

# **The Falun Gong Report**

March 2002

Compiled by the Falun Gong Human Rights Working Group  
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*Dedicated to the Peaceful and Courageous Falun Gong Practitioners in China*

## **An Appeal to All Good People of the World**

In March 2000, before the 56th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Commission, we compiled a report on the extensive and severe human rights violations against millions of Falun Gong practitioners by the government of the People's Republic of China, hoping that the world would take notice and help to stop the brutal persecution. We have since updated the report for each and every subsequent session of the Human Rights Commission and its Sub-Commission.

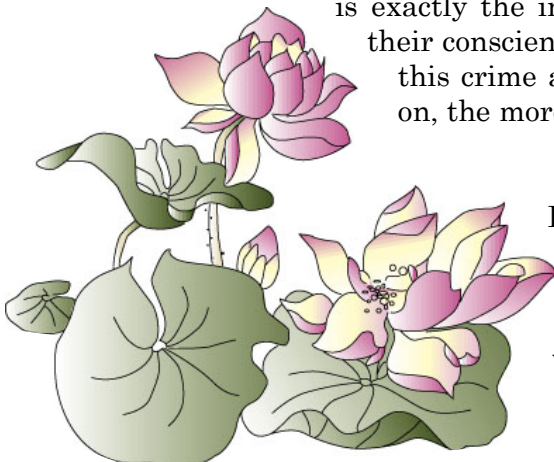
What you are now reading is the fifth edition of the report – and the violent persecution has gone on for almost three years, with minimal international intervention.

Although there are voices calling on the PRC government to stop the persecution, they have been far too sporadic and are no match to the acquiescence the PRC government has received in the accession to the WTO, the awarding of the 2008 Olympics, and the avoidance of human rights discussions in the name of the anti-terrorist coalition.

With these rewards and licenses, the PRC government feels encouraged to inflict its reign of terror and darkness. At the time of our first report two years ago, 39 Falun Gong practitioners had died of torture in police custody. The number now exceeds 1,600.

The use of terror and extermination to quell a resistance is not a recent invention; however, the systematic use of it to goad people into “actively” acting against their conscience is the trademark of communist tyranny, and the PRC regime has reached new depths in the extent and efficiency of its terrorism. Consistently throughout its 50 years of rule and persecution, the PRC dictators have openly announced to the nation that only 5% of the people are targeted, and that the other 95% are safe. This brings out the very worst of human nature--clinging to the 95% side at any cost, even at the expense of friends and relatives, and closing their eyes to the rights of the 5%. That 5%, of course, has been rotated so often that the whole nation has been repressed into submission. This is exactly the intended effect of the PRC state terrorism: people acting against their conscience and looking away from state evildoing. The unfortunate part of this crime against conscience is that it is self-perpetuating: the more it goes on, the more people are hardened in act against their conscience.

This crime against conscience underlies the essence of the PRC government's persecution of Falun Gong. Falun Gong is apolitical. Falun Gong practitioners only aspire to become the most peace-loving people they can be through internal cultivation of personal integrity, courage, and universal love. This is what evildoers fear.



More than two years of persecution of Falun Gong in China, the extreme torture of hundreds of thousands of Falun Gong practitioners, the killing of thousands of practitioners by the police, and the contrasting peaceful insistence on their right to conscience by the courageous Falun Gong practitioners epitomizes human evil against goodness in its most pure form.

Edmund Burke once said: “All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing.”

In the hope that the world will intervene, we submit this report to you, the good people of the world.

The sole objective of the PRC government’s persecution is to force Falun Gong practitioners to renounce their own conscience; in such, being evil is the real and only reason for its attack on conscience, no more, no less. Some have rationalized that the government’s persecution as a reaction to feeling threatened. We urge you to refrain from giving justification or excuse to the Chinese regime’s brutality. The only proper action in the face of a severe human rights violation is to act to put an immediate end to it.

The coercive methods used by the Chinese government against Falun Gong practitioners are of the most heinous kind. Chinese president Jiang Zemin has heartlessly instructed his security police, “No measure is too excessive against Falun Gong.” We call out to all media and reporters: do not portray the PRC government’s violent persecution and Falun Gong practitioners’ peaceful petition as a contest of two equals, for there is a vast difference between the oppressors and the victims.

We call out to the good people of the world: the suffering and sacrifice of Falun Gong practitioners is not just for themselves, but also for conscience and the benefit of humanity. From the pillorying of Jesus Christ’s disciples to Mahatma Gandhi’s spinning wheel to Martin Luther King’s marches to Nelson Mandela’s transcending decades of incarceration, humanity has been given many examples of how the seemingly weak and vanquished become alive and huge in the history book by virtue of their humility and steely conviction in conscience. Their sufferings and peaceful initiatives ultimately become our most treasured heritage. This, in turn, has made the world a better place to live for all of us.

History does repeat itself, and the world once again finds itself watching a peaceful group, this time Falun Gong practitioners, enduring an evil power and continuing the journey to conscience.

We can choose to act, we can choose to watch, or we can choose to not choose. However, observing such a trial of good people, deep in our hearts we ultimately are making a choice.

# Introduction

This report details human rights violations committed by the government of the People's Republic of China against practitioners of Falun Gong. In the following eight chapters, we seek to bring to you the severity of the more than two years of violent persecution of Falun Gong. A brief introduction is given here to provide significant background information.

## *Falun Gong, a Practice That Has Benefited 100 Million People in Over 40 Countries*

Falun Gong is an ancient form of *qigong*. *Qigong*, translated as cultivation-exercise, is the generic term for the practice of mind and body refinement through special mental and physical exercises. Throughout the history of China and some other parts of the world, numerous schools of *qigong* have existed, each with its own characteristics and emphasis. Some schools have taken the form of religion, some are passed down from one master to only a few disciples, and some have taken the form of popular exercises. *Taichi* and some branches of *Yoga* are examples of popular exercises; Buddhism and Taoism may be considered religious forms of *qigong*, with the former emphasizing mind cultivation and meditation, and the latter paying particular attention to body refinement through unique exercises.

Falun Gong distinguishes itself from other *qigong* practices by emphasizing both mind cultivation and body refinement. Mr. Li Hongzhi, the founder of Falun Gong, teaches his disciples that to achieve total health one must first be a good person of supremely moral character. Following the Falun Gong principle of "Truthfulness-Benevolence-Forbearance," practitioners of Falun Gong devote themselves to the cultivation of their inner selves and the improvement of their mental and moral quality. This, combined with five sets of gentle exercises of proven efficacy in health improvement, has enabled practitioners to achieve purposeful living, morality, total health, and true happiness. As a testament to its superior benefits, Falun Gong had become a global phenomenon of over 100 million practitioners across more than 40 countries by 1999, just seven years since its introduction to the public.



*This group practice took place at Shenyang City in Liaoning Province before the persecution started.*

## *The Chinese Government's Increasing Hostility towards Falun Gong*

The benefit of Falun Gong practice to the citizens and the society was originally recognized and commended by various levels of the Chinese government. In fact, the positive regard from the authorities had facilitated the spread of Falun Gong in the early 1990's. The state-controlled media – including national and local newspapers, TV and radio stations – frequently covered activities and benefits of Falun Gong practice.

The increasing popularity of Falun Gong, however, proved to be too much for a few officials within the Chinese government. From clandestine undermining in early 1994, to the orchestrated smear-attack campaign, and the banning of Falun Gong books in 1996, to police harassment in 1997, certain power blocs within the Chinese government gradually escalated their underhanded persecution to overt assault. On April 23, 1999, in broad daylight, armed police forces in Tianjin City violently assaulted hundreds of Falun Gong practitioners and detained 45 of them.

### *The “April 25<sup>th</sup> Peaceful Petition” by Falun Gong Practitioners*

Two days later, on April 25, 1999, over 10,000 Falun Gong practitioners gathered quietly in Beijing outside the State Council Appeals Office, located within the Chinese leadership compound, to petition for the release of practitioners who were detained in Tianjin and the lifting of the ban on Falun Gong books. The gathering was peaceful, orderly, and lawful. After China premier Zhu Rongji met with a few representatives from among the gathered practitioners and ordered the release of arrested practitioners in Tianjin, the practitioners quietly dispersed. Because of this gathering Falun Gong began to receive international attention.



*On April 25, 1999, Falun Gong practitioners gathered quietly and orderly outside the State Council Appeals Office to appeal to the government for a just treatment of Falun Gong.*

### *Jiang Zemin Ordered All-out Persecution*

China's president Jiang Zemin, however, resented the peaceful solution. Apparently seeking a resounding conquest to augment his personal authority, on July 20, 1999, Jiang ordered the persecution against Falun Gong to commence, despite the fact that many within the government were already either practitioners themselves or held favorable views towards Falun Gong. Later, in October, Jiang ordered the Chinese national legislature to pass a law to allow a tougher crackdown. The Washington Post noted in an article on November 2, 1999, that “When [China's Communist leaders] found themselves without the laws they needed to vigorously persecute a peaceful meditation society, the Party simply ordered up some new laws. Now these will be applied --retroactively, of course... By these standards, Stalin was a scrupulous observer of civil rights.”

Since July 20, 1999, more than 100,000 practitioners, including pregnant women, the elderly, and young children, have been sent to labor camps without a trial; more than 500 have been jailed, with the longest term being 18 years; and hundreds of thousands of innocent residents have been detained, almost all under inhumane conditions. Shockingly, more than 1,000 practitioners have been detained and severely tortured with nerve-damaging drugs in mental hospitals. As of March 2002, more than 1,600 people had died in custody, while countless others are still unaccounted for. The scope and severity of the atrocities are difficult to fathom.

## *A Staged-Immolation and the Deception of World Opinion*

The Chinese government has also launched a far-reaching campaign of misinformation about Falun Gong to justify its persecution and to escape world condemnation. State-run media have flooded the printing presses and airwaves with fabrications about Mr. Li Hongzhi and Falun Gong. As with all lies, the Chinese government failed miserably in the details. For example, the Chinese government made up claims that the practice of Falun Gong caused 1,400 people to die or to become insane. This number, even if assumed to be true, divided by 70 million practitioners,



*Rough eviction contrasts with peaceful meditation*

would be many magnitudes below the national average. In another example, the Chinese government claimed that Mr. Li Hongzhi had falsified his date of birth, and even turned up a “hospital record” to prove his mother was treated with oxytocin in 1952 before his birth. Oxytocin, however, was not to be identified until 1953.

In early 2001, desperate to turn the tide, the Chinese government attempted an outrageous stunt: a staged immolation of five people in Tiananmen Square. The state-run media then blamed it on Falun Gong. This staged-immolation, however, has been taken apart by neutral reporters and by careful observers of the same videotape which was published by the Chinese government:

- An investigative story published by the Washington Post revealed that Ms. Liu Chunling, one of the “immolators,” had never practiced Falun Gong;
- Liu Siying, the 12-year-old girl, was purported to have had a tracheotomy, but spoke and sang clearly, a medical impossibility;
- Ms. Hao Huijun, another immolator, was reported to have graduated from a Henan Music College in 1974, a year in the Cultural Revolution when no students were graduated;
- Mr. Wang Jindong was shown to have been badly burned; however, the plastic 7-UP bottle that he had “used to douse gasoline” remained miraculously intact.

*(For an analysis of the CCTV footage of the staged-immolations, please visit: <http://www.faluninfo.net/devstories/tiananmen/immolation.asp>)*

## *The Power of Non-Violence*

Facing extreme injustice and violence, the power of faith and nonviolence shines brightly. Since the persecution began, millions of Falun Gong practitioners, some from foreign countries, have gone to Beijing to tell the government, “Falun Gong is good!” Millions remain true to their faith in Falun Gong’s principle of “Truthfulness-Benevolence-Forbearance” when facing abuse, torture, and death. Falun Gong practitioners have always remained completely peaceful. They remain peaceful during police beatings; they remain peaceful when inmates who are coerced by the police torture them. Their great tolerance, compassion, and righteousness have even inspired countless torturers to become Falun Gong practitioners.



*Another practitioner escorted into compound after appeal*

## *The Peaceful Petition of Falun Gong Practitioners and the Chinese People's Quest for Rights and Dignity*

It is important to point out that the Chinese government's persecution of Falun Gong is no deviation from its 50 years of continuous persecution of intellectuals, labor activists, dissidents, Christians, Buddhists, and other nonconformists. Various studies by western scholars have indicated that eighty or more millions of lives have perished because of the non-stop persecution under the Chinese communist rule. These persecutions are all born of the same purpose: the destruction of human nature.

The persecution of Falun Gong is still going on in China. However the peaceful and persistent insistence on their basic rights by Falun Gong practitioners is already transcending the historic plight of Chinese human rights. Their request cannot be more simple: the right to do the Falun Gong exercises and to be good people following the principle of "Truthfulness-Benevolence-Forbearance." Their approach is peaceful, apolitical and noble. Their suffering is helping more and more people wake up to the Chinese government's heinous crimes against humanity.

Many Falun Gong practitioners have risked all to publicize the violations they or fellow practitioners have suffered. Their reports must not be taken lightly, lest the values of hope, courage, and the most fundamental human rights be forsaken. In presenting these documents, we now ask you to be a voice for those without one, to do all within your power to challenge the injustice and cruelty.



*Plainclothes police taking down a Falun Gong petitioner*

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