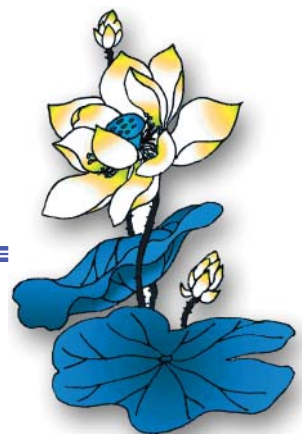


Falun Gong in California

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Saving Charles Li

"Saving Private Ryan" is a film based partially on real life, but the moral dilemma it poses cannot be more genuine: why is the life of one man worth the sacrifice of eight others? There can be no logical or calculating answers, as the soldiers in the movie discover. In the end, the answer lies in principle, value, and humanity: if that life cannot be worth all this struggle, what could possibly be the point of fighting? What does it symbolize to abandon that life? If all that is at stake is personal survival, then we have already lost. The immense sacrifice is made because it is the right thing to do.

Fifty-eight years after D-Day, we Americans have another son, this time a naturalized one, trapped in the hands of a Nazi-like tyrant. His name is Charles Li. Dr. Li was arrested on January 22, 2003 when he landed in Guangzhou, China, and was sentenced on March 21, 2003 to three years in jail.

There may be many unknown circumstances and unanswered questions surrounding Dr. Li's arrest and sentencing, including why he went to China, whether he intended to tap into the Chinese state-run TV system, and whether he took equipment with him. The bottom line, however, is that Dr. Li is a Falun Gong practitioner.

Since July 20, 1999, the Chinese regime has been carrying out a brutal persecution of Falun Gong practitioners. Hundreds of thousands have been viciously tortured, and over 2,500 have been tortured to death. Meanwhile, the Chinese propaganda machine has continuously spread lies to slander Falun Gong worldwide.

Falun Gong practitioners, in contrast, have only resorted to their firm convictions and to informing the public of the truth. On March 5, 2002 Falun Gong practitioners in the city of Changchun tapped into the local cable TV system to broadcast documentary films revealing the Chinese government's brutal persecution. For this, they suffered enormously. Over 5,000 were arrested, and at least a dozen died of torture during "interrogation."

Dr. Li may or may not have intended to carry out similar broadcasts. The important points are: Can doing so be viewed as wrong and a reason to leave him stranded? Is what he is alleged to have planned less heroic than the underground newspaper publishing in Nazi Germany? Or is it less supportable than our bombing of Iraq's TV system?

Many have indeed stated that Falun Gong is illegal in China and asked why Dr. Li even went to China. Such an assertion represents an unwitting concession to the illegitimate trampling in China of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and is the very reason why universal ideals have slowly given ground to global circulation of economic interest.

America is stronger in military and economic power than ever, and has plenty of less sacrificing ways, compared to the cost of saving Private Ryan, to do the right things. If we cannot save Charles Li, what does it then say about our moral clout?



A Parade for Charles Li in Los Angeles

77 Deaths in Five Weeks !

The Chinese Communist Party invests enormous resources and energy into blocking news about the state terrorism conducted against Falun Gong practitioners. Nevertheless, at enormous risk to both themselves and their families, practitioners continually manage reveal information out of China to tell the world the truth. While beating practitioners, the police often assure them that they are acting under orders, "It counts as suicide if we beat you to death."

Below is a description of some of the most recent death cases:

557: On December 4, 2002, Ms. **Luo Zhixiang**, an engineer at Guangdong Province Agricultural Construction Inc., died in custody at the Xinghua Street Police Station. She was three months pregnant at the time.



Ms. Luo, a three months pregnant, was torture to death at the Police Station.

Ms. Luo and her husband, Huang Guohua, were both arrested on November 20, 2002. According to Chinese law, it is illegal to detain a pregnant woman. However, the police incarcerated and tortured Ms. Luo, totally ignoring the law. The police still have Mr. Huang in detention. He was not even allowed to see his wife after her death. Their one-year old daughter (See page 2)

In the Community

Falun Gong Workshop at Santa Barbara

A Falun Gong workshop was held January 26th at the Goleta Public Library in Santa Barbara. "There were several newcomers to learn the exercise," said Wen Chen, workshop volunteer. The workshop was accompanied by a month long "Peaceful Journey of Falun Dafa" photo exhibit.



SOS Rescue Charles Van Tour Underway

On Sunday, March 16, friends of Charles Li held a rally in Herman Plaza to call attention to an emergency van trip across California to urgently appeal for their friend, U.S. citizen Dr. Charles Li, held captive in China.

On Thursday, February 27, the tour began its northern California circuit with a press conference in Eureka, before heading towards Redding and Chico. After media events in the Bay Area and meetings with government officials at the State Capital, the tour continued south to Fresno, Los Angeles and San Diego. Aside from media events along every major stop, the passengers have spent hours collecting signatures on busy streets and college campuses.



Members of the van tour were interviewed at a radio station



Interview at Los Angeles

One Chico resident also said: "Thank you for coming from far away to tell us this information to rescue Charles Li. You are doing the right thing. Victory will be yours if you persist in your efforts!"

San Francisco Rally

Herman Plaza in San Francisco on Sunday March 16 to call attention to the plight of falsely imprisoned American Charles Li days before a scheduled show trial was to take place. A solid crowd showed up for the rally. "This doesn't feel much like a rally, everyone looks so peaceful," announced Adam Leining, who moderated the event, at the beginning of the activities. The rally took place less than 5 days before

Death

(Continue from page 1)

is left in the care of Mr. Huang's elderly parents.

#581: Biology teacher, Ms. **Tan Yingchun**, 46 years old, was arrested in the spring of 2001 when she traveled to Beijing to peacefully appeal to the government for the right to practice Falun Gong. During her detention, she was stripped naked and tied to a metal bed (this torture is known as the

Charles Li was scheduled to be tried in a Chinese court. Speakers drew attention to the fact that Charles Li would be subjected to a show trial, that China had an unusually high conviction rate (98% according to NGO Human Rights in China), and that his case required urgent action. Speakers at the rally included members from Amnesty International, and Friends of Charles Li.

Signature Drive

Mrs. Mo does not speak English, but that hasn't stopped her from collecting hundreds of signature to get Dr. Charles Li out of China unconditionally. Mrs. Mo Ye, a 76-year-old East Bay resident, had practitioners prepare a petition for her with English information on it. She has collected hundreds of signatures in a single day. Mrs. Mo isn't the only practitioner that has been participating in the signature drives. In fact, many California practitioners take time after work to collect signatures. Over 30,000 signatures have been collected



"death bed") while police heaped ice onto her body and left it there to melt. In December 2002, Ms. Tan was tortured to death.

#634: Mr. **Chen Xiangrui**, 20 years old. At 9:00 p.m. on March 11, 2003, a group of police officers broke into Chen Xiangrui's home and took him to Hengyang City Police Department where they brutally tortured him. After less than five hours of torture, around 2:00 a.m., Chen Xiangrui died in police custody.

Los Angeles Conference

The weekend of February 15th and 16th was an exciting one for over 1500 Falun Dafa practitioners from the U.S., Canada, Taiwan, and Australia. For the participants, other than sharing their experiences, the weekend also included activities such as group practice, a press conference, and a parade.



On Sunday morning a large group of practitioners practiced the five sets of gentle exercises in the park in front of City Hall in Downtown LA.

The conference began Saturday morning at the Anaheim Convention Center, with Falun Dafa practitioners reading articles about their experiences in practicing Falun Dafa, how they have improved and what they have learned through aspiring to live their lives according to Truthfulness-Compassion-Forbearance.

Following the group practice, a rally was held to call for the urgent rescue of Charles Li, a U.S. citizen held captive in China. Finally, a big parade was held through Los Angeles' Chinatown.

Friend of Falun Gong's Concert at Palo Alto

On January 26, 2003, Friends of Falun Gong's Northern California branch held its 2003 Dinner Party to celebrate the Chinese New Year in the City of Palo Alto. Over 600 guests from different circles of society attended and watched excellent performances by The Guangming Chorus, formed by Falun Gong practitioners in the San Francisco Bay Area. All attendees were immersed in a happy and festive atmosphere, welcoming the Chinese Spring Festival.

The President of Friends of Falun Gong, San Francisco State University Economics professor Mr. Li Chengxin, San Francisco Supervisor Chris Daly and director of Taipei's Culture and Economy office in San Francisco, Mr. Lee Shiming, made speeches at the party. Though they are not Falun Gong practitioners, they share the same hope that China will end its irrational persecution of Falun Gong and allow imprisoned Falun Gong practitioners to reunite with their families. A joyous and harmonious atmosphere permeated the entire evening party.



Canadian, Australian Governments Rescued Two Women from China

The two visit California to share their stories

Ms. Yuzhi Wang and Ms. Nancy Chen were both detained illegally by the Chinese government until rescue efforts from the Canadian and Australian governments, respectively, may have spared their lives. In February the two visited California.

Below is Ms. Wang's story as reported by the San Jose Mercury News on February 21:

"On Thursday at the Menlo Park news conference, Yuzhi Wang recounted her own harrowing experience as an imprisoned Falun Gong practitioner. She said she was arrested three times in China and tortured, and released when she was nearly dead. She fled to the United Arab Emirates, where her mother then lived. Wang again was taken into custody by Chinese Embassy officials, she said, but was then freed after intervention from the Canadian government. She told of prisoners being electrocuted and beaten, and taunted that their families would not be allowed to see them, alive or dead. She said she went on a hunger strike and was forced by a tube through her nose, which nearly caused her to lose her eyesight."

Communist Party Chairman Sued in US for Genocide

Plaintiffs sue Jiang Zemin for "exploiting his official position to commit atrocious human rights violations" ; Case moves forward after initial hearing

Individual plaintiffs sued Jiang Zemin and the Falun Gong Control Office (A.K.A. Office 6/10) for genocide, torture, and severe abuses of freedom of conscience and religion, in the United States District Court of the Northern District of Illinois.

Defendant Jiang Zemin currently serves as Chairman of the People's Republic of China, as Secretary General, and as Chair of the Central Military Committee. He is subject to a lawsuit under the Alien Tort Claim Act and the Torture Victim's Protection Act, notwithstanding his position in China.

Jiang was served with the lawsuit upon his visit to the United States last October. Following a brief hearing in January, it was determined by the court that the case will move forward. The lawsuit was filed by Attorney Terri E. Marsh, a Washington DC-based human rights attorney and by local counsel.

"This suit is not against the government of China. Nor does it target any legitimate and lawful acts of any of China's officers", reads the lawyers' press statement. "The plaintiffs sue Jiang Zemin for exploiting his official position to commit atrocious human rights violations in direct violation of the values enshrined in the constitutions, international treaties, and laws of all civilized nations today."

Embodying Falun Gong's Compassion

Brad Carson

I've always been devoted to helping others. In high school I was the Vice President of a Community Service Group to help disabled students to be active in their community. I also taught theatre classes to disabled students. In college I taught swimming and Tai Chi to disabled children. As far back as I can remember I've focused on communicating to others the compassion I feel for them. I've always been active in my church and community, but I was still searching for a way to truly embody in every action the goodness that the world had shown me. I wanted to give back to the world that had given me such a beautiful life.

In my second semester in college, my Tai Chi teacher recommended a Falun Gong workshop to me, telling me that it was the most powerful form of Qi Gong she had ever experienced. The exercises were indeed very powerful, yet deeply calming and relaxing.

My ecstasy came after the exercises, when I learned that the focus of the practice is to embody the principles of Truthfulness-Compassion-Forbearance in one's daily life- to be a good person. I was drawn to this immediately, and read "Zhuan Falun", the book that expounds on these principles. I realized that I finally found what I have been searching for! As I practiced more, I saw myself manifesting these principles more in my life. My body started to change also. Within three months my allergies and asthma, which had repeatedly hospitalized me, totally disappeared. I was able to work two jobs, and go to school.

My newfound energy and compassion helped me to help others. I started a new job working at a group home for boys who were victims of severe abuse and neglect. These were children who had become mentally disabled and emotionally disturbed as results of sexual, physical, emotional abuse, and neglect. Falun Gong gave me great compas-

sion to help them. I felt my life became so meaningful. I felt someone had given me a new life.

Meanwhile I found that this benevolent practice was persecuted in China. Hundreds of thousands of Falun Gong practitioners were jailed, tortured, raped, and killed for having the same beliefs that had helped me so much. This disturbed me deeply. Just as those children's families should protect them, but not abuse them, a government should protect its people. Here in America I was mending cycles of abuse through practicing Truthfulness-Compassion-Tolerance, while in China people like me were victimized by severe inhumane abuse. The government of China even spread hatred and lies, telling its citizens that Falun Gong was banned worldwide. I felt I must do something to let people know the truth.

On November 20, 2001, I went with 35 other non-Chinese to Tiananmen Square in Beijing, China. We unfurled a large yellow banner emblazoned with the words "Truth, Benevolence, Forbearance," and sat down to do the Falun Gong exercises. All we wanted to do was to demonstrate to the Chinese people that Falun Gong is practiced and welcomed worldwide. What we found by ourselves, within seconds, was the brutality of the Chinese police. They forcibly arrested, mistreated, and beat us. This experience further firmed up my resolution that I must use every opportunity to let people know about this persecution.

At a time when the world cries out for peace, shouldn't we all work together to eradicate hatred? Can we remain silent to violence? How can we not act? Today we can work together to end this fear and hatred. Today!



Brad being interviewed by a Los Angeles news reporter.

Announcement

Encouraged by our readers' responses, as well as requests from other states we will upgrade our newsletter to the national level. Starting with the next issue, "Falun Gong in California" will become "Falun Dafa in USA", and will be distributed nationally. If you are interested in receiving "Falun Dafa in USA," please send an e-mail to flghrwg@faluninfo.net, or write to us.

Falun Gong Newsletter in California

P.O. Box 182
Cupertino, CA 95015
flghrwg@faluninfo.net

Bring Charles Li Home !



U.S. citizen and Falun Gong practitioner Dr. Charles Li was arrested in China on January 22, 2003. He went to visit his elderly parents for the Chinese New Year, but was snatched by police at the Guangzhou airport and later sentenced to 3 years jail Term. and later sentenced him to three years in jail. Please extend your hands and help bring him back to California.