



# BITTER WINTER


A new online magazine on religious liberty and human rights in China

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*Bitter Winter* is an online magazine from CESNUR, the Center for Studies on New Religions based in Torino, Italy.

- Daily news online on religion in China
- Hard-to-get news from sources across China
- Comments from scholars and human rights activists
- Coverage of both mainline religion and new religious movements in China

Published under the editorship of Massimo Introvigne, one of the most well-known scholars of religion internationally, *Bitter Winter* started its publication in May 2018, with three editions in English, Chinese, and Korean. Japanese, German, French, Spanish, and Italian editions are now being prepared.

 *Bitter Winter* in English: <https://bitterwinter.org>

 *Bitter Winter* in Chinese (寒冬): <https://zh.bitterwinter.org>

 *Bitter Winter* in Korean (비터 윈터): <https://ko.bitterwinter.org>

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## A Letter from the Editor

### *A Daily Magazine on Religion in China*

In 2018, China was due to appear before the Human Rights Council of the United Nations in Geneva for the Universal Periodic Review, an assessment of the human rights situation all UN member states should submit to every five years. In the same year 2018, Xi Jinping moved to consolidate his position as potential president for life in China, and new and more restrictive laws on religion came into force. 2018 is also the year when *Bitter Winter* started being published as a daily online magazine devoted to religion and religious liberty in China.

*Bitter Winter* reports on how religions are allowed, or not allowed, to operate in China and how some are severely persecuted after they are labeled as “xie jiao,” or heterodox teachings. We publish news difficult to find elsewhere, based on reports we receive directly from China, comments, and debates. Unlike other worthy media outlets about religion in China, we also focus on new religious movements, not only on mainline religions.

*Bitter Winter* is a cooperative enterprise by scholars, human rights activists, and members of religious organizations active in China (some of them have elected, for obvious reasons, to remain anonymous). It is independent from any religious or political organization, although welcoming the cooperation of many, and the fruit of volunteer work by those who work on it, although donations are gladly accepted.



A church is destroyed in Yucheng, Henan - Exclusive photo smuggled from China for *Bitter Winter*

Massimo Introvigne

### *Editor-in-Chief*

#### **Massimo Introvigne**

One of the leading international scholars of new religious movements, Massimo Introvigne is managing director of CESNUR and the author of some sixty books. In 2011, he served as the Representative of OSCE (Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe) for combating racism, xenophobia, and intolerance and discrimination against Christians and members of other religions.

### *Associate Editors:*

#### **Rosita Šorytė**

After 25 years of experience as a Lithuanian diplomat, Rosita Šorytė currently serves as president of ORLIR, the International Observatory of Religious Liberty of Refugees. In a distinguished diplomatic career, she has been, inter alia, chairperson of the European Union Working Group on Humanitarian Aid.

#### **Willy Fautré**

A well-known international expert and activist for human rights and religious liberty, Willy Fautré has worked for the Belgian Parliament. In 1989, he has founded Human Rights Without Frontiers Belgium, and in 2001, Human Rights Without Frontiers International.

### *Director-in-Charge*

#### **Marco Respinti**

Marco Respinti is an Italian journalist and a frequent lecturer on religious, political, and literary issues. He is a former senior editor of the Italian cultural weekly *il Domenicale* and a Senior Fellow of The Russell Kirk Center, Mecosta, Michigan. He is also Director-in-Charge of *The Journal of CESNUR*.

### *News Editor*

#### **Arūnė Kontautaitė**

After having worked in the Lithuanian Parliament, private companies, and non-governmental organizations, Arūnė Kontautaitė is now a communication consultant specializing in human rights.