

Clearwisdom Review

An Update on Falun Dafa Worldwide

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 17 MAY 15, 2008

San Francisco: Candlelight Vigil Commemorates the Ninth Anniversary of April 25 Appeal

(Clearwisdom.net) On the evening of April 25, 2008, practitioners held a candlelight vigil in front of the Chinese Consulate in San Francisco, to commemorate the peaceful appeal of April 25, 1999 in Beijing, and to remember the thousands of practitioners who have since been tortured to death by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) in the persecution of Falun Gong. They also reviewed the nine-year journey of peaceful protest, and demanded that the CCP stop the persecution.



Candlelight vigil in front of Chinese Consulate, San Francisco

On April 25, 1999, more than ten thousand Falun Gong practitioners came to Beijing for a peaceful appeal and requested the government to release forty-five practitioners who were arrested in Tianjin. They also requested the reinstatement of a legal practice environment, and a permit for the publication of Falun Gong books. The then Prime Minister met with representatives of Falun Gong practitioners and the issue was resolved that same day. However, a few months later, on July 20, the CCP's Jiang Zemin and Luo Gan faction suddenly initiated the persecution of Falun Gong and mobilized all state propaganda tools to slander Falun Gong. Since then, Falun Gong practitioners have suffered unprecedented brutal persecution.

Allen Zeng, a practitioner in the San Francisco Bay Area, said, "The April 25 appeal was the first time for such a large group of Chinese people to express a request peacefully. But the price for such a precedent has been huge. The CCP initiated the persecution that same year. In the past nine years, many practitioners were tortured to death. We hope that the Chinese Consulate here does not further assist the CCP in the persecution."

Ms. Chen Jiaqi, who participated in the April 25 peaceful appeal in 1999, said that the appeal was a demonstration of the true demeanor of Falun Gong practitioners. Practitioners in China trusted the government, so they went to the central government to explain the facts of Falun Gong. However, party leaders twisted the facts of the event, falsely claiming that Falun Gong had "laid siege of the Zhongnanhai Central Government Compound." "I wish that all staff working in the Chinese Consulate could see that Falun Dafa practitioners outside China are the same as those in China; they all practice Truth-Compassion-Tolerance. I demand that the CCP stop the persecution. It cannot continue," said Ms. Chen.

Introduction to Falun Dafa

Falun Dafa, also known as Falun Gong, is a practice for benefiting physical health and elevating the mind. Introduced by Mr. Li Hongzhi in China, the practice consists of five gentle exercises including meditation, and diligent effort on the part of practitioners to follow the universal principles of Truthfulness-Compassion-Forbearance in daily life. Falun Gong is not only beneficial to one's own health and well-being, it also benefits others. Although the practice originated in China, today it is practiced throughout the world by people of all races and walks of life. In the face of the most brutal and vicious persecution perpetrated on them by the Chinese Communist Party, Falun Gong practitioners have found the spiritual strength to resist peacefully and tirelessly by upholding the principles of Truthfulness-Compassion-Forbearance.



About Clearwisdom

Clearwisdom.net is the most authoritative source of information about the practice of Falun Gong and about the persecution of Falun Gong in China, reporting timely news and events happening inside China as well as from the more than 70 countries around the world where Falun Gong is practiced. Clearwisdom responsibly publishes the experiences and understandings of practitioners themselves, who submit the majority of the articles.

New Zealand: Artists in *Chinese Spectacular* Have Unbelievable Talents!

(Clearwisdom.net) The Divine Performing Arts company performed its second show on April 18, 2008, at the ASB Theater, Aotea Center, in Auckland, New Zealand. The *Spectacular* attracted a large audience of diverse ethnic backgrounds, as the artists led them on a voyage to experience the profound beauty of ancient China.



Judy Turner, deputy leader of the United Future Party and Member of Parliament, attended the *Spectacular* with her husband, Graham. Ms. Turner said, "The colors and the performers' talent – it was staggering how gifted they were. And the lyrics projected on the backdrop made it easy for people to understand the context. It was bliss two times over."

Her husband added, "The performance was mesmerizing! I loved 'Drummers of the Tang Court,' because it radiated exuberant force. I also enjoyed the dances because they presented men's fortitude and women's grace in the best artistic light. As for the backdrop, what can I say? It turned fairytale into reality. When people are suppressed, it becomes very important for them to seek the truth and live by the truth that they have discovered. There are answers in this world, and there is hope."

Former MP Bernie Ogilivy offered his opinion of the *Spectacular*, saying, "I loved the music, I loved the dancers' faces beaming with a joy that was obviously heartfelt, and I loved their inner strength. What touched me the most was the underlying layer of profound meaning that showed that life does not only reveal itself on the surface, but also in the depths of one's heart, and this spiritual experience makes up one's entire being."

Farmer's Gastric Cancer Disappears after Practicing Falun Gong

(Clearwisdom.net) I am a farmer living in the countryside and I am currently 50 years old. In 2005, I was diagnosed with hepatitis B and later gastric cancer. The doctor recommended surgery, which would cost about 20,000 yuan (USD\$3,000). I was told that even with the treatment, I could only live three to five years more and the cancer could still migrate to other places. I was in great despair.

At that critical moment, my elder sister suggested that I practice Falun Dafa. Seek medical treatment or practice Falun Dafa? I thought about this seriously. Three days later, I decided to practice Falun Gong, thinking: "I will die anyway, why spend money on this incurable illness?"

I did not have much education, and it was hard for me to read *Zhuan Falun* (the principle teachings of Falun Gong). My sister read with me several times. I understood that people's real lives come from the universe, and one suffers because of karma. The real purpose of life is to return to the origin.

Every day, I studied Dafa and did the exercises. Three years have now passed, and both the gastric cancer and hepatitis B are gone. My body weight also came back to normal, from 80lbs to more than 110lbs. It is Falun Gong that gave me a second life.

Cousins Are Given Heavy Sentences and Their Whole Family Persecuted

(Clearwisdom.net) On April 10, Dafa practitioner Cai Junxia's family received a written judgment from the Tangshan City Middle Court in Qianxi County, Hebei Province, sentencing her to four years in prison. The judgment was dated March 5. This is the second member of this family subjected to an illegal sentence. Over a year ago, Chuai Cuijun, Ms. Cui's cousin, was sentenced to five years.



(Left) Ms. Cai Junxia and her son, Chuai Fulin, eight years ago. (Right) Ms. Chuai Cuijun was illegally sentenced to five years and is now in Shijiazhuang Women's Prison. She is forced to do extra-heavy labor for over 10 hours every day.

In the past few years, Ms. Cai's family has been searched and their property ransacked five times. Family members have been arrested six times and five of them were illegally imprisoned. Ms. Cai and Ms. Chuai are currently still imprisoned. The grocery store they had been working hard to manage in the past years had to close in the last month because there was no one to take care it.