autonomous region, and or the metropolises to which they belong.

After the provincial level of the public security has verified the report, and after further investigation and the confirmation of the report based on the different situations of the group's activities, the findings should be sent to the National Ministry of Public Security requesting it to approve the group as legal or to accept its recommendations.

The Ministry of Public Security shall, after having examined the recommendations and related evidence submitted by the provincial level of public security authorities, approve (as legal) or confirm such groups as cultic.

- 4) The task of banning the cultic organizations shall be carried out by the local public authorities where such cults appear.
- 5) The assets, properties owned by a cult organization, as well as goods and tools used for cult activities shall be searched and confiscated according to law. The houses used for cult activity shall be sealed up and confiscated according to law.
- 6) With respect to the suspected organizations, the organizers who use the cultic organization to conduct criminal activities, the planners, the director of such activities and their core members shall be subject to investigation for their criminal responsibility. For those who voluntarily surrender to the authorities or perform any meritorious services, can receive recommendation for reduction or exemption from punishment, when the case is transferred to the People's Procuratorate for prosecution.
- 7) After a cult organization is banned, those core members who were engaged in the organization and communication with respect to cultic activities shall be ordered to register themselves at the designated public security authorities within a time limit granted to them and terminate their former relations with their former cultic group in repentance. For the ordinary people who were deceived or coerced into participating in cultic activities, they shall not be considered members of the cult, and they need not be registered. They should not be dealt with and treated as members of the cult organization.
- 8) In the process of banning the cult organizations and punishing cult activity according to law, we should persistently unite and educate the majority of the deceived ordinary people, helping them to fully realize the harm the cult organization inflicts, to oppose the cult self-consciously, to break away from them, and resist their control and influence, heighten the concepts of legality and obey the State law.

Seal: Ministry of Public Security of PRC

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