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News and Events from Around the World



Australia: Falun Dafa Practitioner Wins Lawsuit against Bo Xilai

At a press conference in front of the New South Wales Supreme Court in Sydney on November 7, 2007, Falun Gong practitioners announced that the Supreme Court of NSW had issued a default judgment on November 5, recognizing that the defendant, Chinese Minister of Commerce Bo Xilai, had failed to provide a defense for the case brought against him by Mr. Pan Yu. The judgment was in favor of the plaintiff, Falun Gong practitioner Pan Yu.



Plaintiff Pan Yu's legal assistant Newton Xu and witness Ms. Liu Yaqin display the verdict issued by the Supreme Court of NSW

Pan Yu's legal assistant, Newton Xu, showed the verdict that was issued by the Supreme Court of NSW. He said that the court made a default judgment against the defendant, Bo Xilai. The court ruled that plaintiff Pan Yu had won the case, and that he may ask for compensation for injuries caused by the defendant. Mr. Newton stated that for the next step he will assist the plaintiff in preparing additional information, and submit it to the court. This will require Bo Xilai to pay compensation for the plaintiff's tremendous physical and mental suffering caused by the persecution of Falun Gong. The court will issue the final amount Bo Xilai will have to pay.

When the Chinese Minister of Commerce Bo Xilai accompanied Hu Jintao to Australia for the Asia-Pacific Summit on September 4, 2007, he was served a summons in person at his hotel the first day he arrived in Canberra, the capital of Australia. When the court opened for a hearing on October 8, it accepted the testimony submitted by the plaintiff's lawyer, but Bo Xilai did not appear in court, nor send a lawyer on his behalf. The court then ruled against Bo Xilai in the second hearing held on November 5.

The legal assistant of the plaintiff, Newton Xu, believes that the victory in this case has significant meaning. China's legal system is unable to provide people with a guarantee of their basic rights, while in Australia and other democratic countries, this is the court's basic duty; the court is a symbol of justice and fairness. This case can also encourage more people in China to seek their basic human rights. Bo Xilai is the highest ranking Chinese Communist Party official to be found guilty in an overseas lawsuit so far. This case also serves as a potent reminder to other CCP officials who have participated in the persecution of Falun Gong.



Falun Gong practitioner Pan Yu who sued Chinese Minister of Commerce for torture

Plaintiff Pan Yu said in an interview that he was very pleased about winning the case. He thanked the Australian court for upholding justice and issuing a judgment against the criminal. He believed that this showed that the CCP's persecution of Falun Gong is against the people's will, and has roused indignation of the world's people. A very recent open letter was addressed to Hu Jintao and Wen Jiabao by a standing member of Anhui Province's Political Consultative Commission, Wang Zhaojun. It requested political reform, and called for an end to the persecution of Falun Gong; this also shows that people have a sense of natural justice.

NSW Falun Dafa Association President Ms. Zhao said that the verdict is encouraging. This is the first example in which an Australian court made a judgment in favor of Falun Gong practitioners regarding the crimes committed by CCP officials in the persecution of Falun Gong. This will play a positive role in pushing forward other lawsuits filed by other Falun Gong practitioners in Australia, such as the lawsuit against Jiang Zemin, the lawsuit against the secretary of the Guangdong Provincial Party Committee Zhang Dejiang, and the lawsuit against Chen Shaoji. In addition, the victory in this case is also encouraging to millions of Falun Gong practitioners suffering persecution inside China. At the same time, she hoped that this case will also serve as a timely warning to CCP officials who continue persecuting Falun Gong in China.

Spokesperson for the NSW Falun Dafa Association John Deller said the case helps more people learn what Falun Gong is and therefore understand the CCP's real purpose in the persecution of Falun Gong.

He pointed out at the press conference that when Bo was Governor of Liaoning Province, he actively participated in and implemented the genocidal persecution of Falun Gong. Pan Yu was detained at the Longshan Forced Labor Camp in Liaoning Province in 2000 for practicing Falun Gong. During the detention, he suffered all kinds of physical torture and mental torment. On one occasion, the policemen fully charged the electric batons to 40,000 volts and shocked him continuously for around 10 minutes. He was mentally devastated, and nearly lost his life.

When Chinese Minister of Commerce Bo Xilai worked as Deputy Secretary of Liaoning Provincial Party Committee, Governor of Liaoning Province, former secretary of the Dalian City Party Committee and Dalian Mayor, he controlled and directed the persecution of Falun Gong, making Liaoning Province one of the provinces where the persecution of Falun Gong was the most severe. Bo Xilai actively built large-scale prison facilities and employed extremely brutal and inhuman methods to brainwash and persecute Falun Gong practitioners.

Washington D.C., U.S.A.: Rally Held in Front of Capitol Hill Supports Human Rights Torch Relay

Human rights violations in China are drawing more attention in Washington D.C. as the 2008 Olympics approach. On October 27, 2007, U.S. congressmen, human rights lawyers, representatives from Amnesty International, and representatives from the Romanian and Vietnamese communities held a rally in front of Capitol Hill to support the Human Rights Torch Relay.



Representatives from Vietnamese, Burmese and Laos communities speak at the rally

The Human Rights Torch Relay is organized by the Coalition to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong (CIPFG), which pointed out that the Olympics and crimes against humanity should not co-exist in China. The purpose of the torch relay is to call upon the international community to pay more attention to human rights violations in China, including the persecution of Falun Gong.

One hundred people from different communities attended the rally. They held banners in different languages, which passed the same information to the public: "Olympics and crimes against humanity should not co-exist in China," and "No human rights; No Olympics."

Twent-six-year old Wang Xiaodan came to the rally from Texas. She told the public about her father Wang Zhiwen's experiences of being persecuted as a Falun Gong practitioner. On July 20, 1999, Wang Zhiwen was arrested. Wang Xiaodan has not seen him since.

Terri Marsh, a human rights lawyer from Washington, D.C., has been collecting evidence of the persecution of Falun Gong. She said at the rally that the Communist Party's harvesting organs from living Falun Gong practitioners truly exists. She also called upon the international community to pay more attention to Mr. Gao Zhisheng, a Chinese human rights lawyer who has conducted intensive investigation on the persecution of Falun Gong and exposed the evidence to the public.



The rally

At the rally, the attendees sang the song, "Human Rights Torch," in Chinese, English, French, Russian, German, Korean, Hindi, Vietnamese, and Lao.

Elijah Cummings, a U.S. congressman from Maryland, and non-government organizations wrote supporting letters to the rally.

Tan Van Nguyen, chair of the Asian Democracy Association, said that the persecution of Falun Gong by the Communist Party is against the Olympic spirit. He called upon leaders and people in the free world to exert more pressure on the Chinese Communist regime and pass the message on to them: "No human rights, No Olympics."

Dan Maloney, representative from Amnesty International at the Catholic University of America, said that the members of Amnesty International will attend the Human Rights Torch Relay when it arrives in Washington, D.C. in March 2008.

Facts of the Persecution



Mr. Cao Hongyan Tortured to Death in Jilin Prison in October 2007

Falun Gong practitioner Mr. Cao Hongyan from Jilin Province was illegally sentenced to eight years imprisonment. On October 9, 2007, he was tortured to death in Jilin Prison.

Mr. Cao was sent to Jilin Railroad Hospital, also known as the Police Hospital, on October 8, 2007 after he lost consciousness from being tortured in Jilin Prison. When his family rushed to the hospital, they saw that Mr. Cao had been intubated and was being given oxygen. Mr. Cao was not moving. His left eye was closed, his right eye was half closed, and his mouth was open. He passed away at 5:50 a.m. on October 9, 2007. When Mr. Cao's family members changed his clothes, the corners of his mouth bled. There was a large patch of black bruises at the top of one of his thighs and a round mark the size of a dime on the right side of his chest. When Mr. Cao's family asked about the cause of his death, the police said it was a brain hemorrhage. However, the doctor said they did not confirm the diagnosis and did not even perform cerebral tests. On October 9, 2007, Mr. Cao's body was quickly cremated.

Guards at Jilin Prison had tortured many practitioners to death before Cao Hongyan, including Liu Chengjun, Wei Xiushan, Zhang Jianhua, Cao Weidong and He Yuanhui. Practitioners including Hao Yinqiang and Lei Ming died as a result of torture suffered in Jilin Prison after they were transferred to other prisons, or released on bail for medical treatment. Many practitioners were disabled due to the persecution there.

A brief description of Mr. Cao Hongyan persecution follows:

Mr. Cao Hongyan, 46 years old, lived in Zuojia Town, Changyi District, Jilin City (formerly Hewanzi Town). After the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) started the persecution of Falun Gong in July 1999, Cao Hongyan and his family were persecuted many times by local police and officials.

In September 1999, Cao Hongyan and his wife went to Beijing to peacefully advocate for Falun Gong. They were arrested and later escorted from the Liaison Office in Beijing to the local police by policemen, including Yan Leiming from the Politics and Security Section of Yongji County. They were detained in Yongji County Detention Center for more than 40 days and forced to pay about 2,900 yuan for supposed "meal costs."

In 2000, Mr. Cao and his wife were reported by Wang Mukun when they clarified the truth to people. Policemen including Ma Wenjian, Gao Zhongju, Ma Weidong and Wang Zhiping broke into their home and took them to the local police station to force a confession from them. Later, they were sent to Changyi District Detention Center in Jilin City for fifteen days.

In February 2001, many policemen from the local police station went to Mr. Cao's home and took him and his wife away to a brainwashing center. The guards gave them less food and forced them to sleep on the ground. They were detained for more than 40 days. Mr. Cao's wife could not eat, and she vomited many days in a row. However, she did not receive any medical attention. Later, Mr. Cao and his wife were forced to become homeless in order to avoid being arrested at home again, after they walked out from the brainwashing center. Their young child was left at home.

In 2002, Mr. Cao was again arrested by police from Yangjiaweizi Police Station in Changchun City when he left work. He was illegally sentenced to eight years of imprisonment and detained in Jilin Prison. In the Jilin Prison, Mr. Cao went on hunger strike to protest his detainment and the persecution. He was confined in a tiny cell and had his limbs stretched out on a torture bed, causing him to experience excruciating pain.

Sometime in October 2004, police from Jilin Prison sent Mr. Cao to Jilin Railroad Central Hospital for emergency treatment. At that time, his family rushed to the hospital and saw his legs swollen and the muscles of his face spastic.

On October 9, 2007, Mr. Cao Hongyan was tortured to death in Jilin Prison. The detailed information about his torture and suffering are still under investigation.

Falun Gong Practitioner Mr. Chen Jianzhong Tortured to Death in Forced Labor Camp

On February 13, 2007, Falun Gong practitioner Mr. Chen Jianzhong was taken home in critical condition from the Changsha City Xinkaipu Forced Labor Camp in Hunan Province. Mr. Chen remained on the brink of death and finally passed away on September 14, 2007, at the age of 36.



Mr. Chen Jianzhong



Mr. Chen Jianzhong weighed only 80 pounds when he was taken home from Xinkaipu Forced Labor Camp.

On September 17, 2007, eight of Mr. Chen's relatives went to Xinkaipu Forced Labor Camp to seek justice for Mr. Chen. Section Chief Jiang of the Management Section, mainly in charge of persecuting Falun Gong practitioners, denied that the forced labor camp is responsible for Mr. Chen's death. Eventually, he threatened Mr. Chen's relatives, "We are not responsible at all. If you keep causing trouble for us, we'll arrest you!" Another guard said, "We are just following orders from the top. We enforce the law with only a civilized approach and have never persecuted any Falun Gong practitioners. Where's your evidence?" Mr. Chen's relatives had no choice but to leave with great sorrow and disappointment.

That afternoon, Mr. Chen Jianzhong's body was cremated, and his ashes were taken to his hometown for burial. His mother is unaware of his death. His relatives returned home to learn that officials from the Changsha government requested the township to send people to follow them home to keep them from exposing the torture of Mr. Chen Jianzhong.

Mr. Chen Jianzhong was from Chaling County, Zhuzhou City, Hunan Province. In April 1999, while he worked in Shenzhen City, Guangdong Province, he started to practice Falun Gong after he heard the practitioners went to appeal in Beijng.

Three months later, Jiang Zemin and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) started the unprecedented persecution of Falun Gong. Under the sudden overwhelming pressure, Mr. Chen Jianzhong wrote a letter to the executives of his company to explain the facts of why he decided to go to Beijing to appeal for justice for Falun Gong and defend its principles of "Truthfulness, Benevolence, Forbearance." He was arrested at Tiananmen Square but managed to escape and return home. He continued "clarifying the truth" about Falun Gong and distributed truth-clarification materials in Hunan Province.

On October 25, 2005, he attended a business meeting with a customer at Yinhua Restaurant, where he clarified the truth about Falun Gong to the customer and later to a security guard in the elevator. The security guard reported him to the police, and he was arrested. On November 1, 2005, the Changsha City Forced Labor Committee decided to jail him in Xinkaipu Forced Labor Camp for two years. The entire process, from arrest to forced labor camp, took only one week, without going through any legal procedures.

In order to stop the illegal persecution of Mr. Chen, his brother worked with other Falun Gong practitioners to go through the legal process to seek justice for Mr. Chen.

In November 2005, Mr. Chen's family requested an Administrative Reconsideration from the Changsha City Legal Enforcement Committee to nullify the Forced Labor Committee's decision, with no success.

In March 2006, Mr. Chen's family filed a lawsuit against Tianxin District Court in Changsha City. However, on April 19, 2006, the court held a trial but did not inform the plaintiff. This was an obvious violation of the legal procedure. The judge and the representative of the defendant Forced Labor Committee could not answer the questions from Mr. Chen's family and their attorneys, dancing around the questions and finally claiming that they were "following the policy set up by the top." The judge

then announced that the trial was adjourned and that he would pick another day to continue.

On May 16, 2006, Tianxin District Court continued the trial but did not inform Mr. Chen's family. Their attorneys informed Mr. Chen's family that they were under severe pressure from the government not to inform them about the trial in advance. The government was afraid that too many people would come to the court and that something could happen unexpectedly. The government also sent almost one hundred fully armed policemen to guard the court. During the trial, Mr. Chen Jianzhong solemnly presented his case. He used his own experiences to describe the righteousness of Falun Gong and exposed the illegal persecution of Falun Gong by Jiang Zemin's group. The attorneys helped to demonstrate that the charges against Mr. Chen lacked evidence and also that the procedures were illegal. The judge and the representative of the defendant could not say a word. The day after the trial was adjourned, Mr. Chen's family learned that the court decided to uphold the original judgment.

On August 16, 2006, Mr. Chen's family appealed to the Changsha City Intermediate Court, which announced a judgment of last resort to uphold the original decision without any trial or investigation.

On October 13, 2006, Mr. Chen's family appealed to Hunan Province High Court. The High Court refused to accept the case and pushed it back to the Intermediate Court.

While Mr. Chen's family was seeking legal recourse to rescue Mr. Chen, Xinkaipu Forced Labor Camp carried out many injustices against Mr. Chen Jianzhong, including physical assault, sleep deprivation, electric baton shocking, and more than three months of solitary confinement. When Mr. Chen had difficulty breathing, the forced labor camp did not stop torturing him. At the year-end annual exam, doctors found that Mr. Chen was in critical condition and reported it to the executives of the forced labor camp. Xinkaipu Forced Labor Camp was afraid that he might die there, so they granted Mr. Chen a medical leave.

On February 13, 2007, Mr. Chen Jianzhong was dying and weighed only 80 pounds when taken home by his family. In early August, his health deteriorated further; he did not have strength in his limbs and could not eat or drink. He passed away on September 14, 2007, after struggling for survival for about one month.

Mr. Cai Zidong Secretly Transferred to Brainwashing Center One Day Before the End of His Seven-Year Prison Term

On October 11, 2007, one day before the end of his illegal seven-year imprisonment, a Falun Gong practitioner Mr. Cai Zidong in Shiyan City, Hubei Province was unlawfully and secretly transferred to a brainwashing center in Wuhan City and persecuted for an extended period of time.

Seven years ago, due to his refusal to renounce his faith and for his perseverance in practicing Falun Gong, Cai Zidong was illegally sentenced to seven years of imprisonment by the Shiyan City Court in Hubei Province. During the term, he was imprisoned in the Qinduankou Prison in Hubei Province and the Fanjiatai Prison in Shayang City, Hubei Province and severely mistreated there. These horrible seven years damaged Cai Zidong's body and mind, and also caused huge suffering for his family. His mother passed away in misery and bitterness during his imprisonment.

Cai Zidong's illegal term was over on October 12, 2007. His family had already contacted the Fanjiatai Prison many days in advance. The prison officials had said all along that they would definitely return Cai Zidong to his family but had no intention of doing so. When the family went to the prison on the release date to pick up Cai Zidong, the prison went back on their word and said that according to a secret order from the 610 Office, none of the Falun Gong practitioners who had completed their terms were allowed to go home. Instead, they would be transferred to the 610 Office at the practitioners' residential area, which would then process their cases. So one day before the end of his term, Cai Zidong was sent to a "legal education center" (a brainwashing center that persecutes Falun Gong practitioners) in Wuhan City by the 610 office in Shiyan City and imprisoned there. They refused to tell the family of his whereabouts and how long he would be imprisoned.

After being unlawfully sentenced and persecuted for seven years, Cai Zidong was once again detained by the 610 office. This was done without following any legal procedures.

Cai Zidong worked in the Design Department of Dongfeng Automobile Company in Shiyan City. He graduated from Harbin Industrial University, and he is now forty years old. In 1994, Cai Zidong and his mother attended Master Li Hongzhi's Falun Gong lectures. Later, Cai Zidong became the coordinator of the Falun Gong Assistance Center in Shiyan City.

The Chinese Communist Party started to persecute Falun Gong on July 20, 1999. Cai Zidong was arrested and imprisoned in the year 2000. In 2002, he was sentenced to seven years of imprisonment. He was sent to the Qinduankou Prison in Hubei Province. On March 20, 2007, he was transferred to Fanjiatai Prison in Shayang, Hubei Province, where he was beaten and tortured.

During the seven years of imprisonment, Cai Zidong was cruelly beaten by criminals and guards many times, and his health became very poor. The 610 Office forcibly took him to a brainwashing center the day before his seven-year term was over, which has no legal basis.

Ms. Dai Zongzhen on the Brink of Death from Abuse at Wangcun Forced Labor Camp, Shandong Province

Falun Gong practitioner Ms. Dai Zongzhen from Weifang City, Shandong Province was arrested on April 18, 2007. She was sent to Wangcun Forced Labor Camp where she has been severely abused. One source indicated that due to the mistreatment she had to endure, she is on the brink of death. While incarcerated at the labor camp, Ms. Dai's family tried to visit her five times, but their requests were rudely denied.

Ms. Dai Zongzhen, 52, used to suffer from serious heart and kidney disease. The doctor said her heart could stop beating at any time. Her kidney disease made her unable to work a normal schedule. She needed frequent hospitalization. She was mentally weak when facing pressure. In addition, Shanghai hospital doctors diagnosed her as having gynecological problems as well. Ms. Dai started to practice Falun Gong in 1995. Soon her illnesses disappeared. Ms. Dai is well known as a very kind person.

After the persecution of Falun Gong began, Ms. Dai Zongzhen, her husband and child remained determined in their belief. They went to Beijing to request justice for Falun Gong several times and as a result were harassed and persecuted by persons from their workplace and the police at different levels.

As a result of the persecution, the family became homeless and went through great tribulations. Weifang City National Security Team illegally arrested Ms. Dai Zongzhen on April 18, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. on her way back to a rented home. Then the police ransacked her home and took a TV set, a DVD player, a computer, Falun Gong books and about 8,000 yuan cash. Police seized Ms. Dai's daughter Wang Peng and her brother Dai Zongqiu that same day.

Following a one-month detention, the officials from the local 610 Office took the three of them to Wangcun Forced Labor Camp, where Ms. Dai was detained in the 3rd Ward of the Women's Camp. Wang Peng was detained in the 2nd Ward. Dai Zongqiu was detained in the Men's Camp.

Ms. Dai's relatives have tried five times during the last six months to visit her in Wangcun Forced Labor Camp, but the family's visitation rights were denied. The labor camp officials found different reasons to forbid the family visits. At the end of September, Ms. Dai's two aunts and one uncle (all in their seventies) traveled 75 kilometers in the rain to visit Ms. Dai in the labor camp. The labor camp officials still refused their request. One guard tried to cover up the persecution that Ms. Dai has suffered, saying, "Dai Zongzhen did not practice Falun Gong well; her practice didn't heal her illnesses. Her illnesses recurred. She cannot even get her own food."

Ms. Dai's sister and several relatives went to the labor camp on October 9 and asked to see the critically ill Ms. Dai. They petitioned the officials to immediately release Ms. Dai, but were not even permitted to see their loved one. Their request for Ms. Dai's immediate release was also denied. The family asked to meet with the labor camp leaders, but that request was denied as well. A deputy political head even commanded the staff in the office to make the family leave.

The family worried so much about Ms. Dai Zongzhen. They wrote many letters to Wangcun Forced Labor Camp officials, to Weifang 610 Office and to the Police Department, requesting Ms. Dai's release, but never heard back.

People Awaken to the Truth



A Counterfeit One Hundred Yuan Bill

By Zhao Lin

On September 16 when I was walking on the street, I saw a woman around thirty years old selling some goods. I thought that my daughter needed some hair ties so I stopped to see her.

As I was looking through her merchandise, I saw the vendor holding a hundred yuan bill in her hand and holding it up to the sunlight repeatedly. And then, she took out a bill counter to verify the authenticity of the bill. I have been a cashier, and I knew how to distinguish between a fake bill and real one. Noticing that she was not sure whether the bill was real, I said, "Let me give you a hand." She passed me the bill. I felt it and checked that the number did not change color. I told her that the bill was fake. She said, "A man just came to buy something and he gave me a hundred yuan bill and asked for change. I took the bill and verified that it was real. Later, he said that he had gotten some change. So I gave him the bill back, but he did not have enough change. He gave me another hundred bill. I suddenly felt that the bill was not right and checked it again."

I told her that she was being taken advantage of. First, he gave her a real bill to verify, and then he gave her a fake bill. She could not do anything about it.

I sympathized with the vendor and asked how much she could earn one day. She said, "It will take me five days to pay off the loss of this fake bill." To reduce her loss, I said, "I'll give you fifty yuan and let me use this fake bill in playing Mahjong. I can certainly spend it."

She shook her head and told me that she was a Falun Gong practitioner and practiced "Truthfulness, Compassion, Tolerance." She could not harm others for her own interest. Since it was a fake bill, it could not be used to harm others any more. She took the bill and set it on fire with a lighter. Soon, I saw her in a new light and I respected her from my heart. I chatted with her.

She told me that Falun Gong is not what the government TV and newspapers describe. Falun Gong practitioners want to be good people by following the standards of "Truthfulness, Compassion, Tolerance." Just because Falun Gong is so good and so many people practiced Falun Gong, Jiang Zemin became jealous and he brutally persecuted Falun Gong.

The persecution has continued for eight years, and Falun Gong has not been overcome. Rather, it has spread to more than eighty countries all over the world. Falun Gong has received over three thousand awards and other forms of recognition in the world, and it's only banned in China.

I did not know a lot about Falun Gong. I only knew what I'd heard from the TV and newspapers. I often saw stickers like "Falun Dafa is good; Falun Dafa is righteous" posted on exterior walls and poles. I said, "A neighborhood committee member said that you were counter-revolutionaries. I almost believed it." She said, "We only told everyone that Falun Gong was persecuted and cultivators were not interested in politics and power. Neither would they attempt to take power. Over three thousand Falun Gong practitioners have been persecuted to death in China, and many Falun Gong practitioners are detained at forced labor camps, brainwashing classes, and mental hospitals. What shocked the world is that the CCP inhumanly removes organs from thousands of living Falun Gong practitioners and makes profits from them and then cremates the bodies to destroy the evidence of their crimes. The atrocities were disclosed by the wife of a doctor who participated in the live organ harvesting, and verified by an independent investigation team who called this 'an evil that has never existed on the planet'."

I was so shocked that it was several minutes before I came to my senses. I know that the CCP has killed numerous people in political movements; however, I didn't know that these shocking crimes under the sunlight of promoting harmonious society still existed. She told me that heaven's destruction of the CCP is imminent- that there is a giant stone tablet which was formed two hundred and seventy million years ago and that patterns in the stone display six Chinese characters: "Death of the Chinese Communist Party." It was mentioned in the Bible that the CCP branded each member with a mark of the beast on their forehead. If they don't want to eliminate the mark of the beast by withdrawing from the CCP, heaven will not let them off the hook. At her urging, I quit the evil CCP. No matter when the CCP was destroyed, for anybody with a conscience, it's a shame to be a member of this cruel party that has lost human conscience.

A Non-Practitioner: Heaven Is Watching Everyone's Deeds

By a ordinary citizen from China

I discovered the Minghui/Clearwisdom website by chance a short while ago. My sister was arrested several months ago by the Public Security Bureau and held in a detention center. She was sentenced to prison and will soon be sent there. I am very distressed to tell this sad story. My family is heartbroken to see my brother-in-law have to raise two young children by himself.

I am not a Falun Gong practitioner, I am an ordinary citizen. Like many people, I do not understand, and do not have time to learn, the current situations of the many citizens in our country. I do not really care much about people's lives. Their lives have little to do with me. As long as I can provide for my family I am fine. When I see injustice, I feel pity for the poor individuals and curse the unfair society, and that is all. I pay more attention to making money and bettering my life. I do not understand my sister who practices Falun Dafa and "clarifies the truth." She has been persecuted into poverty, and her life lies in complete ruins, as she has become totally destitute. I have nothing against Falun Gong. I applaud Falun Gong because those who practice it pursue "Truthfulness, Compassion, Forbearance" and do nothing but good deeds. I never believed the propaganda on the TV, such as the so-called self-immolation, the killings, and suicides. I know my sister very well, and she and her fellow practitioners are all good people. It is impossible for them to do anything bad. But I am very disgusted with the Chinese Communist Party. This government has been persecuting kind people, and that is not good. I now regret that I did not visit my sister when she was arrested numerous times over the years. Thankfully my third sister went to appeal, to rescue, and to find people to help us.

I did not see my sister until she was released after going on a hunger strike. She called me first from our mother's home, and told me that she missed her child very much. She had been in prison for a year and a half, and was worn to a shadow of her former self. I thought she was dying, and I could not help but cry. After my sister was released, she was followed by a secret agent, and nearly suffered a mental collapse from missing her baby. She could not go home to see her baby, who still required breast-feeding. I realized then just how much my sister had endured.

I believe my sister is great. She did not do anything wrong, and she is a good person. After college graduation, she sacrificed everything for her belief. What is wrong with believing in "Truthfulness, Compassion, Forbearance?" It is the CCP and this demonic dark society that should be hated. Falun Gong is accepted and warmly praised all over the world. Why do people in China have to be persecuted? The only thing I can say is this: The CCP is evil, and it insists on persecuting the righteous. I believe that the universal law is that evil will never prevail. The CCP is doomed to fail and justice will prevail, and I believe that date is coming soon.

After my sister was arrested this time, countless problems arose, which entangled my entire family. These problems left me unable to appeal for my sister. Several days ago, one of my sister's fellow practitioners came and had a long talk with me. After that talk I corrected many wrong thoughts which were in my subconscious. A part of me still thought that my sister should be sentenced.

After I talked with this practitioner, I suddenly awakened. I know my sister is a good person. Why should a good person be sentenced to prison? She did not do anything to harm anyone and went to appeal for being treated unfairly. On what evidence or grounds is the CCP sentencing her to prison?

I asked for help at many law offices. Hearing that the case was related to Falun Gong, they shook their heads and replied with similar sentiments such as, "We can help you with anything such as murder, arson, fraud, or robbery, but not Falun Gong!"

I was completely outraged! Innocent people are constantly sentenced to prison and true criminals get away when they have money. What kind of society is this? When this thought emerged, all the troubling issues at home disappeared over night. I felt full of righteous thoughts.

A lawyer friend of mine is also furious about the current social situation. He has accepted many cases that other lawyers would not touch because he is a man of conscience. He frequently says, "China will not be good until the CCP is gone." He asked me if I had read the <u>Nine Commentaries on the Communist Party</u> which he highly recommended and said, "The book is so accurately written!"

I am very proud of my sister. She pursues her belief and the truth and does not give up even when her life is in danger. How many believers like her can you count in history? I admire my sister and her fellow practitioners. I particularly admire attorney Gao Zhisheng. They are all striving and fighting for those who are persecuted. Have all the Chinese awakened from this? The whole world is watching.

There is justice in this world, this is an absolute truth. I believe there is a God as well. There are spiritual beings three feet above our heads. To those who persecute my sister and her fellow practitioners: you will know the truth when you arrive in hell. Heaven is watching the deeds of everyone!

Voice of Justice



Vice President of the European Parliament Expresses his Concern over Falun Gong Practitioners' Safety to the Speaker of Parliament

Dr. Hans-Gert Poettering,

President, European Parliament

Dear President,

Victims of Religious Repression in China

Further to your exchange of letters of 20 May and 21 July 2007 with Jose Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, about the victims of repression I had contact with in Beijing in May 2006, while preparing a report on human rights and democracy for our Foreign Affairs Committee, this is to advise you that all were arrested, two remain in prison and we have recent reports of their torture (Annex I).

I write in light of the EU-China Human Rights Dialogue taking place in Beijing on 15 October 2007 and the visit to the European Parliament of the delegation of the National People's Congress on 24-28 September.

After meeting me, Mr. Cao Dong (36) was arrested and convicted of "accepting an illegal interview." He is in Tianshui Prison, being tortured to recant his religious convictions and to denounce his meeting with me.

Mr. Niu Jinping (52), appealed at the same meeting on behalf of his wife Zhang Lianying (46) who has been in Beijing Women's Forced Labor Camp since June 2005. She is routinely tortured and in March 2007 was beaten into a coma.

The third case concerns the noted Christian human rights attorney, Gao Zhisheng (44), who has advised a number of Falun Gong practitioners, like the above, and investigated their persecution. We spoke at length on the telephone. He was arrested on 15 August 2006 and convicted of 'subversion'. He has been under house arrest since, although I have maintained contact with him. On 16 September, police spent the day in Gao's flat, harassing him and his family; on 20 September he published an Open Letter to the U.S. Congress and on 22 September, police removed him. There are concerns that the regime may manipulate him.

My concern for the welfare of these individuals has been reinforced by my meetings with many other torture victims in China and the publication on 14 September of the U.S. State Department's "International Religious Freedom Report 2007", which is highly critical of the continuing repression of all religions in China-Christians, Muslims, Tibetan Buddhists-but especially Falun Gong: "Religious adherents and members of spiritual movements have been beaten, and some have died in police custody after being detained in connection with their religious belief or practice."

On 23 September, I met Manfred Nowak, UN rapporteur on torture, whose report on China concluded that two-thirds of those in 'administrative detention' are Falun Gong prisoners. Gao Zhisheng, who also met Nowak, believes that there are some 250,000 Falun Gong currently in such camps: records exist of more than 3,000 who have been tortured to death since 1999. The repression of this 100-million strong 'Buddha School' movement-once encouraged by Beijing for the wellbeing reportedly experienced by its adherents-amounts to genocide.

Yours sincerely,

Edward McMillan-Scott

British MP: We Must Continuously Raise Concern Over the Persecution of Falun Gong Until It Ends

Recently, British MP Keith Hill raised the issue of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) persecuting and harvesting organs from living Falun Gong practitioners during a 3-hour debate in the House of Commons about the Foreign Affairs Committee's annual human rights report.

In the debate, MP Hill started with some background information about the practice of Falun Gong and the CCP's persecution of Falun Gong. He drew attention to the report about the CCP's practice of organ harvesting from living Falun Gong practitioners written by Canadian human rights lawyer David Matas and former Canadian Secretary of State for Asia-Pacific David Kilgour. He said, "We have reason to believe that the practice of organ harvesting continues. If it does not, it is for the Chinese authorities to prove that that is the case. They should allow independent, third-party investigations in China."

MP Hill's speech was applauded by MP Mark Hunter, who said, "Pressure needs to be applied, and there is no better time than now. With China relying on the publicity that the Olympic Games can bring, we will never have a better lever on which to insist on improvements to human rights in that country."

Before this, the House of Commons and House of Lords of the UK Parliament held debates over the persecution of Falun Gong in China many times. MP Hill made a 15-minute speech in this debate.

Mr. Hill said, "This [organ harvesting] is a very important issue as I think no matter in this Parliament or among the British public, there are still many people who know little of this issue. More than that, I also know that what I did is a great help to Falun Gong practitioners' appeal in the UK, in China and other places in the world." (Audio recording)

MP Hill also said that he greatly hopes that the British government will not only raise more issues over the persecution of Falun Gong to Chinese authorities, but also support independent investigations into the allegations of organ harvesting from living Falun Gong practitioners. He said, "I promise to Falun Gong practitioners and to the Chinese authorities that I will be here to raise the issue of Falun Gong and respond to Falun Gong practitioners' appeal until the persecution stops."

High Level Official in China Advocates Cessation of Falun Gong Persecution

Mr. Wang Zhaojun, standing member of the Political Consultative Commission of Anhui Province, China, recently wrote an open letter to Chinese leaders Hu Jintao and Wen Jiabao stating that Falun Gong is the most urgent issue for China. Wang pointed out in the letter that the most urgent issue is to stop the persecution against Falun Gong and provide state compensation for the victims.

In his 400,000 word open letter, Wang talked about various "bombs" that exist in Chinese society-- the damage to the environment and natural resources behind the over-heating economy; the bubble in the real estate market, reform of state enterprises and social injustice; governmental media suppression and the media's breach of duty; the Taiwan issue and China's political reform; policies of political reforms, etc.

Stop the Persecution of Falun Gong Immediately

In his open letter, Wang says, "Freedom of belief is a universal value and is regulated in the U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights and China's Constitution. However, after the Tiananmen Massacre (June 4, 1989), in order to continue the one party dictatorship, Deng Xiaoping's successors listed all non-communist organizations as 'unstable elements' that needed to be 'eliminated before budding.'

"They made an example of Falun Gong, a popular qigong practice at the time. Those [practitioners] who tried to explain themselves were regarded by the government as highly disrespectful of the authorities and would be suppressed using all means." "The suppression against Falun Gong is in fact suppression against all people. It needs to be stopped immediately and victims should be given state compensation," said Wang. Wang suggested that the authorities "send out a representative to talk to Falun Gong and claim criminal liability against the decision maker of the suppression.

"I am only suggesting, and the purpose of my suggestion is to end the persecution against Falun Gong as quickly as possible, so China's progression in democracy can move forward quickly."

Wang Zhaojun's Background

Mr. Wang included an introduction of himself in his lengthy open letter. He was born into a family with common education, his parents died early, and he grew up in Beijing after reaching age five, in another family's house. He experienced the Cultural Revolution, joined the army, taught in middle school, and finally established his own business. He described in detail his story and enlightenment during the days of the Cultural Revolution, and he said his story is like a Chinese version of "Sudba cheloveka" (Film about a Soviet/Russian novelist and winner of the 1965 Nobel Prize in Literature).

In his letter, Mr. Wang recognized the issues frankly, and he presented his own opinion about major issues in China, and initiated a dialog with the top two leaders in China, which can be seen as a serious offense in this country where there is no true freedom of speech. His reform suggestion will offend large number of officials.

Media Reports and Opinions



VOA - Protesters Accuse China of Abusing Human Rights

By Mandy Clark London

Human rights campaigners have created their own Olympic flame relay. The goal of the Human Rights Torch Relay is to shine a spotlight on alleged human rights abuses in China. The flame left Athens in August and, after running through 17 countries, it came to London for the final European leg. Protesters say they want China to free all prisoners of conscience before the Olympics in August 2008. VOA's Mandy Clark reports from London.

Protestors are evoking the Olympic ritual of carrying a torch in an international relay. It had all the fanfare and symbolism associated with the Olympics. But this ceremony was far from a celebration of Beijing's upcoming games. Instead, protesters set-up a global torch relay to highlight China's alleged human rights abuses.

They claim China is cracking down on religious organizations and torturing prisoners of conscience.

Brian Coleman is a politician in the London Assembly. He says if the games were to go ahead in China, it would be a mockery of the Olympic spirit. "I call on all those politicians that are invited to all those expensive free trips next year, to send the tickets back to the Chinese Embassy with a note that they will only step foot in China when it is an open, democratic and free society."

Annie Yang says she was sent to a labor camp in China because she is a follower of the Falun Gong spiritual movement. She says she was denied sufficient food and water and was forced to sit rigidly for 20 hours a day.

"They took all our basic human rights away. Last month, one practitioner I met in the labor camp died there. Even last week, people went to my parents home and (are) still searching (for) me."

Chinese government officials were not available to comment on these accusations. China banned Falun Gong in 1999.

Protesters say the human rights flame was inspired by the Olympic games themselves. The Olympic Charter states it wants to encourage "the establishment of a peaceful society concerned with preservation of human dignity."

The protesters say if they can shine a spotlight on China's alleged abuses, Beijing might make human dignity the priority of the 2008 Olympics.

The march ended with a candle-lit vigil outside the Chinese Embassy. The flame now heads to Australia, South and North America, before ending in Asia by August 2008, right before the Beijing Olympic games are due to start.

Welt Online (Germany): Why the West Shuts its Eyes Concerning Human Rights Violations in China

Liu Wei, born in 1972 in Liaoning Province, China, was imprisoned in a pre-trial prison in the Beijing Dongscheng District from September 25, 2001 until January 25, 2003, because she practices Falun Gong. She was then transferred to a Beijing women's forced labor camp. She recounted what she experienced since August 19, 2005, including psychological and physical torture. In an effort to make her renounce her belief, she was subjected to torture ranging from hard labor to brainwashing and blackmail. They tried to instill in her a deep-seated fear and the inability to take the continuous pressure. One does not need to be a Falun Gong practitioner to understand that Liu Wei suffered great injustice.

The thirty five year old survived the imprisonment. After her release she worked just as before her imprisonment, at the GTZ, the German Society for Technical Cooperation.

The Chinese partner for the project is the Finance and Economics Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) of the People's Republic of China, the highest organ of state power in China. The project leader on the Chinese side objected that the firm employed a Falun Gong practitioner, and he threatened to terminate the project. Ms. Liu Wei explained, "My boss, a German, couldn't argue about this, as he would have also been in trouble with his German supervisors. The German regime assists China very often in projects without compensation. At the same time they are trying to impress the Chinese regime, so they will land large Chinese contracts."

GTZ is a government entity. Berlin therefore is also responsible for what happened to Liu Wei. They need to explain to the public why German taxpayers' money is used in China, as well as where their political direction is taking them. We have already known for quite some time about the political persecution situation in China, about the imprisoned journalists, lawyers, Tibetans, and members of the religious minorities. Despite all the promises by Beijing leaders, the human rights situation before the Olympic Games has not improved, but has actually worsened.

According to Reporters without Borders, the Chinese authorities arrested thirty journalists and fifty Internet dissidents in August. Li Heping and Gao Zhisheng stand out, showing the regime's alarming harassment of Chinese lawyers. They are persecuted by China's secret service, beaten, threatened and arrested.

http://www.welt.de/welt_print/article1246342/Berlin_und_die_Geschichte_Liu_Wheis.html

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", "clarified 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 10th 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.