

Week 2: Pray for Alimujiang Yimiti (China)

Arrest and background Alimujiang Yimiti (43) is a Uighur Christian from Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region in northwest China. He has been in prison since he was detained in January 2008 for *"illegally providing state secrets to foreigners"*, a charge based on his meeting American Christians. He was held illegally for over a year without sentence and was tried in secret in May 2008 and July 2009. In August 2009, he was convicted and sentenced to 15 years in prison. It was the harshest sentence given to a church leader in China in a decade.

In September 2008, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention declared that Alimujiang's detention was arbitrary and based solely on his *"religious faith and religious activities"*. In 2010, two appeals failed. He is being held in Xinjiang No. 3 Prison in Urumqi, the capital of Xinjiang province.



A former Muslim, Alimujiang became a Christian in 1995. He worked as an orchard manager and led a house church in Kashgar, and those close to the case say the reason for his imprisonment is his Christian faith and witness among the Uighur people. In the years prior to Alimujiang's arrest, the police repeatedly called him in for interrogation about his Christian activities.

Most of the 9 million Uighurs are Muslims and the Chinese government fears their separatist ambitions. Security is very tight in Xinjiang province because of frequent Uighur terrorist attacks since 2009. The few Uighur Christians risk ostracism and government suppression.

Family Alimujiang is married to Guli Nuer and they have two sons aged 9 and 16. His siblings blame Guli Nuer for his imprisonment and for bringing disgrace on the family. His mother Wuxiuerhan supports him, and over the years has been permitted brief prison visits. Guli Nuer was not allowed to visit Alimujiang for two years after his arrest, and their youngest son was four before he was allowed to visit. The boys have struggled in his absence, and Guli Nuer has suffered from depression.

Latest news In late 2015, Alimujiang was offered a pardon on condition that he admit to guilt. He refused, protesting his innocence and claiming that his sentence was the result of provincial government corruption. In 2016, hope grew that his case might go to the Supreme Court in Beijing for retrial, following the removal of Xinjiang's Communist Party Secretary in August amid an anti-corruption enquiry. At Christmas 2016, a Han Chinese Christian in Urumqi who was involved in helping Alimujiang's wife was detained for a day.

Prayer Diary

Sunday	Pray that Alimujiang would be released soon.
Monday	Ask God to keep him healthy and strong in his faith.
Tuesday	Pray for his two sons, who miss having a father at home.
Wednesday	Ask God to encourage and strengthen Guli Nuer.
Thursday	Pray for Alimujiang's mother Wuxiuerhan.
Friday	Ask God for the provision of enough visiting permits for his family.
Saturday	Pray that God would bless and protect Uighur Christians.