

Falun Gong in California



Vol. 1. No.1 September, 2002

Inaugural Remarks

Welcome to our newsletter *Falun Gong in California*

By now, a lot of Americans have heard a word or two about Falun Gong. As for further details, most probably think of it as a mixture of Buddhism and Taoism with a mystical aura. This has mainly resulted from some media reports' rather cursory interpretation and characterization of Falun Gong. It is like defining literacy as a mixture of vocabulary and grammar; not necessary wrong, but far from the truth.

We would like to do our part to inform the public about the essence of Falun Gong. As more and more Californians learn and practice Falun Gong, this newsletter will be a forum for them to share with you their personal stories of Falun Gong cultivation and the benefits they experience. We will also provide information and resources for those who are interested in learning Falun Gong.

By now, a lot of Americans have heard about the Chinese government's persecution of Falun Gong. The extent of the ongoing atrocity, however, is far from being adequately covered by the media. Falun Gong practitioners in China have risked everything to collect and send out information to publicize the evilness of the persecution, and many have indeed suffered at the hands of the officials for doing so. We have the responsibility to ensure their sacrifice is not in vain.

In the same noble and peaceful manner as Gandhi, King, and Mandela, Falun Gong practitioners are defending conscience and human dignity. Their suffering and sacrifice are not made just for themselves, but for the most universal and fundamental values of humanity. We will update you with information received from China in this newsletter, and hope you can let others know about the persecution too.

With earnest goodwill, we hope our newsletter can bring Falun Gong to you, and bring you in turn to become a voice for Falun Gong practitioners in China.

News Digest

Eleven Falun Gong Practitioners Died of Persecution in July - Three years have gone by since the Chinese government launched its violent persecution of Falun Gong practitioners in China, and the atrocities of this persecution are being prolonged. In the month of July 2002, we continued to receive horrifying reports from China, including eleven (11) deaths due to the persecution. They are: Ms. Li Shuyuan (age 51), Mr. Li Hongbin, Ms. Liu Dongfen (52), Ms. Wang Haoyun, Ms. Wang Jinling (53), Mr. Zang Dianlong (38), Ms. Wu Mingfang (36), Mr. Zhang Fangliang (47), Ms. Wu Lingxia (37), Mr. Zhang Guohua (24), and Mr. Song Huaping (43).

Falun Gong practitioners in China continue to risk everything to collect and send out information to expose this evil persecution, and many have suffered or lost their lives for doing so. What we are able to learn is only a small portion of the persecution. The scope and severity of this atrocity is difficult to fathom.

H.Con.Res. 188 Passed in the House - On the evening of July 24, 2002, by a vote of 420-0, the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously passed House Concurrent Resolution (H.Con. Res.) 188, initiated by Florida congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and co-sponsored by more than 100 congresspersons. This resolution expresses the sense of Congress that "the Government of the People's Republic of China should cease its persecution (*continue on page 2*)

In the Community

Falun Gong practitioners performing "Fan Dance", a Chinese folk dance, in July 4th celebration this year. Full story on page 2



San Francisco Practitioners Hold a Benefit Performance in Chinatown on Independence Day

(continue from page 1) On the morning of July 4, Falun Gong practitioners came to the "Garden Corner" Park in San Francisco's Chinatown to hold a benefit performance with the theme of "Serving the Chinese community and promoting Chinese culture." The performances included singing, dancing, origami, painting and photography exhibitions.



Young practitioners are performing "Lotus Flower Dance"

The performances attracted a great number of people, who warmly applauded again and again. After the performance, a group of visitors came over to request more information about Falun Gong and expressed their wishes to learn Falun Gong. An old gentleman kept taking pictures and told practitioners: "It was so splendid! I want to take more pictures and show them to my relatives and friends to let them know how wonderful Falun Gong is!"

Bay Area Practitioners Participated in Chinese Annual Sports Meeting

On August 11, 2002, San Francisco Falun Gong practitioners took part in an annual sports meet of local residents of Chinese descent, which was held at a college in San Francisco. Their bright yellow exercise suits were quite eye-catching, and their good demeanor was praised by both participants and organizers. Practitioners demonstrated Falun Gong exercises and also took part in the tug-of-war contest and won third prize.



Tug-of-War

Falun Gong Workshops

Okland

9/7/02, Saturday, 2pm-4pm , Oakland Main Library (Auditorium), Joel: (510) 909-3210

San Leandro

9/8/02, Sunday, 1:30pm-3:30pm, San Leandro Main Library (Trustee Room), Loretta: (510) 331-9165

Los Angeles

9/12/02, Thursday, 7pm-9pm UCLA Campus (Ackerman Union Meeting Room 2412) , (310)699-1020

(continue from page 1) **H.Con.Res. 188 :**

of Falun Gong practitioners, and its representatives in the United States should cease their harassment of citizens and residents of the United States who practice Falun Gong and cease their attempts to put pressure on officials of State and local governments in the United States to refuse or withdraw support for the Falun Gong and its practitioners."

This is the second of similar resolutions passed by the House in the last three years. The first one was introduced by New Jersey Congressman Chris Smith and passed on Nov. 18, 1999.

congressional representatives who voted for H.Con.Res. 188 for their support at this difficult time.

Ukraine Judge Throws Out Case against Falun Gong

The Chinese government's pressure to provoke political prosecution in the Ukraine fell through as a local judge dismissed a case brought against practitioners of Falun Gong by Ukrainian police as "groundless." The police had detained 23 Ukraine Falun Gong practitioners on August 24 in Ukraine's capital after receiving pressure from Beijing. The case was dismissed in court by the presiding judge on August 27.

Falun Gong practitioners in California thank their

A Sham Trial in Hong Kong Widely Criticized -

Under pressure from the Chinese government, the Hong Kong police arrested and prosecuted 16 Falun Gong practitioners who staged a lawful petition in front of the Chinese Liaison Office in Hong Kong. Knowing that they could not challenge the legality of the petition, the authorities charged the practitioners with "obstruction of pedestrians" and found a colluding magistrate to put on a sham trial and convict the Falun Gong practitioners.

This politically motivated trial has been widely criticized by three legislators in Hong Kong and by many others from around the world, including those from the U.S., Canada, England, Ireland, and Switzerland.

Congressman Chris Smith denounced the trial and ver-



Public Obstruction? Pictures and calculation shows the petitioners occupied less than 1/20 of the area in front of the building.

dict as the "latest in China's brutal persecution of Falun Gong" and an "affront to the rule of law in Hong Kong". The sham trial was also criticized by many journalists and international human rights organizations. A commentary in the Wall Street Journal said: "The trial of the Falun Gong members has put Hong Kong on trial. What is at stake is not so much about Falun Gong per se as about Hong Kong's own identity; and the verdict was as much one on Hong Kong's future as it was on these 16 practitioners."

United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees Condemns Cambodia's Repatriation of Falun Gong Practitioners-

On August 2, 2002, under pressure from the Chinese Embassy in Phnom Penh, the Cambodian police arrested a Chinese couple who had escaped from the Chinese government's deadly persecution of Falun Gong and, despite their holding valid U.N. Refugee Certificates, deported them back to a Chinese detention center a week later.

This blatant violation of the Geneva Convention of Refugees has been condemned by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, Amnesty international, and the U.S. Committee for Refugees.

Sit by My Side - Together We End the Persecution

This July 20th was the third anniversary of the Chinese government's persecution of Falun Gong. Falun Gong practitioners from all over the world gathered in Washington, DC to mark three years of epic struggle and courage of Falun Gong practitioners in China, and to remind the world that the deadly persecution is still going on.

From 1992 to 1999, over 100 million people in China and around the world have learned Falun Gong. They devote themselves to the principle of Truthfulness-Benevolence-Forbearance, to the cultivation of their inner selves and to the improvement of their mental and moral quality. This inevitably leads to conscience, courage and universal love.

For three whole years, using the most powerful and heinous police force, China's president, Jiang Zemin, has tried to eradicate Falun Gong. He has not succeeded, and he is destined to fail, for millions and millions of Falun Gong practitioners have made it evident: people who understand the true meaning of life will not give up their conscience!

The courage of Falun Gong practitioners has won more and more support from people around the world. This year's July 20 Falun Gong Rally attracted a large crowd. Many congressional members and human rights organizations made speeches at the rally. A candlelight vigil was held at night in front of the Washington Monument.

Sit by my side
Closing your eyes
Together in silence
We call for
The end of torturing
The end of killing
The end of the persecution
Compassion grows in our hearts
Together in silence
Our wishes can make a difference



My Search for Good Health Ended with Falun Dafa

My name is Linda Slupsky, and I am a resident of Garden Grove. I am the director of a non-profit organization to help indigent people in Brazil. Since a very young age, I had been plagued with one illness after another. I had tried many treatments and practices, yet my simple wish of being healthy had evaded me as my health continued to plunge - until November 1997 when I began practicing Falun Dafa. Thanks to Falun Dafa I am now a different person.

I was the type of person that would contain all emotions inside until I could no longer hold them and I would explode. The mental stress slowly caught me with more and more health problems. At 12, I had an ulcer and by 22, I had a diseased gall bladder removed. I had a severe allergic reaction called "toxic hepatitis" from the anesthesia during surgery, which left me disabled for five years.

I joined the work force for the first time in 1986. Each day was a challenge, however; to improve my health, I joined the office softball team. This physical exercise only had minimal impact on my health. In 1992, while working for the County government, I was diagnosed with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. I would work for one day, and then be out ill for 2-3 days. The doctors could not find the cause, only symptoms. They continually added prescribed drugs to treat both the symptoms and the side effects from the 8-10 medications that I was taking. I began to pass out while driving and once while walking down the back steps at my home.

As hard as it already was, my life was to take another hit. In 1994, I was diagnosed with three degenerated disks in my spine after suffering whiplash from a car accident. Despite chiropractic treatment for two years, I was unable to sit for more than five minutes without having to move because of the pain in my neck and back.

In late 1995, I added bronchitis and cold and fever

symptoms to my long list of illness. I had to leave my job because of constant illness. During this time, I had lost hope in modern medicine and had traveled to Peru, Argentina and Brazil to look for alternative medicine for my poor health.

Finally, in November 1997, I found Falun Dafa on the Internet after I returned from a trip to Brazil. I was attracted to Falun Dafa because it emphasizes both mind and body improvement to achieve true health.

Since then I have been practicing Falun Dafa for nearly five years. Miraculously, my illnesses disappeared one after another. I can now work on the computer for several hours at a time. I can sit still and meditate for an hour or longer without any pain or discomfort in my spine. I can walk for long distances without pain or fatigue. My hips are now evenly aligned after being disfigured when a car hit me at age nine. All of my joint pains have disappeared. I no longer have allergies; caffeine no longer makes me jumpy and sugar does not make me sleepy.

It was only after I began to change my heart that my physical health improved. It was only after I began to look inside myself, that my outside began to change. I have found internal peace, and mental stress is now a distant past. Following the principle of Truthfulness-Compassion-Forbearance in my daily life, I have become a more considerate person and I am willing to continue to improve every day. Even my family noticed a difference in my personality. My sister wanted to know what happened to me, because now I was "nice." I began to think of others and became less selfish.

I sincerely invite everyone to try the Falun Gong exercises and follow the principle in their daily life. Falun Dafa brought true health back to my life and I feel like I am truly living now.



Please send your feedback to:

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