

**The Fastest Growing Spiritual Practice in the World  
Now Being Brutally Persecuted in China**

What is Falun Gong?  
Why is it persecuted in China?  
Hope for a peaceful resolution  
Support from people worldwide  
Resources for you to learn Falun Gong

# **FALUN GONG**

## **The Real Story**



**Falun Gong exercises are easy to learn and good for people of all ages.  
Even busy people can always find time to enjoy Falun Gong practice.**

# What is Falun Gong?

Falun Gong, also known as Falun Dafa, is most accurately described as a "cultivation practice". Practitioners cultivate their mind, body and spirit by incorporating the teachings from the main book, *Zhuan Falun*, into their everyday lives, as well as doing 5 sets of gentle exercises. *Zhuan Falun* teaches that "*Truthfulness-Compassion-Forbearance*" are the highest standards and the requirements and guidance for this practice.

## The Fastest Growing Spiritual Practice in the World

Falun Gong has five sets of gentle exercises, including meditation.

Falun Gong is founded on the universal principles of **Truthfulness-Compassion-Forbearance**.

In 1992, when Falun Gong was introduced to the public in China, it was well received. In both 1992 and 1993, Falun Gong was named the Star Qigong school and Master Li Hongzhi, the founder, was warmly supported by the Chinese authorities for significantly improving people's health and upgrading morality in society.



Over 10,000 people practicing Falun Gong during a sports festival in northern China in 1998.

The Falun Gong teachings borrow terms and concepts of Buddha school and Tao school, but it is not a religion like Buddhism and

Taoism. Falun Gong does not have any religious formality, rituals or worship.

Falun Gong is apolitical and has no political agenda. There is no membership as well. All classes are provided by volunteers and are free of charge. No donations are accepted. People may participate or leave anytime of their own free will.

Falun Gong is a guide to help people build stronger morals and virtues so they can live with less stress, more kindness and more peacefulness in their everyday lives. *Zhuan Falun* teaches, as practitioners, "You

should always display compassion and kindness towards others and think of others before doing anything."



Washington DC, 1998



New York, 1999



Europe, 1999

Falun Gong teaches practitioners to always look inside ourselves for things to be improved and take responsibility for our own decisions and actions. Practitioners are encouraged to lead normal family lives, to work hard for honest pay and to be a good person in all situations or circumstances. Many people have turned away from drugs, alcohol, violence and other bad habits since learning Falun Gong. We feel peaceful, refreshed and energized after practicing. Almost every practitioner has a personal story about health improvement.

Almost entirely through word of mouth, Falun Gong has spread to over 30 countries in the past 7 years. Practitioners of all ages coming from all walks of life and various social and cultural backgrounds enjoy Falun Gong as a healthy, peaceful and harmonious practice of life.

The world is responding to the goodness of Falun Gong. e.g. **Oriental**

**Health Expo 93'** organized by the Chinese government honored Master Li Hongzhi with the title of "**Qigong Master most acclaimed by the masses**".

Dozens of cities and states in America have issued official recognition to Master Li and Falun Gong. Among them, Washington D.C. proclaimed Sept. 9th to 13th of 1999 as "Falun Dafa Week". Their proclamation stated "Falun Dafa has helped to preserve precious human traditions such as honesty, courtesy, loyalty and unselfishness."

Members of the House of Lords in The United Kingdom stated that, "Falun Dafa is an entirely peaceful belief system which encourages the highest standards of moral behavior among its adherents." "These people are not only harmless but also deeply respectable."

Falun Gong has no religious rituals. No donations, memberships or obligations in any form. No racial or cultural boundaries. No political agenda. Open to the public. Free classes. Free books on Internet.

## Persecution of Falun Gong in China

It is hard to believe that Falun Gong would be suppressed simply because of its popularity; but that is exactly what has happened in China over the last few years.

In 1992, when Falun Gong teachings were first introduced to the public in China, it was well received. Unfortunately, the growing popularity of Falun Gong gradually upset some authorities in China. In the early 1999, a secret official investigation showed that over 70 million Chinese citizens were practicing Falun Gong, including many party members, government officials, scholars, and members of the army and police. Some leaders of the government became increasingly nervous and felt threatened by this discovery. The police were ordered to outwardly harass and threaten practitioners to stop them from studying or practicing Falun Gong.



Millions of Falun Gong books and tapes were confiscated, shredded, and burned. Above are typical scenes.

In the city of Tianjin, on April 23, 1999, dozens of Falun Gong practi-



tioners were arrested and hundreds were beaten by police.

Two days later, 10,000 practitioners gathered in Beijing, outside the central government compound, to present their peaceful request for a legal and non-hostile environment in which to practice their spiritual beliefs.



The gathering was peaceful, orderly and lawful. After a few practitioners were able to meet with certain high-level government leaders, everybody quietly went home. The practitioners did not know that the Government was about to start a full-scale suppression of Falun Gong.



On July 20, 1999, the Government started the relentless persecution.

Hundreds of Falun Gong contact people were arrested at midnight and had their homes ransacked. Two days later, Falun Gong was outlawed in China.



Millions of Falun Gong books and tapes were confiscated, shredded and burned. Tens of thousands of Falun Gong practitioners were arrested and beaten.

Tens of thousands of practitioners were detained for practicing Falun Gong. Many were inhumanly treated or tortured. Above are photos from Beijing: Practitioners went to Tian An Men Square for a peaceful appeal, by practicing Falun Gong exercises. They were pulled away and arrested immediately by police and plainclothes police.



Song Yuesheng, a volunteer contact person in the city of Haikou, capital of the southern island province of Hainan, refused to renounce his faith in Falun Gong and was sentenced to 12 years in prison.

In a **US State Department** press briefing in Nov. 1999, spokesperson Mr. Rubin said regarding this case: "On the sentencing of the Falun Gong, let me say that our views have not changed. We have no reason to believe that the individuals involved have done anything other than exercise their internationally recognized human rights to freedom of assembly. We think this is a step in the wrong direction and a violation of their internationally recognized human rights. "

To justify their brutal crackdown, the Chinese government launched an intensive defamation campaign against Falun Gong. It fabricated horror stories and distorted facts to cover the truth. These lies flooded the nation's media and were also distributed internationally.

All communications with the outside world were blocked. Falun Gong web sites were sealed. Telephones were tapped. E-mail was monitored, and foreign reporters were threatened or detained for contacting Falun Gong practitioners.

The Chinese government issued an arrest warrant and extradition request for Mr. Li, who is now a legal resident of the United States.

Throughout China, all practitioners are denounced and forced to choose between Falun Gong and their jobs, pensions, education, housing or party membership. The persecution on Falun Gong is forced into every community and all state-run workplaces.

People seen practicing the exercises or even talking about Falun Gong are immediately arrested and taken to "re-education programs to change their minds" about Falun Gong. Police reward people who report on their neighbors doing Falun Gong even in the privacy of their own homes.

New criminal legislation was passed recently by the Chinese people's congress and lawyers are ordered not to represent Falun Gong practitioners.

Hundreds of practitioners are facing prison terms and thousands of others are to be sent to labor camps without trials.

Falun Gong is being brutally persecuted in China because the Communist Party, which is an atheist regime, cannot tolerate any spiritual beliefs, and for the simple fact that the number of Falun Gong practitioners exceeds the Communist Party membership. The charges made against Falun Gong in the Chinese smear campaign are fabricated and groundless.

## Hope for a Peaceful Resolution

Falun Gong is apolitical and is not against any government. Like Tai Chi, it is a popular exercise that improves people's health and spiritual well being. All activities of Falun Gong are free and open to the public. Practitioners are always willing to help any government to gain an objective understanding of the practice.

Everyone is invited to come to understand why so many people in China and elsewhere feel blessed to have found Falun Dafa as their true spiritual path.

Clearly, the charges made against Falun Gong practitioners are in violation of the Constitution of the People's Republic of China, and of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that the Chinese government has



Practitioners have peacefully appealed to United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan to organize a United Nations team to make an independent study of the group and to help China resolve the crisis peacefully. (Nov. 16, 1999)



Practitioners held a press conference in Beijing on Oct. 28, 1999 to seek international support by telling the true story of Falun Gong. Reporters from Reuters, AP, AFP and the New York Times attended. There has been extensive press coverage of this event.

**Journalists harassed:** The journalists were later questioned at length by police, obliged to sign a confession of wrongdoing and had their work and residence papers temporarily confiscated. Several of those reporters were under heavy police surveillance. The Foreign Correspondents' Club of China issued a formal protest against the official "intimidation and harassment" by the Chinese authorities on Nov. 10, 1999. There has been extensive press coverage of these events.

recently ratified. We hope that the world will speak out to ensure fairness and a respect for international legal standards as well as for the right of people to practice their spiritual beliefs. Stopping the policy of suppression will only benefit the Government in regaining the respect and trust of its own citizens.

The Chinese people should be allowed to exercise the right to freedom of belief, freedom of assembly, and freedom of expression. To put Falun Gong practitioners on trial just because they try to exercise these given rights makes a mockery of the very constitution that is supposed to rule the land.

It is worth noting that during these months of extreme violence and torture, Falun Gong practitioners have shown unparalleled kindness and forbearance. Not a single practitioner has hit back or retaliated in any way. They have no hatred toward those who tortured them. Worldwide, all practitioners have only used non-violent, peaceful means to appeal. This kind of conduct, in the face of such torment and injustice, exhibited on such a large scale, has spoken volumes to the world about the fundamentally peaceful and compassionate nature of Falun Gong.

We are still hoping that, with the help and the support of the international community, this issue can be resolved peacefully



through direct dialogue with the Chinese government.

We call on all people of goodwill worldwide to extend support and assistance to us in order to resolve the present crisis in China and to pass on the truth of Falun Gong. We thank you for your understanding, your support and your kindness.

**We are not against the government now, nor will we be in the future. Other people may treat us badly, but we do not treat others badly, nor do we treat people as enemies.**

**We are calling for all governments, international organizations, and people of goodwill worldwide to extend their support and assistance to us in order to resolve the present crisis that is taking place in China.**

--- Li Hongzhi, July 22, 1999

## **Support from People Worldwide**

Amnesty International has published 8 pages of documented cases of practitioners tortured and killed by the Chinese government. Beneath is an excerpt of the document.

### **Amnesty International**

Public document, AI Index: ASA 17/54/99, Oct. 22, 1999

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

REPORTS OF TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT OF  
FOLLOWERS OF THE FALUN GONG

Amnesty International is deeply concerned by reports that detained followers of the Falun Gong have been tortured or ill-treated in various places of detention in China. In early October 1999, one member of the group, a 42 year-old woman, was reportedly beaten to death in police custody in Shangdong province. Many followers of the group remain in detention across China and it is feared that followers be at risk of torture or ill-treatment. Many Falun Gong practitioners are middle-aged or elderly people, with a large proportion of women among them.



Case 1. Zhu Hang, Professor, was arrested when practicing the Falun Gong exercises in a park on Aug. 30, 1999. She was tortured with the "Di Lao device" (translated literally as the "prison in hell device", which was even seldom used on prisoners facing life penalty) that held her unable to move for several days. The above photo, taken 7 days after she was released from prison, shows her injuries from the "Di Lao device".

Case 2. Zhaung Chun-qing, a 58-year-old grandmother from the city of Dalian, practiced the exercises in the park with her 3-year old granddaughter on Sept 3, 1999. She was arrested and shackled in the "Di Lao device". Shortly after her release she was arrested again and charged with "leaking state secrets" for revealing her mistreatment to western media.

Case 3. Zhao Jinhua, a 42-year-old woman from Shandong Province, was taken from her work in the fields on September 27th for "re-education" in local police custody and beaten to death after 10 days.

**Amnesty International** documented the above three cases.

The Falun Gong - a movement which combines teaching of meditation and breathing exercises as a method to improve one's health and moral standards - was banned by the Chinese government in July 1999. The government, apparently concerned by the large number of followers in all sectors of society - including government departments, declared it was a "cult" and a "threat to stability" and launched a nationwide propaganda campaign against it. The campaign was described as an important "political struggle". Thousands of Falun Gong followers who attempted to protest peacefully against the ban or who continued to practice exercises were arbitrarily detained across China in the days and weeks which followed the ban. Many were reportedly beaten by police in the process. At least hundreds are believed to remain in detention. Some are now being brought to trial on politically motivated charges. They are likely to be sentenced to long prison terms after unfair trials.

The following are some of the reports of torture and ill-treatment of Falun Gong practitioners received by Amnesty International. Some are accounts

of police brutality against people in the immediate aftermath of the ban on the Falun Gong in July 1999. Many other cases have been reported. While in the current climate of repression, it is difficult to verify these reports. They contain specific and often detailed information about the places and circumstances in which torture is reported to have occurred, including the names and details of many of the alleged victims, and in some cases their photographs. Most of these reports describe patterns of torture which are known to be common in China. They contain serious allegations which should be impartially investigated. Under the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment of Punishment, which China ratified in 1988, China has the obligation to investigate all reports and complaints of torture, bring those responsible for torture to justice and compensate the victims....

## **President Clinton Denounces China's Crackdown on Falun Gong**

Excerpt from

### **THE NEW YORK TIMES**

International Section, Dec. 7, 1999

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6 (AP) -- President Clinton criticized China's crackdown on the Falun Gong spiritual movement today.

Mr. Clinton's comments were his first about China's detention and jailing of Falun Gong members. He called it a troubling example of the government's acting against those "who test the limits of freedom."

"Its targets are not political dissidents, and their practices and beliefs are unfamiliar to us," he said. "But the principle still surely must be the same, freedom of conscience and freedom of association."

Thousands of Falun Gong followers have reportedly been detained since the government banned the group four months ago as a threat to it. Adherents say the Falun Gong, which draws ideas from Buddhism, Taoism and traditional Chinese slow motion exercises and meditation,

# Media Reports on Falun Gong

Christian Science Monitor (Nov. 1, 1999)

## Falun Gong's Courage

China's authoritarian leaders face their biggest opposition yet, and for them, it's like punching a cloud.

Over the past week, thousands of followers of a religious practice called Falun Gong have slipped into Beijing, just walking around, trying to talk to officials in protest against a crackdown on their beliefs and leaders.

A loosely organized movement of millions of Chinese, Falun Gong has no political agenda other than to protect itself. Yet, the more it is suppressed, the stronger its faithful express their beliefs through peaceful, public witness.

The world can only watch as this giant nation plays out a drama between a government that is spiritually bankrupt and masses of people searching for greater meaning in life. Killing and jailing the brave followers of Falun Gong will solve nothing.

(Photos are not part of this article.)



Calmly practicing amid arrests.



Smile for the journey ahead. This photo was taken before the practitioners went to Tian An Men Square in Beijing. Most of them were arrested afterward.

## Excerpt from Washington Post

(Nov. 2, 1999) "China's communist leaders often insist that theirs is, in fact, a system of laws -- that human rights activists who complain about a lack of democracy are just hung up on minor details, like elections. In the past week, events have proven the leaders absolutely right. When they

found themselves without the laws they needed to vigorously persecute a peaceful meditation society, the Party simply ordered up some new laws. Now these will be applied -- retroactively, of course -- in show trials that could lead to execution for the group's leaders. This is what the regime calls 'smashing them rigorously in accordance with the law.' By these standards, Stalin was a scrupulous observer of civil rights." "The current regime reveals with its latest crackdown that it cannot cope with change and cannot tolerate any independent voices. Future U.S.-Chinese relations would be better served if the United States spoke out more loudly on behalf of such independent voices within China, rather than betting on a regime that increasingly seems able only to burn books and chase dissidents."

(Nov. 22, 1999) "Its survival is evidence that the (communism) party was never strictly about the utopian economic vision of a communist future but rather was about power, pure and simple. While the party has lost its ideological center of gravity, it retains a sense of purpose: to perpetuate itself, jealously guard its political monopoly and squash potential rivals."

### Excerpt from New York Times (Nov. 4, 1999)

"Has it come to this: that the Chinese Communist Party is terrified of retirees in tennis shoes who follow a spiritual master in Queens?

As security forces worked frantically to round up believers who converged on Beijing to plead Falun Gong's case, the government left no doubt that it intends to wipe out all organized traces of the movement -- even if that requires jailing thousands of people who never saw themselves as enemies of the state.

Behind closed doors in recent weeks many Chinese, from professors to cab drivers, have said the government has overreacted. Many say its blunt repression of a spiritual movement that attracted hordes of ordinary people seeking health and happiness will cause lasting social divisions and further erode faith in the party. "

### Excerpt from Los Angeles Times (Nov. 3, 1999)

"Two years ago, more than half a million members of Promise Keepers, a Christian evangelical men's movement, thronged onto the Mall here for one of the largest rallies in U.S. history, attracting extraordinary press coverage in the process." "That is not what would have happened in China. There, a budding social movement like Promise Keepers would

have been banned and officially condemned. Its adherents would have been kept out of the capital city. Its leaders would have been thrown into jail. This has become evident in recent weeks as China's Communist Party leadership has done all this to the spiritual movement called Falun Gong. "

### Excerpt from BBC (Nov. 21, 1999)

"Some cynics have even suggested that the (Chinese government's) definitions of a cult - from absolute belief in a leader to a love of quasi-scientific theories - could equally apply to the Communist Party. "

"Analysts say the government's real fear of Falun Gong may stem from its rapid growth in popularity among those materially or spiritually dispossessed by two decades of drastic economic change. "

## US House and Senate Passed Resolutions To stop China's persecution of Falun Gong

On November 18, 1999, the United States House of Representatives unanimously passed a resolution criticizing Chinese government's crackdown on Falun Gong. On November 19, the United States Senates also passed a related resolution.

The following is the resolution H. CON. RES. 218 passed by the House.

### CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

**Expressing the sense of the Congress that the Government of the People's Republic of China should stop its persecution of Falun Gong practitioners.**

Whereas Falun Gong is a peaceful and nonviolent form of personal belief and practice with millions of adherents in China and elsewhere;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China has forbidden Falun Gong practitioners to practice their beliefs;

Whereas this prohibition violates China's own Constitution as well as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

Whereas thousands of ordinary citizens from all over China have been jailed

for refusing to give up their practice of Falun Gong and for appealing to the government for protection of their constitutional rights;

Whereas there are many credible reports of torture and other cruel, degrading and inhuman treatment of detained Falun Gong practitioners;

Whereas the People's Republic of China has enacted new criminal legislation that the government's official newspaper hailed as a 'powerful new weapon to smash evil cultist organizations, especially Falun Gong';

Whereas some of the detained Falun Gong members have been charged with political offenses, such as violations of China's vague 'official state secrets' law, and under the new legislation Falun Gong practitioners will be chargeable with such offenses as murder, fraud, and endangering national security;

Whereas other Falun Gong members have been sentenced to labor camps, apparently under administrative procedures allowing such sentences without trial;

Whereas Chinese authorities in recent months have reportedly confiscated, burned, or otherwise destroyed millions of Falun Gong books and tapes;

Whereas thousands of Falun Gong practitioners in China have lost their jobs and students have been expelled from schools for refusing to give up their beliefs; and

Whereas the brutal crackdown by the Chinese Government on Falun Gong is in direct violation of the fundamental human rights to freedom of personal belief and practice, expression, and assembly: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that--

(1) the Government of the People's Republic of China should stop persecuting Falun Gong practitioners; and

(2) the Government of the United States should use every appropriate public and private forum, including but not limited to the United Nations Human Rights Commission, to urge the Government of the People's Republic of China--

(A) to release from detention all Falun Gong practitioners and put an immediate end to the practices of torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment against them and other prisoners of conscience;

(B) to allow Falun Gong practitioners to pursue their personal beliefs in accordance with article 36 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of China; and

(C) to abide by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

TRY IT YOURSELF

# FALUN GONG

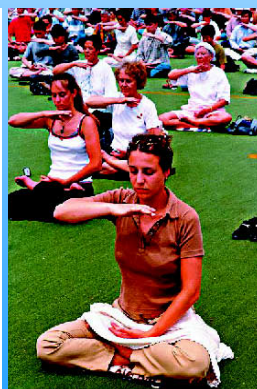
**Truthfulness-Compassion-Forbearance**

All are invited to learn Falun Gong (Falun Dafa). To start, you can read *China Falun Gong* and *Zhuan Falun*. Then join us in group practice to learn the five exercises. However, the most systematic and effective way of learning Falun Gong is to attend the nine-session workshop.

The above two books, as well as other works by Master Li Hongzhi, are available free on the Internet, in many languages including Chinese, English, French, German, Russian, Spanish, Korean, Japanese, etc.

Exercise-instructions and workshops are provided voluntarily by practitioners in every practice center. You may visit <http://falundafa.org> or <http://falundafa.ca> to find Falun Gong books and a practice center near you. Or you may call 1-877-Falun-99 (toll-free). All Falun Gong activities are open to the public and free of charge.

For Falun Gong news and practitioners' experiences, please visit <http://minghui.ca> and <http://falunwisdom.net>.



Compiled by Falun Dafa practitioners in North America.  
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