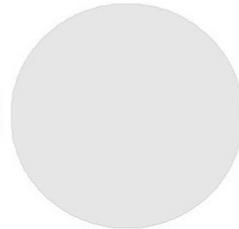
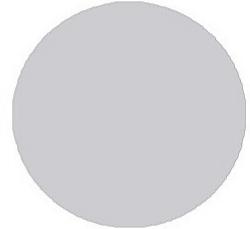
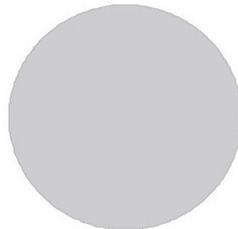
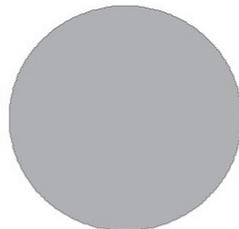


# Clearwisdom Digest

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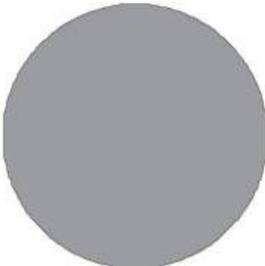
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# News and Events from Around the World



### *New York: Divine Performing Arts Plays to a Full House in Manhattan*

On the evening of August 24, 2008, Divine Performing Arts once again presented the compassion and beauty of traditional Chinese to a packed house at the Hammerstein Ballroom at Manhattan Center Studios. The performance was given to celebrate the successful conclusion of the second annual International Chinese Classical Dance Competition. The western and Chinese audience members, including contestants of the series of competitions hosted by New Tang Dynasty Television (NTDTV) were greatly impressed. The award ceremony for the second annual International Chinese Classical Dance Competition was held after the show.



Comments from the Bronze Award Winner for the Adult Female Division of the International Chinese Classical Dance Competition Taiwan contestant Huang Ting-jie said that she liked the performance by Divine Performing Arts very much. She had attended the performance by Divine Performing Arts when it toured Taiwan this March, and this was the second time that she saw the show. Beside Chinese classical dance, Huang Ting-jie has also studied other dance forms, but she likes the Chinese classical dance very much. It is because Chinese dance is the most diversified, and has the most profound inner meaning. Tong Yan, The Gold Award Winner for the International Chinese Violin Competition had thought the performance was great, spectacular attending the performance by Divine Performing Arts for the first time. She said, "I sat at the back, I also wanted to dance with them. The performance was fantastic, spectacular." "I liked the dance performance 'Lady of the Moon.' It was very impressive. I also like the voice of the tenor." Tong Yan continued by saying that she felt the music was very pleasant and comfortable. She said, "When I listen to the music, I don't think of whether the music is good or not, I think that music that makes listeners feel comfortable is good music."

Tong Yan concluded by saying, "I hope everybody will come to see the show. I also hope that anyone who has the right conditions will take part in the competitions hosted by NTDTV, because you can learn a lot from them."

Mr. Jiang from Shanghai Theater Academy, "The music is beautiful". Mr. Jiang was a composer when he was at the Shanghai Theater Academy. He felt the music in the performance left a special impression on him. He thought the coordination of the music and dances was harmonious, and he was impressed with their beauty. His favorite dance performance was "The Legend of Yue Fei."

"Everything is incredibly beautiful", Michael came to attend the performance by Divine Performing Arts from New Jersey. She said, "I liked the show very much, it was the first time that I saw a Chinese-style performance. The performance was really a success. It's hard for me to say which performance was my favorite, because everything was incredibly beautiful, including the costumes and colors. I thought the message (about Falun Gong) expressed in the performance was very good. I was very happy to see this message."

"I have never seen such a wonderful performance". Lawyer Daphne Palose attended the performance with her friends. During the intermission, they carefully filled out the questionnaire prepared for the audience, and excitedly expressed their happiness. Daphne said, "It is a wonderful performance. I've always admired Chinese culture but I have never seen such a wonderful performance. What I liked the most is not only the beauty of the performance, but the spiritual message that the performance expressed. I liked it very much." Her friend said, "It was a perfect performance. Everything was so beautiful, the music, the costumes, and the performance. I enjoyed it very much."

"I sincerely suggest that everybody come to see the show" Sandra came to see the show with her friends. She sincerely told the reporter, "The whole performance was fantastic, especially when all the cast returned to the stage at the end of the performance, which showed a special big family. The whole performance was beautiful. The performance (The Risen Lotus Flower), that depicts what is happening in China, was very important. I sincerely suggest that everybody come to see the show, to have their own experience. I liked that young girl who played piano, too."

## ***RSF Presents New Evidence Refuting Eutelsat's Claim that "Technical Problems" Are Responsible for Shutting Down NTDTV's Signals***

Eutelsat's shutting down New Tang Dynasty Television's (NTDTV) broadcasts to China has drawn attention from people from all walks of life. Following its previous investigative report which exposed that Eutelsat succumbed to pressure from the Chinese Communist regime, Reporters Without Borders (RSF), headquartered in Paris, France released a statement on August 18, 2008 that Eutelsat is technically capable of restoring NTDTV's broadcasts into Asia. RSF once again urged Eutelsat's CEO Giuliano Berretta to respect non-discrimination, equal access and media pluralism enshrined in the company's charter, and immediately resume NTDTV's transmissions to China.

Eutelsat has claimed that four of the satellite's transponders, including C4 and C6, had to be turned off to allow the other 20 transponders to function. Moreover, Eutelsat insisted in its press release on July 11 and when they met NTDTV representative Wang Shaojiu on August 6, that it would not be technically possible to get the four transponders running again. But according to new information obtained by RSF, transponder C6 has been used again for transmitting satellite signals.

RSF asked, "Why is Eutelsat refusing to broadcast NTDTV and three radio stations although some of the transponders that were turned off in June have again been used?"

RSF also emphasized in its statement that the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) has just withdrawn Voice of America (VOA) and Radio Free Asia (RFA) from the W5 satellite, which leaves sufficient capacity on transponder C2 (that BBG was on), for restoring NTDTV. According to NTDTV spokesperson Carrie Hung, transponder C2 has been working regularly since Eutelsat turned off the four other transponders, including the one which carried NTDTV's signals on June 16 on the pretext of a "technical problem." In July, BBG used the C2 transponder and other transponders on the W5 satellite to broadcast five TV stations and 12 radio stations to Asia.

A BBG spokesperson has confirmed to RSF that none of their broadcasts have been carried by this Eutelsat satellite since August 1. RSF then asked Eutelsat why, since the transponder on the W5 satellite has been vacated, Eutelsat continues to insist that it is impossible to restore NTDTV's broadcasts.

RSF wrote to the CEO of Eutelsat, saying, "With the Olympic Games taking place in China, it is vital that Chinese TV viewers should have the possibility of accessing independent news and information. We therefore urge you now to take the necessary measures so that NTDTV broadcasts are again transmitted on the W5 satellite. The many protests by the station's viewers demonstrate its utility and importance."

Since June 16, when Eutelsat switched off the four transponders, Eutelsat has been claiming that the shutdown was caused by a "technical problem." It has not given any formal explanations to answer either NTDTV's inquiries or the outside world's suspicions.

RSF released an investigative report on July 10, revealing that Eutelsat's shutdown of NTDTV was not a technical problem as Eutelsat claimed but "a premeditated, politically-motivated decision." Eutelsat's CEO, Giuliano Berretta, deliberately chose to shut down NTDTV to satisfy the Chinese Communist regime in exchange for business opportunities. He has thus become an accomplice of the Chinese Communist totalitarian regime in suppressing freedom of the press.

RSF's investigative report revealed some surprising internal information, the Chinese Communist regime has been pressing Eutelsat for years to shut down NTDTV. Moreover, Eutelsat has a backup transponder, but it has concealed this fact from world. The third-party, independent investigation once again verified speculation that Eutelsat has succumbed to the Chinese Communist regime, the behind-the-scenes manipulator. Under strong pressure from the CCP, Eutelsat published a statement on July 25, claiming that it holds no prejudice against NTDTV, but at the same time, Eutelsat notified NTDTV that it will terminate its contract on October 31 of this year. On August 1, the BBG terminated its contract with Eutelsat, and withdrew VOA and RFA from the W5 satellite. NTDTV released a statement the same day expressing regret over the BBG's decision and also urged Eutelsat to immediately use this vacated transponder to restore the transmissions of NTDTV.

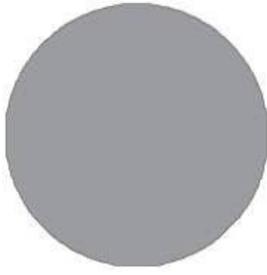
NTDTV stated that the RSF investigative report revealed that Eutelsat's CEO Giuliano Berretta turned off NTDTV's broadcast to please the Chinese Communist regime, but Eutelsat has been using the excuse of a technical problem to cover up the real reason for its actions. Eutelsat also insisted that it did not have any transponders available on which to restore NTDTV's transmission. Now, since the BBG has withdrawn from the W5 satellite, Eutelsat has no excuse, and is legally obligated according to its contract to immediately restore NTDTV's signals on the vacated transponder.

NTDTV spokesperson Carrie Hung pointed out in an interview with The Epoch Times that RSF's new evidence once again exposes Eutelsat's lies. Eutelsat repeatedly claimed that it holds no prejudice against NTDTV, and it had to shut down NTDTV's broadcasts to China for a technical reason. But evidence is continuously being revealed which shows that Eutelsat's so-called technical problem is nothing but an excuse. We therefore urge people from all walks of life and the international community to continue to exert pressure on Eutelsat.

Hung reiterated NTDTV's position: Eutelsat has violated its company charter, and also seriously harmed its credibility and long-term interests. It has not only deprived 1.4

billion Chinese people of the only window for access to truthful information, but also damaged the principles of freedom, equality, human rights and universal values. Hung called on governments of all democratic countries and people who value these principles to take immediate action and use various means to contact the media, politicians and Eutelsat's decision-makers, to request that Eutelsat's CEO Giuliano Berretta reverse his decision, and make sure that NTDTV's only free satellite window above China be open for as long as it should be. Hung said that to ensure the truthful free flow of information into an autocratic society like China will not only help China and the Chinese people, but also be conducive to freedom around the world.

## Facts of the Persecution



### *Mr. Wang Chongjun Tortured to Death in Beijing*

Mr. Wang Chongjun, 65, lived in Longzhuashu Village, Xiaohongmen Township, Chaoyang District, Beijing. The village [610 Office](#) chair, Yang Fengling (female), was unsuccessful in forcing practitioner **Ms. Wang Fengqin**, who is Mr. Wang Chongjun's wife, to write a [guarantee statement](#) to stop practicing Falun Gong. She arranged for more than 40 unemployed people to monitor the family beginning on April 7, 2008. She harassed them everyday by coming to their house, and followed all the family members everywhere, including when they went shopping or took a walk to the park. At around 7:00 p.m. on April 14, 2008, 610 Office agents stormed into Mr. Wang's home; arrested him and his wife, Ms. **Wang Zhiqin**; and detained them in the Chaoyang District Detention Center. No visits were permitted.

On June 20, 2008, Mr. Wang's family received notices sent from the First and Tenth Wards of the Prisoner Dispatch Section of Beijing Tuanhe Forced Labor Camp, saying Mr. Wang Chongjun had been sentenced to two years at forced labor on May 22, 2008, and was detained in the First Ward of the Prisoner Dispatch Section. Ms. Wang Zhiqin was sentenced to two and half years of forced labor on May 20, 2008, and is now being held in the Tenth Ward.

Guards in the camp injected Mr. Wang with an unknown drug that caused him to become emaciated. The camp authorities saw that he was dying and quickly released him. His skin had turned yellow from the drug.

His family picked him up and took him to the hospital for an operation. Mr. Wang died on the afternoon of August 23, 2008. His wife was transferred to the Shanxi Province Forced Labor Camp right before the Olympics. She still does not know of her husband's death.

### *Mr. Hu Heping from Hunan Province Dies as a Result of Torture*

Mr. Hu Heping, 55, a painter in Yueyang City, Hunan Province died as a result of torture in the detention center on August 7, 2008.

Mr. Hu Heping started to practice Falun Gong in 1997. He went to Beijing to appeal twice, in 1999 and 2000, and was detained first for 30 then 45 days in Hubin Detention Center.



*Mr. Hu Heping before being subjected to torture*

On March 12, 2003, Mr. Hu was arrested and sentenced to two years at forced labor. In Xinkaipu Forced Labor Camp, the guards injected unknown drugs into him three times, because he refused to give up his faith. The guard said, "If you refuse to be ["transformed,"](#) you'll just endlessly cough!" Mr. Hu had a strong reaction to the injection, and he coughed day and night until he started vomiting blood. Guard He Jun ordered prisoner Huang to slap Mr. Hu with a shoe. During the torture that lasted seven days, he was forced to remain standing facing a wall and not allowed to sleep. He was released at the end of 2004.

At around 9 a.m. on March 18, 2008, Mr. Hu was resting at home when Lowang Community agent Li Yongfei, Lowang Neighborhood Administration staff Zhang Yifei, and officer Lu Ran from Lowang Police Station led a group officers to arrest Mr. Hu. By 2 p.m., they had taken him to Dongtingguan Hotel to be interrogated for a full day. They took him to the First Detention Center of Yueyang City on March 19, 2008.

Due to the torture that Mr. Hu endured while in police custody, his internal organs were injured, there was blood in his urine, and his legs and feet were swollen. He could not stop coughing. His weight dropped from 120 pounds to just 90 pounds. Agents from the [610 Office](#) and Domestic Security Division did not allow his family to see him, and they forced him to do hard labor for 12-16 hours per day.

On June 16, 2008, guards took him to the First Hospital of Yueyang City for a check-up, and they found his internal organs were severely damaged and he had liver cirrhosis. Even under such circumstances, the Yueyang City 610 Office and Domestic Security Division were still reluctant to release him. However, the Detention Center authorities feared that he would soon die. They notified Mr. Hu's family to bring money on June 17 and bail him out for medical treatment on June 18, 2008.

At that point, Mr. Hu was very weak. He had severe swelling from his abdomen down to his toes, and he had difficulty walking. He never recovered from his injuries and died in the early morning of August 7, 2008.

### *Mr. Fan Youjun Dies as a Result of the Persecution in Hubei Province*

Mr. Fan Youjun, 56, lived in Jiangchang Town, Tianmen City, Hubei Province. He used to suffer from Hepatitis-B, but after cultivating Falun Gong, his symptoms disappeared. He made his living by running a breakfast booth, and people loved his sincerity. After the persecution began in 1999, evil Party officers harassed and detained him multiple times. He was last arrested on the afternoon of October 23, 2007. Several Domestic Security agents broke into his home and found a Falun Dafa book and some Minghui periodicals, and they detained him immediately. His wife spent nearly ten thousand [yuan](#) and tried very hard to get him released, but she only got threatened.

Mr. Fan was arrested as a healthy man, but he was mentally and physically tortured in the detention center. After only several months of mistreatment in detention, he became very weak. He appeared to suffer symptoms of liver cirrhosis, and his whole body became swollen. A medical check-up revealed that he had late-stage liver cancer. The [610 Office](#) refused to release him or let him be treated; instead, they planned to have him sentenced to prison.

Later, his condition worsened, and his life was in danger. A just official in the detention center signed a guarantee letter (stating he would be held responsible if Mr. Fan participated in any Falun Gong activities) to allow Mr. Fan be bailed out on medical parole on July 16, 2008. Mr. Fan was checked in to Tianmen City First People's Hospital. On July 29, 2008, only 13 days after he was bailed out, Mr. Fan died.

The same evening Mr. Fan died, officers from the Jiangchang Town Police Station immediately took his body to Tianmen City Funeral Home. They feared Mr. Fan's family would sue them, so they promised to pay the funeral costs and give the family ten thousand yuan. Mr. Fan's family members are innocent farmers. The most they can do is mourn.

## ***Retired Professor Arrested in Pre-Olympic Purge for Printing Underground Newsletters***

As Olympic sailing competitions continue in Qingdao, a retired professor and his wife face imminent sentencing in nearby Jinan for practicing Falun Gong and printing underground leaflets. Official documents obtained by the Falun Dafa Information Center (FDIC) corroborate the detention of the elderly couple, who remain at risk of severe abuse in custody.

Mr. Zhang Xingwu, a 67-year-old retired physics professor at Jinan Normal University, and his wife, Ms. Pinjie Liu were arrested from their home on July 16, 2008.

"More than twenty policemen broke into my parents' home in Shandong province, ransacked the house, [took] computer equipment and large amounts of money, and abducted my parents," says Zhang Shuangying, a nurse residing in New York.

"My mother had a stroke in custody that night, which paralyzed the left side of her body, so they released her the next day. But she was abducted again on August 6. Now she and my father both face prison sentences because they practice Falun Gong and had printed underground newsletters about it."

### **Official Documentation and Risk of Torture**

According to Zhang, Ms. Liu was released only after her son paid the police 10,000 yuan (approximately \$1,500). The Falun Dafa Information Center has obtained a copy of the release notice he received at the time, which mentions the payment.

Two other documents obtained by the Center, complete with the official stamp of the local security agency, further confirm the couple's arrest. According to one document, Mr. Zhang faces charges of "using a heretical organization to undermine implementation of the law," a vague provision of the criminal code commonly used to sentence Falun Gong adherents to prison terms of up to 12 years.

The elderly couple has practiced Falun Gong since 1995 and has been repeatedly detained since the discipline was banned in 1999. From 2001 to 2004, Mr. Zhang spent three years at Jinan Liuchangshan "re-education through labor" (RTL) camp, while Ms. Liu was at Jinan Women's RTL camp for the same period.

During these previous periods in police custody, the two elderly adherents suffered sleep deprivation, beatings, electric baton shocks, and other forms of torture. Since their most recent detention, family members have been denied access to see them, raising serious concerns that they are again being abused.

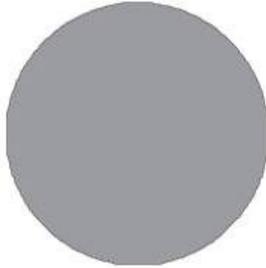
## Underground Print Shop

Taking advantage of his technological savvy and as part of a nationwide grassroots movement, in recent years, Mr. Zhang operated a site for printing underground newsletters and VCDs from his home. The newsletters included the *Minghui Weekly*, a collection of articles on Falun Gong and rights abuses committed against its adherents. Also printed were copies of the *Nine Commentaries on the Communist Party*, an editorial series published by the overseas Chinese-language *Epoch Times* newspaper. The series is a critical analysis of the Communist Party's history ruling China with detailed information on Falun Gong, as well as previous political campaigns, from the 1957 anti-rightist movement to the 1989 massacre. According to a 2005 study by Harvard University's Berkman Center for Internet and Society, websites featuring the *Nine Commentaries* are one of the most pervasively blocked in China.

As a result of Zhang's efforts to disseminate such sensitive information, the local police--who often face punishment or demotion when underground materials are distributed in their area--reportedly viewed him as a key target for arrest in the pre-Olympic purge. According to his daughter, six other local Falun Gong adherents who had distributed materials he prepared were also arrested recently, increasing Zhang's risk of receiving a long sentence.

According to the Falun Dafa Information Center, since December 2007, over 8,000 Falun Gong adherents have been detained across China. In Beijing alone, at least 200 have been arrested and over 30 sentenced without trial to "re-education through labor" camps for up to 2.5 years, marking the worst escalation of the campaign against the group in years.

## People Awaken to the Truth



### *The Repentance of a CCP Political and Judiciary Committee Secretary*

I'm a CCP Political and Judiciary Committee secretary in a certain city, and during my time in this position I've gone against my conscience to do a lot of awful things. Most notably I've persecuted Falun Gong practitioners, who with good intentions have sought to tell the true situation to higher government officials. Around October 1999 while arresting Falun Gong practitioners and sending them back to their provinces, I created all kinds of difficulties: paraded them through the streets, abducted them, locked them up, sent them to labor camps, confiscated all their money, and put them through agonizing brainwashing. I stopped at nothing to force them to renounce their faith in the universe's principles.

But amidst this terrifying environment, Falun Gong practitioners followed their Teacher's principles, despite all the danger. With compassion in their hearts they called on the policemen that were persecuting them (including me) to follow the universe's principles, act with kindness, emphasis virtue and be a good person. Any individual, ethnic group or country has everything to gain and nothing to lose from them. They told us about the paths they have walked since practicing Falun Gong and how their hearts and bodies have changed. They told us that it's a heavenly principle that good is rewarded and evil is punished, and they told us of the blessings awaiting those that embraced Falun Gong. They wished everyone could truly come to understand the Great Law.

However because we were confused and muddle-headed, we not only ignored Falun Gong practitioners' suggestions, we even cursed and beat them, and used all kinds of methods to torture them, as if we were coming up against our enemies. In the end our family members tragically met with retribution for our evil deeds.

Amidst heavenly punishment, amidst pain and regret, I changed my thinking. I decided to pick up all the Falun Gong books and read through them. Upon reading I immediately realized that everything the television and newspapers said about Falun Gong was completely different from what the books say. The lies in those propaganda tools were aimed at deceiving and harming people, and pulling the wool over people's eyes. My heart began to weep. Why didn't those authorities tell us the truth? Why did the law enforcers commit evil? Why weren't there people upholding reason and firmly advocating the truth? Why did the evil official Qin Hui harm hero Yue Fei? Why did Emperor Nero of the ancient Roman Empire set fire to the capital and then attack and slander Jesus' disciples? Isn't today's Communist Party playing the role of Rome's emperor? Am I not helping the evil emperor oppress his people? When I think back I am overcome with shock, I've already done so many things that oppose the universe and oppose kindness. I've committed so many colossal sins, and it's brought terror and calamity upon my family. I've resolved to start afresh and be a human again,

strenuously make up for past wrongs, and through my actions make up for the harm and losses I've caused to Falun Gong and Falun Gong practitioners.

Falun Gong is just so great. I study it every day and into the night, but I never get tired. At last I have discovered a new life, and all my illnesses have disappeared. My friends and relatives have all obtained good fortune from Falun Gong, they have all withdrawn from the CCP organizations, which are evil to the extreme. I urge all those CCP officials who are still obstinately clinging to delusion, become clear! Greet with kindness the Falun Gong disciples that are in front of you. Persecuting them is like persecuting Gods and Buddhas, and will meet with retribution. Always remember:

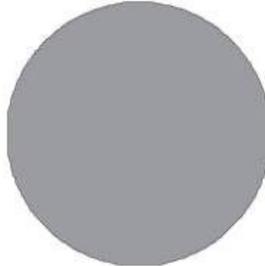
Falun Dafa is Great!

Truth, Compassion, Forbearance is great!

When the disaster comes, your life will be safe!

More than 40 million people have now quit the CCP. Those who obstinately stay with the CCP can only become the nails in its coffin.

## Voice of Justice



## *Belgian MP Demands Unconditional Release of Xu Na*

Ms. Xu Na, a Falun Gong practitioner from Beijing and a very reputable painter, was persecuted by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) under the guise of the "Beijing Olympic Games." Her husband, Yu Zhou, a musician in the famous folk band "Xiaojuan & Co - Residents in the Valley," was persecuted to death on February 6, 2008, only 11 days after he and Xu Na were [illegally arrested](#) on their way home from a music concert.

Ms. Xu was "illegally sentenced" to five years imprisonment by the CCP in November 2001. She was subjected to brutal torture in prison. She has been detained since early this year after she and her husband Yu Zhou were both arrested at the same time. The authorities even did not allow her to attend her husband's funeral. She is now being held in the Chongwen District Detention Center in Beijing, awaiting sentencing.

The miserable treatment the couple was subjected to attracted widespread attention from the international community. Mme. Juliette Boulet, an MP from the Belgian Green Party and the Vice Chairwoman of the Petition Committee of the National Congress, wrote a special letter to the Belgian Foreign Minister outlining the persecution Xu Na had suffered, requesting that inquiries be addressed to the CCP authorities about the current situation of Xu Na, and requesting her unconditional release and a guarantee of her personal safety.

The following is a translation of the letter that Mme. Juliette Boulet, Member of Parliament, wrote to Mr. Karel De Gucht, Belgian Foreign Minister:

Dear Minister De Gucht,

The recent events in Tibet have caused us to face up to the issues of China's disrespect for human rights and our future relations with China. We feel that the Belgian government has been reluctant in its stance in view of its economic partnership with China and that it has placed economic interests above human rights saddens us.

Therefore, except for our proposal for a resolution that was suspended a few months ago and the discussions about this topic that have continued to be reported, today we would like to ask you about Xu Na, a painter well-known both in China and Hong Kong. What is her current situation?

In 2001 she was detained in a forced labor camp located in Tuanhe and the Beijing Women's Prison, where she was subjected to brutal torture and was forced to do intensive labor. She was severely and repeatedly beaten in a small prison cell. On one occasion she was beaten by eight prisoners at the same time. The authorities forced her to sit with her legs crossed and then tied up her up in that position. She was deprived of sleep. They even made her stand in the snow until she became frozen stiff. For more

than a month, she was not allowed to wash or clean herself, in addition to other forms of torture.

On January 26, 2008, Xu Na and her husband Yu Zhou, a member of one of the famous folk song group "Xiaojuan & Co-Residents in the Valley," were arrested by the Beijing police on their way home from a music concert. They were immediately placed in the detention center in the Tongzhou District.

On February 6, Yu Zhou's family received a notice telling them to go immediately to the Qinghe First-aid Center to see Yu Zhou. When they arrived, Yu Zhou was already dead, a white bed sheet covering his body. He was still wearing a respirator mask, but his legs were already ice-cold. The doctors insisted that Yu Zhou died of diabetes caused by his hunger strike. But his family members could not believe it, because Yu Zhou had been in good health. The police demanded immediate cremation of his body, to which his family members objected. In addition, his family's request for an autopsy was turned down.

Xu Na was not permitted to attend her husband's funeral. She was transferred and detained in the detention center under the jurisdiction of the 7<sup>th</sup> Division of Beijing City Police Department. She has been charged with the crimes of "being involved in illegal organizations" and "hindering law enforcement." Those detained in this prison are basically political prisoners.

Xu Na was informed of Yu Zhou's death by her lawyer. She decided to submit an appeal, demanding to be told the truth about the incident. Both Yu Zhou and Xu Na's families have been threatened, and the police have exerted pressure on them, too. We have learned that proceedings to charge Xu Na have been postponed because of pressure from the international community.

Mr. Minister, the case of the mistreatment of Mme. Xu Na is far from an isolated incident. The CCP authorities not only crush the dissidents but also detain them and abuse them brutally. The number of those who are missing and about whom there is no information is alarming. However, the brutal torture and evil acts have been profusely reported by non-government organizations despite the banning of all outside media and independent observers.

Those people cannot enjoy the presumption of innocence, have no right to protect themselves or to make statements, and very often cannot get any medical treatment when in need. These situations have made us draw the only conclusion possible: Demand the unconditional release of Xu Na and the great number of those illegally detained by the CCP authorities.

As a representative of a democratic country respected for its protection of human rights, Mr. Minister, please put those who despicably disregard human rights in the spotlight to ensure that Mme Xu Na is in no danger. This is your responsibility as well as ours.

(Signed)

Juliette Boulet

MP of the Belgian Green Party

13th June

## *New York State Assembly Member Expresses Support for Efforts to Rescue Falun Gong Practitioners' Parents in China*

On August 19, Falun Gong practitioners Shuangrong Zhang and Annie Li held a press conference in the New York State Assembly newsroom to call for the rescue of their aged parents, who are imprisoned by the CCP under the pretext of the Olympics. New York State Assembly member Tim Gordon and Director Devin Lander of the New York Legislation and Policy Office gave speeches to express their support.



*Shuangrong Zhang, who lives in Flushing, calls for rescuing her parents imprisoned by the CCP*



*Annie Li from Albany, New York calls for rescuing her mother detained by the CCP*

Annie Li from Albany, New York called for the rescue of her mother Qin Shizhen, a 67-year-old retired Associate Professor. She said her mother has been detained in the Gengjiawan Brainwashing Center in Lanzhou, Gansu Province since May 24, 2008 for practicing Falun Gong. The CCP made the arrest under the pretext of preparing for the Olympics. The Gengjiawan Brainwashing Center is also named the Lanzhou Law

Training School and was opened in December, 2001. It is a base in Gansu Province for persecuting Falun Gong practitioners. Many Falun Gong practitioners have been tortured to death or to disability here. Forty-eight-year-old Liu Zhifang was tortured to death after being detained for one month.

Annie said, "My mother has been detained for more than three months. I worry about her a lot. Under the pretext of the Olympics, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has arrested more than 2,500 practitioners unlawfully. I demand that the CCP immediately release my mother and all practitioners who are unlawfully imprisoned."

Ms. Shuangrong Zhang from Flushing, New York, has not seen her parents for fifteen years. In the beginning of July, her father Zhang Xongwu, a 67-year-old retired physics professor, was taken away by police in Jinan, Shandong Province. His current situation is unknown. Her mother Liu Pinjie has been taken away twice since July. Ms. Zhang urgently called for help from the international community.

Ms. Zhang said, "On July 8, more than twenty police officers forcefully pried open a burglar-proof door and entered my parents' home without any legal procedures. They took away all they could and detained my parents. After such harassment, my mother had a severe stroke and was paralyzed in the detention center. Police were afraid, and asked my brother to pay 10,000 [yuan](#) (about \$1400) and released my mother. But in the beginning of August, the police arrested her again. My father has been detained in the Jinan Detention Center."

Pang Jin, studying for her MBA at Missouri State University, was not able to attend the press conference. She asked her friend to speak out for her parents. On July 29, 2008, one week before the Beijing Olympics, more than a dozen police forcefully entered her parents' home without any legal procedures and took them away. They also took away three laptops and two desktop computers, one digital camera, and a bank deposit certificate worth more than seven thousand U.S. dollars. Her mother is a Falun Gong practitioner, but her father is not. The police detained her father in order to intimidate her mother.

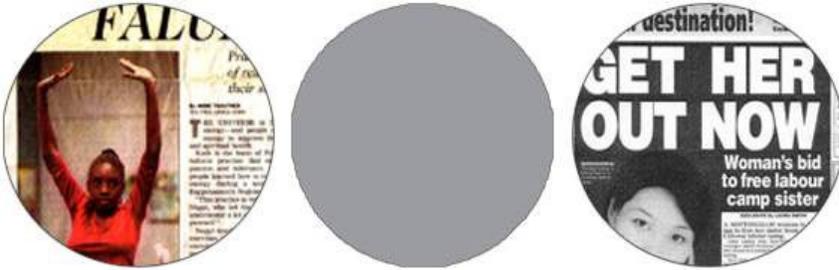
Director Devin Lander of the New York Legislation and Policy Office said that this was a serious issue. He said he came here to express his support and see how to help solve this issue.

New York State Assembly member Tim Gordon said he heard that family members of several U.S. citizens in New York were arrested in China. China spends lots of money to show the new China in 21st century to the world, but has done wrong by infringing upon human rights. China should let Annie's mother make contact with her and come to America if China is really interested in impressing people. Otherwise, nothing has changed, however many stadiums China has built.

At the press conference, Judy Chen from Flushing also told of her suffering from the CCP's violent attacks in the past three months.

NBC TV Albany paid attention to this issue and interviewed three victims of the CCP-instigated assaults in Flushing. It broadcast the two practitioners' call for rescuing their parents and also the assaults against Falun Gong practitioners in Flushing on the same night at different times. Reporters from a well-known local daily newspaper, *The Gazette*, attended the press conference and filed reports.

## Media Reports and Opinions



### *Italian Newspaper Corriere Della Sera: The EU Questions Eutelsat*

On August 22, Italy's largest daily newspaper, *Corriere Della Sera*, published Nino Luca's article entitled "The Chinese Free Voice NTDTV Canceled, the EU Questions Eutelsat."

The article said that, since June 16, the NTDTV broadcast signal to Asia has been suspended. For nearly three months, NTDTV broadcasts of uncensored news have not been seen in Asia. It is believed that, through its ambassador to Italy, the Chinese Communist regime pressured Eutelsat to cancel these broadcasts. The World Organization to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong (WOIPFG) and Reporters Without Borders provided evidence of telephone conversation recordings to support this conclusion.

The article included quotes from the transcript of the recorded conversation. On July 16, Sun Yuxi, the Chinese Ambassador to Italy, admitted in that conversation that he had exerted pressure on Eutelsat and asked that the NTDTV signal be cut off. NTDTV is headquartered in New York and has reporters in major cities throughout Europe.

The article also said that, according to the evidence from WOIPFG, pressure from the China's ambassador resulted in interruption of NTDTV broadcasting since June 16. The signal can no longer be received in most of the Asian region. Over two million Chinese can no longer watch the programs they have followed for over four years.

Eutelsat first explained that it was a technical problem with the W5 satellite, so it had to reduce the use of transponders. Eutelsat's explanation was refuted by remarks in a recorded telephone conversation published by Reporters Without Borders on July 10. In the conversation, a Eutelsat employee admitted that the cancellation of NTDTV's signal was premeditated and due to economic and political reasons, not a technical failure.

Transcripts of the Eutelsat and Chinese ambassador telephone recordings clarified the situation. The recording of the conversation with the Chinese ambassador can be heard on the WOIPFG (<http://upholdjustice.org>) website: "When they (Eutelsat) got this thing done, we gave them full support and told them not to worry about this issue." That remark was made by the Chinese ambassador to an investigator from WOIPFG.

The interruption of the satellite signal was carried out in exchange for commercial interests. The Chinese ambassador admitted in the same recording that, in return for canceling NTDTV's broadcasts, Eutelsat asked to "strengthen its relationship with China's CCTV. They want to cooperate with China's space industry in the areas of satellite communications and meteorological satellite. They want to use our rockets to launch their satellites." According to Reporters Without Borders, in order to obtain huge contracts, Eutelsat yielded to CCP pressure. The spokesman from the Executive Committee of the European Union said that the European Union understands this

situation and had sent a letter to Eutelsat to ask them to explain the incident. A reporter from *Corriere Della Sera* made a phone call directly to Mr. Beretta, the CEO of Eutelsat, to ask for more detailed information about this incident. The response was that Mr. Beretta was on vacation. Phone calls to the Chinese ambassador are not answered.

NTDTV has lodged an adamant protest and launched a signature campaign on the Internet that is being widely supported.

## ***Canada Free Press (CFP): Israeli Rabbinical Council Finds Chinese Regime Liable for Falun Gong Deaths***

NEW YORK--In an unprecedented decision, a special Israeli rabbinical council ruled last week that the Chinese regime has been responsible for the killing of Falun Gong practitioners.

"On the basis of the accumulation of the various testimonies and indirect evidence, the International Court of the Nascent Sanhedrin, came to the conclusion that there were unnumbered cases of killing of innocent Falun Gong practitioners [by agents of the Chinese government], perhaps also out of consideration of material benefits derived from organ harvesting," said the court in a decision dated July 15, 2008.

"If the human rights issues are not addressed before the Olympic Games begin, we consider participation in them by athletes and by spectators and political leaders to be an indirect danger to world peace," it further stated.

The ruling was issued in response to a request filed by Israeli Falun Gong practitioners in July 2007. The Sanhedrin, an ancient council of sages re-established by several rabbis in Israel in 2004 as a source of Jewish jurisprudence, comprises 71 scholars of Jewish law and is headed by Rabbi Adin Steinzaltz. Its International Court, a subcommittee addressing international issues, put out the present opinion as a form of religious guidance and on the basis of Jewish law.

The court issued the decision after examining testimony and evidence brought before it by human rights experts, including the U.S.-based Human Rights Law Foundation (HRLF) and David Kilgour, former Canadian Secretary of State for Asia-Pacific and coauthor of an independent investigation entitled "Report into Allegations of Organ Harvesting of Falun Gong Practitioners in China." Also appearing before the council were several Chinese victims of rights abuses, including the widow of a man tortured to death in Chinese custody after being abducted for practicing Falun Gong.

"As a Jewish child growing up in the wake of the Holocaust, I made a vow to myself at the very young age of 13, that if it ever happened again, I would do all I could to put a stop to it," says attorney Terri Marsh. "Now as a human rights lawyer and legal participant in this case, I thank the Sanhedrin for finding the courage and wisdom to expose and condemn the crimes perpetrated by the Chinese Communist Party against members of the Falun Gong faith in China."

### **Political Pressure and Olympic Implications**

According to the rabbinical body, the Chinese government refused to appear before it, but did submit written and digital materials to refute the complaints. It also reportedly

applied political pressure on the court to drop the case, but as a body independent of the Israeli government, the council did not heed the request.

To ensure the fairness of the proceedings without the Chinese government's formal participation, the court followed a tradition of Jewish jurisprudence and acted "not only as an objective Judge but at the same time as attorney for the side which is absent," thereby subjecting witnesses to cross-examination.

Having found the Chinese government responsible for the deaths of Falun Gong adherents, the court demanded that the Chinese government "assure the minimum of liberties as indicated by the seven Noahide commandments," that it implement a Chinese law passed in May 2007 meant to end organ harvesting without consent, and that it allow a coalition of international organizations to enter China and freely investigate the Chinese government's compliance with the above mentioned commandments, considered to be the "Human Rights Charter according to the Torah."

Lastly, it stated that "if the human rights issues are not settled before the opening of the Olympics, participation in these Games may be understood to indicate indifference to human rights violations in China, and support for suppression," rendering such participation "an indirect danger to world peace."

## Glossary

**Falun Gong** (also called **Falun Dafa**) is an ancient form of *qigong*; the practice of refining the body and mind through special exercises and meditation. Like *tai chi*, *qigong* is a vital part of many people's lives in Asia; almost every Chinese park is brimming by the break of dawn with people practicing these arts.

Only a few years after its public introduction in 1992, Falun Dafa quickly grew to become the most popular form of *qigong* ever in Chinese history. The major reason for this is that Falun Dafa distinguishes itself from other *qigong* practices by emphasizing not only physical cultivation, but also cultivation of one's moral character in daily life according to higher principles taught by Mr. Li Hongzhi, Falun Dafa's founder. The practice involves slow, gentle movements and meditation. It is easy to learn, enjoyable to practice, and free of charge. Its principles are based on Truth, Compassion, and Tolerance. Falun Gong is practiced by over 100 million people in 60 countries. The main works of Falun Gong are available in over 30 languages.

**Zhuan Falun**: This book comprises the principal teachings of Falun Dafa.

**"April 25"**: This refers to the "sensitive" anniversary of April 25, 1999, on which date ten thousand Falun Gong practitioners peacefully gathered outside the Zhongnanhai compound (China's central government building) and successfully appealed for the release of forty-five practitioners who had been illegally arrested in Tianjin City.

**Clarifying the Truth**: Because of the persecution in China and the unrelenting hate campaign carried out by China's state-controlled media, Falun Gong practitioners have been actively "clarifying the truth" -- explaining to the public the facts about Falun Gong and exposing the persecution. Truth clarification activities include face-to-face conversations with people, posting notices and posters, handing out flyers, and hanging banners. Outside of China, where Falun Gong is freely practiced, practitioners further expose the persecution through anti-torture reenactments, art exhibits, Internet websites, books, magazines, newspapers, movies and letter writing. The goal of clarifying the truth is to help people understand Falun Gong, to dispel the lies of the communist regime in China and to raise public support to end the persecution. (Variations: "clarifying the truth", "truth clarifying", "truth-clarifying", "truth clarification", "truth-clarification", "clarifying the facts", "clarified the truth", and "clarified the facts")

**Nine Commentaries on the Communist Party** is a series of essays published in late 2004 that reveal the true nature of the Communist Party. The *Nine Commentaries* have led millions of people to renounce their membership in the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). It is "A book that has shocked all Chinese around the world. A book that is disintegrating the Communist Party." (<http://ninecommentaries.com>)

**The 610 Office** is an agency specifically created to persecute Falun Gong, with absolute power over each level of administration in the Party and all other political and judiciary systems. It was established on June 10<sup>th</sup> hence it's name.

**Illegally arrested:** Contrary to what former Chinese leader Jiang Zemin, who initiated the persecution, and the Chinese Communist Party would like the world to believe, practicing Falun Gong is NOT illegal in China. Although the Public Security Department issued an unconstitutional set of restraints on the practice at the onset of the persecution in 1999, no laws have been passed by the only legislative body in China, the People's Congress, banning Falun Gong or granting the police the authority to arrest Falun Gong practitioners for practicing the exercises or distributing flyers.

**Death Bed torture:** A practitioner is tied to a bed with his hands handcuffed above his head to the bed rails, and his legs tied with thin nylon ropes. The rope is then tightly wrapped around the practitioner's body and the bed, from his legs to his chest. The rope is wrapped so tightly that the practitioner has difficulty breathing and eventually loses consciousness.

**Tiger Bench:** Prisoners are forced to sit on a small iron bench that is approximately 20 cm (6 inches) tall with their knees tied together. With their hands tied behind their backs or sometimes placed on their knees, they are forced to sit straight up and look straight ahead without movement for long periods of time.

**"Reform or Transform":** Implementation of brainwashing and torture in order to force a practitioner to renounce Falun Gong. (Variations: "**reform**", "**transform**", "**reformed**", "**reforming**", "**transformed**", "**transforming**", and "**transformation**")

**Three Statements:** Practitioners are coerced under brainwashing and torture to write a "Repentance Statement," "Guarantee Statement" or "Dissociation Statement" as proof that they have given up their belief. In the statement, the practitioner is forced to admit remorse for practicing Falun Gong, promise to give up Falun Gong, and never again associate with other practitioners or go to Beijing to appeal for Falun Gong.

**Collaborators:** Former practitioners who have turned against Falun Gong under brainwashing and torture. They are then made to assist in brainwashing and torturing practitioners.

**Sensitive Dates:** National holidays or political meetings, or dates that hold significance to Falun Dafa; the authorities are afraid that practitioners will publicly appeal on these dates.

**Yuan** is the Chinese currency; 500 yuan is equal to the average monthly income of an urban worker in China.