



Falun Gong in the USA

"Legal" Lies vs. "Illegal" Truth

This coming March 22 marks the one-year anniversary of U.S. citizen and freedom hero Dr. Charles Li being sentenced to jail in China.

Dr. Li traveled to China on January 22, 2003, and was arrested on arrival at the airport. Two months later, he was sentenced to three years in jail, after a show trial of only one day, on a charge of "intending to sabotage cable TV."

Why did Dr. Li intend to "sabotage" cable TV? The Chinese authorities do not want the world to know. In Dr. Li's letters to the U.S. consulate in Shanghai he explained that he planned to broadcast documentary films exposing the Chinese government's brutal persecution of Falun Gong. One film - entitled "False Fire," which won Honorable Mention at the 51st Columbus International Film and Video Festival - is an analysis of China's own footage of the so-called "self-immolation of Falun Gong practitioners." It showed that the government staged the whole fiasco to incriminate Falun Gong.

Many U.S. officials had initially worked on Dr. Li's behalf to have him released. But when the State Department informed them that Dr. Li did intend to "break into" the Chinese TV system, their efforts were deflated. Subsequent requests of help from Falun Gong practitioners, including pleas from Dr. Li's fiancée, Ms. Yeongching Foo, were politely declined, because "Charles did violate Chinese law." Reasoning from Falun Gong practitioners was also ignored, because "we are not interested in debating Chinese laws."

True, if the Chinese laws are not to be debated then there would be no question that Charles Li broke Chinese "laws." The problem is, when was the last time an oppressed group not quashed in accordance with "laws"? The students in Tiananmen Square? The Prague Spring? The Nuremberg Jews? Has there ever been a resistance that did not break "laws" and its leader not wanted or jailed? Aung San Suu Kyi? Nelson Mandela? Martin Luther King? Mohandas Gandhi?

A more disturbing problem is this: when did we Americans become so mindful of laws that we forget to see injustice? Have we already forgotten Dr. King's elaboration on two types of laws: just and unjust," and on St. Augustine's declaration that "an unjust law is no law at all?" (See page3)

64 Verified Falun Gong Deaths from Torture in China Reported in Three Months

Between November 2003 and January 2004, 64 Falun Gong practitioners who died from severe torture in Chinese detention centers and labor camps.

Torture reported include severe beatings, electric shocks, punitive force-feeding and injections of nerve damaging drugs. In

China, each forced labor camp operates with a "death quota." That is, the number of Falun Gong practitioners that are allowed to die in the forced labor camp as camp authorities take them through the violent "transformation" process to force them to renounce Falun Gong. In many cases, (See "Death Report" page3)

HCR 304 Calls for an End to Harassment of Falun Gong in U.S.

On October 16, 2003, in response to numerous U.S. cases of harassment of Falun Gong practitioners, and officials who have supported Falun Gong, Congresswomen Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) and Lynn Woolsey (D-CA) introduced House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 304. As of January 6, 61 Members of the House had co-signed.

The resolution describes cases of harassment, physical assault, and destruction of property on U.S. soil by agents of the Chinese regime, as well as cases in which local U.S. government officials have been visited and threatened by such agents after expressing support for Falun Gong. Two examples of harassment are U.S. citizen Dr. Charles Li, who has been detained (See "304" on page 6)



Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey speaks a rally on Capitol Hill in July 2003.

Seven U.N. Special Rapporteurs Highlight Falun Gong in Their Annual Reports

In their annual reports for 2003, seven Special Rapporteurs of the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights drew attention to China's violations of Falun Gong practitioners' human rights.

Asma Jahangir, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, reported a series of cases from Wanjia, Shijiazhuang, and Masanjia labor camps, all known for their violent torture of Falun Gong practitioners.

The report of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances included eleven cases of practitioners who were abducted by police, security services, or local administrative officials.

Radhika Coomaraswamy, the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its causes and consequences, in conjunction with the Special Rapporteur on the question (See "United Nations" on page 6)

Congressional Leaders Ask Mary Kay Inc. to Stop Assisting in the Persecution of Falun Gong in China

Three Members of the U.S. Congress have co-authored a letter to Mary Kay Inc.'s Chairman and CEO, Richard Rogers, admonishing the company for its "active role" in assisting Chinese authorities in persecuting Falun Gong practitioners in China. The letter is signed by three International Relations Committee Members: Vice-Chair Chris Smith (R-NJ), Ranking

Democratic Member Tom Lantos (D-CA), and Chair of the Subcommittee on Middle East and Central Asia, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL). The letter condemns Mary Kay's decision, made under pressure from Chinese authorities, to require its sales associates in China to sign a statement guaranteeing they will neither practice nor advocate Falun Gong. (See page 6)

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Falun Gong Practitioners participate in South Dakota State University's homecoming parade.

South Dakota State University Homecoming parade

South Dakota State University's annual homecoming parade on November 1 was the largest in the state. Practitioners from many neighboring states also participated the parade for the second year. The beautiful float and the elegant Tang Dynasty dresses that the women wore demonstrated the beauty of Falun Dafa to local residents and visitors from many neighboring states. The major TV stations broadcast the event live all over the state.



Practitioners participate in South Dakota State University's homecoming parade.

University of Missouri Homecoming Parade

Falun Gong practitioners from St. Louis and Kansas joined others in Columbia, Missouri to participate in the annual homecoming parade as part of the celebration before an afternoon football game. When their float came by, many in the audience, including Chinese students and many other visitors, applauded and waved to show support and respect. After the parade, a Western young man found us and said he was on a business trip that happened to be in Columbia. He expressed strong interest in Falun Gong, and was very excited to see the Falun Gong procession. Later, he learned exercises with practitioners.

Falun Gong at the Dallas International Festival

On November 8 and 9, Falun Gong practitioners participated in the annual Dallas International Festival, the largest pageant of its kind in northern Texas. Falun Gong was among the many groups that gave performances and hosted booths representing unique cultures from around the world, and was very warmly received. Practitioners, adults and children together, demonstrated the exercise. They also dressed in brightly colored traditional Chinese attire, and performed a graceful dance specially created for the occasion. In the afternoon performance, practitioners in bright Chinese traditional costumes danced elegantly on the stage and drew the attention of the entire audience.



Practitioners demonstrate the exercises at the Dallas International Festival.

Teaching the Falun Gong Exercises at International Children's Festival



A practitioner teaches children to make origami Lotus Flowers during the One World International Children's Festival in Boston.

Thousands of schoolchildren from New England learned about Falun Gong at the One World International Children's Festival held in Boston, Massachusetts, from October 21st to the 24th.

The festival had vendors with goods from different countries. As part of a variety of ethnic arts, performances, dances, and music, Falun Gong practitioners set up a booth with a wraparound poster display of the practice of Falun Gong around the world, a video display of the practice, and the history of Falun Gong, two locations for instruction in the exercises, and two locations for making origami lotus flowers. The children were very attracted to making the origami lotus flowers and learning the exercises. Many of the children and high school students found the sitting meditation to be their favorite experience. One child, said to be the most hyperactive, amazed his peers and teachers by sitting down inside a giant lotus blossom and remaining there calm and silent for a prolonged period of time.

High school seniors asked many questions about the persecution. Practitioners shared information about Falun Gong in China. They shared that, despite the severe persecution, they do not retaliate, and by cultivating Truth, Compassion, and Forbearance, they are emerging from this persecution with purity and peace, just like the lotus flower.

Seminar at Nebraska Multicultural Fair



A practitioner gives a seminar during the Multicultural Fair at the University of Nebraska.

On Saturday, November 8, 2003, five Falun Gong practitioners participated in the Nebraska International Multicultural Exchange Program (NIMEC), now in its third year, at the University of Nebraska. Practitioners presented a seminar with slides and video clips and had a picture exhibition to inform people about the ongoing suppression in Mainland China. The gracefulness of the five simple exercises impressed many in the audience, who took over 100 CDs about Falun Gong.

Death Report

Continued from page 1:

the victims died of their injuries shortly after being released from custody. Practitioners thought to be near death are often released by Chinese authorities to avoid responsibility for the deaths.

Zhang Xiaohong Died from Prolonged Torture

In September 2001, Mr. Zhang was seen explaining the facts about the persecution of Falun Gong to some passengers on a train, so the police arrested him, and sentenced him to two years in the Mianyang Xinhua Forced Labor Camp.

Because Mr. Zhang refused to denounce Falun Gong, he was beaten, shocked and hung up. One time the police bound him with ropes, causing him to pass out. They also shocked him with electric batons inside his mouth, and on his neck, shoulders, body, and navel, all at the same time, which severely burned his skin. Because of the torture, Mr. Zhang was unable to eat or drink and his health quickly deteriorated. Yet the police tried to coerce him into writing a statement renouncing the practice of Falun Gong. When the camp staff realized that his condition was life threatening, to avoid taking responsibility, they asked his family to take him home. On May 13, 2003, Mr. Wang was released. Because of the extent of the torture, his weight had dropped from over 60 kg to

approximately 32 kg. He looked like a skeleton and could barely walk or talk. He died at 7:00 p.m. on August 4, 2003.



Mr. Zhang Xiaohong's pictures of before (left) and after (right) the torture.

Mr. Zhang's family wanted to seek justice, so they carried his body to the local police station. The police officers became enraged, shouted, beat, and arrested them. His family also asked for an autopsy to determine the cause of death, but the police took Mr. Zhang's body and had it cremated instead. Then they charged Mr. Zhang's family members with disturbing the stability of society and detained them several times for 10 to 15 days each time.

Shen Lizhi Tortured to Death and His Pregnant Wife Forced to Abort Baby

Officials from the Chengdu City "610 Office" tortured Mr. Shen Lizhi, a 33-year old university

graduate from Shenyang City to death on March 3, 2002. Then they forced his wife, Ms. Luo Fang, from Leshan City, Sichuan Province, to abort their baby only weeks before his expected birth.

On February 1, 2002, police officers from Yingmenkou Police Station in Chengdu City had arrested Mr. Shen Lizhi and his wife on Bus No. 75 in Chengdu City, claiming that the couple carried materials revealing the persecution of Falun Gong with them. They were detained at the Chengdu Detention Center.

Mr. Shen Lizhi was tortured in the detention center. Perpetrators included Tian Xinming from the "610 Office." Mr. Shen died on the afternoon of March 3, 2002, in the Qingyang District People's Hospital. Shen Lizhi's wife Luo Fang was eight months pregnant at the time of her arrest. Even though her baby would be born soon, Tian Xinming forced her to have an abortion. She was released from the Chengdu Detention Center on May 8, 2002. She looked for her husband, but authorities denied that he had ever been detained. On December 5, 2002, the police from Leshan City arrested Luo Fang again. She was tortured and sentenced to 12 years in prison. Since August 2003 she has been held at the Chuanxi Prison in Hongan Town, Longquan, Chengdu City.

The Chengdu police notified Shen Lizhi's parents of their son's death one year later, on March 3, 2003, when all that remained was their son's ashes.

Torture at Daqing Labor Camp in Heilongjiang Province

Since July 20, 1999, thousands of Falun Gong practitioners have been persecuted in Daqing City, Heilongjiang Province. 132 deaths of Falun Gong practitioners have been verified since the persecution began. This province accounts for approximately 16% of the total deaths, the highest of any province.

Those practitioners who have remained steadfast in their belief have been detained, tortured, force-fed, and financially punished. In the prisons, the practitioners are verbally and physically abused. They have suffered injuries to their bodies including: rope marks, bruises, black eyes, burn marks from the electric batons, internal bleeding, broken bones, and damage to internal organs. To protest the torture, some practitioners have staged hunger strikes. As a result, they have been force-fed. In the case of Mr. Zheng Shengfan, police force-fed him three bottles of high-proof alcohol, which caused him to die.

In Daqing City, Falun Gong Practitioners have been tortured in the most horrifying ways. The following are only some of the torture methods used in the Daqing Labor camp. (See article on page 7)

"Legal" Lies vs. "Illegal" Truth

Continued from page 1:

The Chinese communist regime controls all the law enforcement and all the courts in China, and there exists no legal challenge to the abuses it inflicts on its people, including manufacturing lies, such as the staged self-immolation, to inflame hatred and legitimize its human rights abuses against Falun Gong. If we concede that such behavior is legal, and shun acts that expose such reality as "breaking the law," we might as well consider lies "legalized" by a state to be the truth, and the actual truth that is persecuted by a state to be lies.

It does seem inconceivable that many from a democratic country could ever concede to such contradiction; however, it provides a tempting convenience. For example, from the time he was arrested, Dr. Li has suffered continuous torture, including being dragged by his feet down the stairs, sleep deprivation, and being forced to undergo brainwashing sessions. When Ms. Foo repeatedly pleaded to the State

Department to pressure China to stop these abuses, her pleas were simply shrugged off with comments such as: "That's the way China is" and "That's how the Chinese laws are."

In fact, that is not how Chinese laws are, but how some take them to be! What are all the physical and psychological tortures for? To force Dr. Li to renounce "sabotaging TV," or to renounce Falun Gong? Where does it say in any Chinese regulations that someone can be jailed for one "offense" and then punished for any non-conforming thought?

Relegating judgment on right and wrong to laws promulgated by dictators is innately un-American. After all, it was our founding fathers who "illegally" threw tea into the Boston Harbor, and another founding father who made a most law-defiant yet uplifting proclamation: "Give me liberty or give me death!"

Falun Gong Club Urges President to Intervene

Published Thursday, November 13, 2003
BY JOCELYN COURTNEY
Contributing Reporter

The Yale Falun Gong club, along with Amnesty International, is creating a petition asking university leaders, including Yale President Richard Levin, to speak with Chinese officials about the Chinese government's persecution of Falun Gong followers.

Chinese universities, including three on Levin's current China visit -- Tsinghua University, Peking University, and Fudan University -- have recently been targeted by international media as violators of human rights. Students and professors at these schools have been

expelled and fired for practicing Falun Gong [...]. Levin ... is currently traveling in China....



Falun Gong practitioners ...engage in spiritual and meditative techniques on Cross Campus. (NATHAN FRANCIS/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR)

"We urge you to help stop the persecution of students, faculty and staff members in your universities for their spiritual beliefs in Falun Gong, and use every means you can to rescue and protect them," the petition states.

In Tsinghua University alone, 18 students and faculty members were each sentenced for up to 13 years in jail and 18 were illegally sent to forced labor camps, the petition says.

... The goal of the petition is to let the public know what is going on and to put international pressure on the persecutors in order to make them stop.

Pair Brings Attention to Persecution in China

Daily Bruin (UCLA)

By Melody Hanatani

In January, Charles Li, a resident of Menlo Park, Calif., was detained upon arrival in China for his practice of Falun Gong, a meditation practice currently outlawed in China.

Ten months later, two UCLA students, who practice the exercise and sympathize with Li, are fighting for his freedom.

As practitioners of the mind and body exercise, David Kute, a third-year classics student, and Hsin-ling Hsieh, a doctoral student in economics, are protesting what they believe are persecutions of Chinese people by the Chinese government.

[...]

After presenting their cause to Undergraduate Students Association Council, a resolution calling for council's support of the practice of Falun Gong was passed this past week.

Kute also met with U.S. congressional members this past year. The meeting led to the House of Representatives drafting a resolution condemning the oppression of Falun Gong practitioners.

[...]

Li, a U.S. citizen, is also believed to have been detained when he traveled to China for his efforts to expose what he believed were human rights violations by the Chinese government....

In 2002, Kute also traveled to Tiananmen square in China to protest, but was reportedly beaten and arrested by the police.

... Kute said he is currently blacklisted by the Chinese government and may be detained if he enters the country.

..."People are dying in China every day. And some university students like us are deprived of their rights," Hsieh said.



Hsin-ling Hsieh (left), a doctoral student, and David Kute, a third-year classics student, are Falun Gong practitioners on campus. University's USAC has passed a resolution in support of Falun Gong.

Spiritual Practices Banned in China Find Home at the Cove

La Jolla Light California (Excerpt)

By STEVE MAYBERRY

Each weekend, early morning visitors to the Cove might see a small group of people meditating or executing a series of slow body movements on the grass at Ellen Browning Scripps Park. [...]

The group first began gathering in La Jolla in September 1999, led by Shi-Zhong Chen, a researcher at the Scripps Research Institute. But no one technically leads the group of 10 to 15 people. Local practitioners rave about the mental, physical and spiritual benefits of Falun Gong, which they refer to not as a religion but as a spiritual practice. [...]

"Every day there's stories about people being cured, miraculously cured, of illnesses. Cancer, rheumatoid arthritis, people stop smoking, stop drinking alcohol," said Arleen Freeman, a former La Jolla resident and Falun Gong practitioner since 1999. "Every one of us has a story to tell."

"Falun Gong is not only part of the body, its part of the mind," said Zheng. "If you want to behave as a good person, your health can be recovered. The most important thing is to be a good person. Because that's how you make your body good, too."

"In everything we do, all the time, we look at at our actions and we see if they're consistent with being truthful, compassionate, and tolerant," Freeman said. "The energy channels in the body are blocked, and that creates illness," Freeman explained. "These exercises open up the energy channels and strengthen them." [...]

The Chinese government outlawed Falun Gong shortly thereafter, and continues to prosecute anyone caught practicing Falun Gong or possessing Falun Gong materials.

With the assistance of organizations such as Amnesty International and Friends of Falun Gong, local followers have orchestrated campaigns raising awareness and pressuring the Chinese government to relent in its campaign against the Falun Gong.

Currently, local followers are trying to pressure the Chinese government to release Dr. Charles Li of Menlo Park, who returned to China in January of this year, and was arrested at the airport as he deplaned. The local Falun Gong followers also speak regularly at the San Diego City Council, encouraging the council to pass a resolution protesting the mistreatment of Falun Gong followers in Yantai, San Diego's sister city in China.

http://www.lajollalight.com/2003/12/10/n031210spiritual_practices.html

Mother United with 7-Year-Old Daughter after Three Years of Effort

Fashion Designer Ming Li escaped from China to avoid the brutal persecution of Falun Gong, and came to New York three years ago. On November 8 2003, Ming Li and her daughter Dou Dou were finally reunited at New York's J. F. Kennedy Airport.

Ms. Ming Li used to have a happy family and a successful business in Guangzhou city. However, after the persecution of Falun Gong started, plain-clothes policemen arrested Li several times. Her young daughter Dou Dou was also detained for more than 24 hours many times. In fear of never seeing her mother again, little Dou Dou was so stressed and scared that she clung to her mother all the time, and wouldn't even use the restroom alone.

When little Dou Dou saw the policemen take her mother away, she cried and yelled, asking for mom back. To Ms. Li, the cries were like a knife cutting through her heart. Ms. Li was detained, beaten up many times, and was forced to do hard labor 15 to 16 hours each day. Li recalled, "They also sent me to brainwashing sessions many times. They threatened and cursed me around the clock, deprived me of sleep, forced me to watch TV programs slandering Falun Gong, and demanded that I write a repentance letter to break away from Falun Gong. Falun Gong benefited both my mind and my body. Why would I give up it?"

Finally, Ms. Ming Li was forced to divorce her husband, and to escape further persecution she managed to flee to the United States. In the United States, Lee was granted a refugee asylum visa and found a job working for a fashion designer on the 53rd floor of the Empire State Building. For the past three years, she devoted much of her time going through the process

to bring her daughter from China to America. In 2002, the United States approved the visa for Dou-Dou to travel to the U.S., but the local police would not issue her a passport because China has a policy - "Falun Gong practitioner's relatives are not allowed to go abroad."

For three years, Li worried about her daughter. She put all the paintings Dou Dou mailed to her on the wall of her bedroom, longing for the day when she would see her again.

At the press conference, Li said, "I have the good fortune to be with my child again, but there are still thousands of Falun Gong practitioners' families in China who can't reunite. Some of the parents even died in the prison. Some will never see their children again. I hope all people will appeal to stop the persecution immediately. The children are innocent but have suffered so much. The Chinese government's persecution is not only cruel to adults, but also harms the children. It is so cruel and inhuman."



After three years of effort, Ming Li, a Falun Gong practitioner from China reunited with her daughter at J.F. Kennedy Airport in New York City on November 8, 2003.



Ms. Foo is interviewed by the media in Los Angeles.

the country meeting with Congressmen and giving speeches to City Councils, Human Rights groups, the media to raise awareness of his plight.

On December 2, Ms. Foo began her rescue trip in Southern California. She made her first stop at San Diego.

Later, she stopped at Irvine and Los Angeles. She gave the speeches of Charles Li and persecution of Falun Gong



A Rescue Charles' petition drive sponsored by Amnesty International is held in Rutgers University, New Jersey.

Yeong-Ching Foo Appeals for Fiancé Charles Li's Freedom and Exposes Cruel Brainwashing

Dr. Charles Li's fiancé, Ms. Yeong-Ching Foo, has been traveling around

in each city's council meeting. During her presentation, she pointed out that in order to force Charles to give up his belief, Jiang's regime employed one supervisor, one police officer, and six prisoners to monitor Charles' every move daily. He was monitored even when he used the restroom. They forced Charles to read slandering Falun Gong materials. If Charles reasoned with them, he would be beaten. Prisoners said to him, "Even if the American Consulate knows that we beat you, what can they do to us?" If any prisoner showed a bit sympathy for Charles, the guards would replace them. The public security department used psychological warfare for dealing with spies to try to transform Charles Li. A person named Shao Gong spent three hours a day talking to Charles Li, using various tactics to try to wear him down mentally.

Ms. Foo said that Charles Li's plight is only one example of the persecution of many other Falun Gong practitioners.



During the signature collection at San Diego State University, Ms. Foo Yeong-Ching speaks with students about Charles' situation in China's Jail.

Dr. Charles Li is being deprived of all freedom, including freedom of belief. The Nanjing City Prison even demanded American Consulate officials who visited Charles Li to help pressure

Charles Li to give up Falun Gong. This absurd request was immediately rejected. Ms. Foo said that since the persecution of Falun Gong began, several dozens of American citizens from California have been detained and suffered persecution in China. She called the U.S. government to stand up against the persecution, because it concerns everyone, not just those in China. Every kind-hearted person's voice of justice can help stop the persecution.



Indianapolis Falun Gong practitioners collect signatures for Charles. during a college basketball game.

Congress Letter to Mary Kay's CEO (Excerpt)

Dear Mr. Rogers,

[...] As you know, the Chinese government has engaged in a systematic and brutal campaign to suppress the Falun Gong spiritual movement since 1999....the Chinese Government has sentenced tens of thousands of Falun Gong practitioners to prisons, "re-education through labor camps," and psychiatric institutions. According to the U.S. Department of State, several hundred Falun Gong adherents have died in detention due to torture, abuse and neglect, with their bodies immediately cremated to prevent their families from seeing the abuse inflicted upon their relatives.

[...]

It is for these reasons that we are shocked by the decision of Mary Kay Inc., confirmed by your Headquarter's staff in Dallas, to require that its sales associates in China, numbering in the tens of thousands, sign a "behavioral standards statements" indicating that they will neither practice nor advocate Falun Gong. According to Falun Gong representatives, several Mary Kay sales associates have already been dismissed for failure to sign this statement. We also understand from your staff that Mary Kay China issued this directive in August 2003, but that Mary Kay International has yet to issue a directive reversing this policy.

It is unconscionable that Mary Kay Inc. would make an affirmative decision to play a front-line role in enforcing the Chinese Government's brutal campaign against a particular spiritual movement in China. While it may be reasonable to request all Mary Kay sales associates in China to abide by Chinese laws, the fact that the only law cited is the prohibition on adherence to Falun Gong indicates that the goal of this



In August 2003, under pressure from Chinese authorities, Mary Kay Inc. began forcing sales associates in China to either sign a statement renouncing their spiritual belief or be fired.

exercise is to identify and dismiss all Falun Gong adherents, or force Falun Gong adherents to renounce their beliefs in writing in order to maintain employment with Mary Kay. While we are not asking Mary Kay Inc. to aggressively confront China's restrictive laws related to Falun Gong and other religious and spiritual movements, we are shocked that an American company, particularly one which purports to put "God first," would be willing to enlist in the Chinese Government's brutal campaign to identify and persecute members of a particular spiritual movement.

You should also be aware that the law under which Falun Gong was prohibited has been used against many Evangelical Christian and "unofficial" Catholic organizations in China. According to the State Department, "the crackdown on the Falun Gong in 1999 led to a tightening of controls on all non-officially sanctioned groups." These groups include those worshipping in the "unofficial" Catholic Church in China, as well as such evangelical Christian groups as The Shouters, the Association of Disciples, the Full Scope Church, and the New Testament Church. By requiring all of its sales associates to sign a "Behavioral Standards Statement," Mary Kay Inc. has put itself in the position of having to fire Christians who are members of churches which are labeled as "cults" by the Chinese Government.

We therefore request that Mary Kay Inc. immediately revoke the requirement imposed by Mary Kay China on its sales associates that they sign "behavior standards statements" which specifically mention Falun Gong or any other religious, spiritual or political movement. The Chinese Government will undoubtedly be displeased with Mary Kay's decision, but the fact that Mary Kay employs tens of thousands of Chinese citizens in a nation with rising unemployment will give the Chinese Government little choice but to acquiesce to a principled decision by Mary Kay.

Resolution 304 calls upon the President and the Attorney General to investigate these cases and take legal action; it calls for an end to the persecution in the U.S. and in China; and it calls upon local officials not only to ignore the pressure from the consulates, but to proactively report it to Congress. Resolution 304 proposes four main courses of action:

1. That the PRC Government cease all persecutory activities of Falun Gong practitioners on U.S. soil, as well as in China, including releasing prisoners of conscience.

United Nations

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of torture and Expression, submitted an urgent appeal requesting the release of eight female Falun Gong practitioners whose lives were reported to be in danger. Ms. Coomaraswamy also submitted an urgent appeal when Connie Chipkar, a Canadian citizen, was detained after conducting a peaceful appeal in Tiananmen Square on January 23, 2002.

In a formal opinion adopted by the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, the group concluded that the Falun Gong practitioners in question were being detained arbitrarily, and emphasized the peacefulness and legality of their actions. In the case of Mrs. Tan Xi Tao, the Working Group noted that she "was arrested because of her practice and defense of Falun Gong, which she did in a peaceful manner and in exercise of the rights to freedom of belief... and to freedom of opinion and expression, which are guaranteed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights."

The Special Representative on Human Rights Defenders also voiced concern regarding several practitioners who had been detained after appealing to the Chinese government to stop its persecution of Falun Gong. Among them was Yoko Kaneko, a practitioner from Japan who was arrested in March 2002 after she distributed material about the persecution at Tiananmen Square and who had been detained at the Haidian District Public Security Division.

The Falun Gong Human Rights Working Group, a volunteer group specializing in documenting the Chinese government's human rights violations against Falun Gong practitioners, submitted all of the above cases to the United Nations.

For more information about the Special Rapporteurs' reports on Falun Gong: please visit: <http://www.flghrwg.net/reports/UN2000-2003/UNReport2000-2003.pdf>

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and tortured in China since January of 2003, and San Francisco City Supervisor Chris Daly, who in 2001 introduced a resolution urging the Chinese government to end the persecution of Falun Gong practitioners. In response, Wang Yunxiang, the Consul General of the PRC sent a letter to the Board President full of disinformation and slanderous remarks, successfully killing the measure.

2. That the President of the United States issue a statement condemning these illegal acts, and work to bring the perpetrators to justice.

3. That the Attorney General investigate the incidents of harassment and violence against Falun Gong practitioners in the U.S. by agents of the Chinese Consulate and follow up with legal action.

4. That local government bodies in the U.S. report all illegal acts and continue to recognize and support the rights of Falun Gong practitioners.

Cultivation of Falun Dafa

Nicholas Shweda

My name is Nicholas Shweda. I live in southern California. I began to practice Falun Dafa toward the end of 1997 in Florida. I was practicing martial arts at that time with a good friend. I was very interested in things like maintaining fitness, increasing strength and endurance, perfecting movements, just overall refining myself. We began to learn Yoga and Taichi from books. We knew that we could only learn so much without attending some classes and seminars. One day his Mom found an ad in the newspaper that stated FREE qigong exercise classes were to be held in our area. We thought "wonderful." So we both started to attend and learned the exercises very easily. With me, right away there was a difference (although kind of subtle) in my attitude, energy, strength and really, my entire character. Soon, after we finished the exercises at the practice site, we started to read Zhuan Falun together as a group. And that is where I really came to understand that the essence of Falun Dafa was cultivation, upgrading moral character, preserving virtue, generally transforming my character to be better, looking inside myself, letting go of everything, being considerate and kind to others, and practicing Truthfulness, Compassion and Tolerance.

Everything that I read in Zhuan Falun was so amazing. I felt that I had known most of it before, somewhere, but just forgot about it. And reading it was like reawakening to it. I knew that I was interested in attaining enlightenment all my life, but I thought that it was out of my reach, since I lived in America. I thought that the real Tao was only in the Orient.

In the beginning stage of cultivation, Falun Dafa has helped me to recognize and overcome many attachments, desires, and bad habits. I had way too many of them before. For example, I used to be a partier. I liked to drink alcohol, smoke cigarettes and I did some drugs. I was in the "current" as I liked to call it. I didn't think that I was that bad, but I was far from pure. I did try quitting a few times, yet my quitting was always temporary, and I would soon be back in the problem again, sometimes even worse than before. Since studying Falun Dafa I

have learned to look at the bad habit or problem as an attachment to be given up, and a test to pass, using the principles as a guide to pass the test. I can tell you today that I am passing these tests.

In March 1999, I attended a conference in New York. That was the first time I met other Falun Dafa practitioners. Those people were absolutely the kindest people that I had ever met. They let us stay in their house without even knowing us at all. I had never seen this quality of kindness in anybody before. I knew that I was involved in something very righteous.

Within the cultivation environment, I know that I still have a lot to improve on. And I know that following Truthfulness - Compassion - Tolerance is the best way to improve myself. I want to say thank you to my teacher Mr. Li Hong Zhi for his wonderful teaching. I hope that soon the Chinese government will stop this senseless persecution of these most kind-hearted people.



Nick is doing the exercise at Heritage Park, Dana Point, Orange County, CA.

Barbaric Torture of Falun Gong Practitioners at Daqing Labor Camp

Continued from page 3

"Tying the Ropes"

"Tying the ropes" is a torture that involves putting a thin nylon rope around a person's neck, then wrapping it around both arms, loop by loop, and then over each hand. The rope is tightened to its limit, cutting into the flesh. Both arms are forced behind the back and raised to the extreme. Often, both thumbs are tied with a rope that is then bound to the rope that has been placed around the neck. The person tortured in this way is then kicked in order to force him to kneel down on the floor. The rope is released about one hour later. Then the person is tied up in this same manner a second time, and then a third time. Often arms are dislocated or broken, severe nerve damage can occur, and the victim sometimes dies.

Tiger Bench

The "tiger bench" torture employs a steel chair with a thick steel plate as the seat. The original armrests of the chair are modified with a rounded metal barrier that gives the chair the appearance of a cage. There are foot shackles underneath each front chair leg, which tightly clamp both feet. A nylon rope is also used to tie

the person tightly; the upper arms are tied tightly behind the back, and both lower arms are forced to the front to reach the armrests on both sides. Two hand straps are then used to bind the lower arms to the armrests. The person is tied on the tiger bench in this manner for a long time, while he/she is tortured and brutally beaten.

Rubbing the Skin

The guards instigated the "rubbing the skin" torture of Mr. Liu by ordering inmates to briskly rub his face until it became abraded and raw. In the first brigade, the guards instigated the use of the same torture on Mr. Wang Tairen. They stripped off his clothes and pour cold water on his body while using hard plastic brushes to forcefully scour his skin. As a result of the harsh and vigorous brushing, the skin over Mr. Wang's entire body became raw and severely infected.

Pouring Ice-Cold and Boiling Water

In September 2002, the guards instigated inmates to torture Mr. Liu Fubin in the water room. They stripped him of his clothes and poured ice water on his body. This act was

repeated twice, each time for more than one hour. They then poured a cup of boiling water on Mr. Liu's leg, which caused his leg to become scarred from the scalding.

Instigating Criminal Inmates to Torture Practitioners

By issuing sentence reductions as incentives, the labor camp directly manipulates prisoners to torture practitioners. Inmate Wang Qinglin participated in torturing Mr. He Huajiang to death in December 2002. Wang followed the guards' orders to torture practitioners. Because of his cooperation and involvement, Wang was rewarded with a prison term reduction of more than one year, which earned his release.

Confinement in a Small Cell

On October 16, 2003, the authorities of the labor camp started a round of persecuting practitioners. They forced practitioners Mr. Lu Bingshen, Mr. Hu Hongji, Mr. Liu Fubin, and Mr. Guo Fadong to sit on the "tiger bench," where they were beaten. Then they locked these four practitioners in individual small cells for further torture. Mr. Lu Bingshen was tortured to death in the small cell within three days. The three surviving practitioners are still detained separately in small cells and are still being tortured.



1998: 2,000 people at a typical morning practice site in Beijing

The art of "Qigong," sometimes referred to as Chinese yoga, has long been a tradition and treasure in Eastern culture. During the early morning hours in China's city parks nationwide, one can find people performing various types of qigong exercises. Out of this tradition, Falun Dafa quickly spread in China, as practice sites like this one in Beijing emerged throughout the country.

"Falun Gong and other types of qigong can save each person 1,000 Yuan in annual medical fees," said Mr. Shaozu Wu, Director of China's Sports Commission, as quoted by U.S. News and World Report in February of 1999. "If 100 million people are practicing it, that's 100 billion Yuan saved per year in medical fees. Premier Zhu Rongji is very happy about that."

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