

Clearwisdom Review

An Update on Falun Dafa Worldwide

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Famous Calligrapher Liu Xitong Persecuted in Shandong Province Prison

(Clearwisdom.net) Liu Xitong, 56, a famous calligrapher from Shandong Province, was illegally sentenced to four years of imprisonment by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) in May 2008 in Qingdao City for practicing Falun Dafa. Before this, he was detained and persecuted at the Qingdao City Detention Center by CCP officials, who claimed a need to "maintain security for the Olympic Games." His family was prohibited from visiting him. Presently, Mr. Liu is being held in the No. 1 Shandong Provincial Prison. His family tried to visit him but were denied entry.

The 11th Ward of Shandong Province Prison is notorious for its "prisoner orientation team" that specializes in brainwashing Dafa practitioners. Liu Xitong refused to give up his belief in Falun Dafa. Because of this, he suffered inhuman torture and was seriously injured physically and mentally.

Mr. Liu Xitong, a famous calligrapher in Qingdao City and a member of the Chinese Calligraphers Association, was twice illegally held in a forced labor camp for practicing Falun Gong. To promote traditional Chinese culture, Mr. Liu held several successful and well-received calligraphy exhibits in Weifang and Anqiu, Shandong Province in 2007. From November 3 to 8, 2007, Mr. Liu Xitong successfully held a six-day calligraphy exhibition in the Publishing Arts Hall in Qingdao City. Thousands of people visited the exhibition and the media widely reported this event.



Artwork in the Calligraphy Exhibit



A TV Station reporter interviewing Mr. Liu

When the 610 Office (an agency organized specifically to persecute Falun Gong) and the Politics and Legal Committee found out about the exhibition, they ordered the Public Security Bureau and Department of Culture to pressure the venue to cancel Mr. Liu's exhibit. During the exhibition, numerous plainclothes police officers were present on site. On November 12, 2007, Liu Xitong and his wife, Liu Aifang, were arrested by officers from the Xiangtan Road Police Station in Licang District of Qingdao City. Mr. Liu's home was ransacked and many of his works of calligraphy were confiscated. He was detained for a month and held in the No. 1 Detention Center in Qingdao City before his formal arrest on December 14.

On May 13, 2008, in the Li Cang District Court in Qingdao City, Liu Xitong was sentenced to four years in prison for practicing Falun Dafa. Only five people were allowed in the courtroom during his hearing.

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.

Germany: "Truthfulness-Compassion-Forbearance" International Art Exhibit Held in Berlin

(Clearwisdom.net) On October 24, the "Truthfulness-Compassion-Forbearance" International Art Exhibit opened to the public at the Heilandskirche Church in Berlin. The exhibit includes more than 20 paintings and sculptures by artists from all over the world with different cultural and social backgrounds. The common link shared by these artists is that they are all Falun Gong practitioners. The exhibit has visited more than 100 cities in Asia, Africa, Europe, Oceania and North America.



Mr. Dietz, director of the Art and Human Rights Association, gave visitors a guided tour of the exhibit

Father Rannenberg of the Heilandskirche Church gave a speech at the opening ceremony. He stated, "These artworks convey one important message: Humans should live with dignity and we should fight for justice in China." He said that before viewing these paintings, he couldn't imagine the suffering of Falun Gong practitioners in China.

A New Life for a Person with Late-Stage Cancer

In 2003, my life took an unexpected downturn. One day I suddenly felt an unbearable pain in the right side of my abdomen. Tests at the hospital concluded that I had malignant lymphoma, and it was in its late stage. It was insufferably painful, and I had to have surgery. The surgery was expensive. When it was over, they had taken out a huge tumor. However, the oncologist told me that the treatment was not over. In order to prevent a recurrence of the cancer, I had to go through a bone marrow transplant, and then undergo radiation and chemotherapy, and also receive nutritional injections. I had no choice but to go through chemotherapy according to the oncologist's orders. However, the tumor came back after five chemo treatments. After ten chemo treatments, I lost all my hair. In addition, with so much money being spent on treating my health problem, a lot of conflicts broke out in the family. The acute pain caused by the tumor made it impossible to eat or sleep. I was in constant pain and distressed. My body and soul were completely lost and I felt like I did not want to live any more.

In September 2004, as my life was reaching a dead end, I broke down and started helplessly crying inside the shopping mall where I worked. It was then that two Falun Gong practitioners came over and told me that Falun Dafa is really very good and I should practice Falun Gong! I had no other choice left anyway! I could no longer stand this pain anymore, and I thought that I should at least give it a try. I followed the practitioners to their study group, where practitioners studied the teachings of Falun Gong together. At the time, I was unable to ride a bike and even walking was a great effort. I had to take a rest every few steps.

I later joined the practitioners in their regular group study and exercises. On the fourth day, a miracle happened! I no longer felt tired walking, and I could ride my bicycle again. It actually felt as if someone was pushing me forward when I rode my bicycle. On the fifth day, I ran all the way up to the third floor in one shot, and I did not feel tired. My abdomen was not painful anymore, and I felt so light and relaxed! Within one week, I had fully recovered and I completely went back to my normal life. It was a miracle that I could not even have imagined! I could not help myself and burst into tears! I could not contain my excitement and gratitude. I thought, "This Falun Dafa is truly wonderful, and Mr. Li Hongzhi is truly great! It is Falun Dafa that saved my life! "