

Violence Against Foreign Citizens



Top left Gina Sanchez is participating in a group meditation in Washington D.C.

Top right, Zenon Dolnyckyj being arrested in Tiananmen Square, Beijing. (AP's Photo)

Center, Police vehicles rush in to arrest practitioners in Tiananmen Square, Beijing. (AP's Photo)

Bottom left, Westerners in Tiananmen Square remain in meditation during assault by police. (AP's Photo)

Bottom right, Levi Browde arrested by police in Tiananmen Square. (AP's Photo)

Overview:

On November 20, 2001, around 2 p.m., thirty-six westerners gathered at Tiananmen Square. They sat in the lotus position, unfurled a large yellow banner emblazoned with the words "Truth, Benevolence, Forbearance," shut their eyes, and began their Falun Gong meditation exercise.

Within seconds, police vans rushed over and surrounded the group, and officers began forcing the foreigners inside. In response, they started to shout in Chinese: "Falun Gong is good!" Foreign news media reported that police repeatedly kicked and hit at least one practitioner.

These 36 foreigners were the first of many groups of western Falun Gong practitioners who went to Beijing to practice Falun Gong exercises at Tiananmen Square. To date, hundreds of people representing Falun Gong practitioners from Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Korea, Poland, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, USA, and several other countries have gone to China to make their peaceful appeals to the Chinese government to stop killing the Chinese Falun Gong practitioners.

Their actions have been peaceful and in complete compliance with the fundamental rights spelled out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. However, all of these practitioners were arrested, mistreated, and forcibly deported by Chinese police. Many of them were beaten, some severely. While most of the foreigners were arrested in Tiananmen Square, many of them were abducted while walking on the street, and some were even taken away from their hotel rooms by police. While in police detention, these people were not allowed contact with their families, not allowed legal representation, and not even allowed contact with their embassies. They were interrogated, intimidated, and most of them had their valuable belongings stolen by the police. When they cited international standards for treatment of foreign nationals, the Chinese police simply stated: "This is China."

The international community has yet to see another government act so uncivilized to such a large number of foreign tourists, and so recklessly violate diplomatic bilateral treaties with so many countries.



The mistreatment and physical abuse of western Falun Gong practitioners by the Chinese police only serves to expose the PRC government's lies that their police refrain from using violence against domestic Falun Gong practitioners. If the Chinese policemen have no scruples to inhibit them from beating these foreigners, knowing that the victims are to be deported within hours, what would they not do to Chinese Falun Gong practitioners who they can incarcerate indefinitely?

The mistreatment and physical abuse of western Falun Gong

practitioners by the Chinese police also sends a rude reminder to the international community: The persecution of Falun Gong by the PRC government is no longer just a Chinese issue. With more and more people practicing Falun Gong around the world, the international community cannot look away from the PRC government's persecution of Falun Gong forever.

The following are case reports of abuses committed against some of the detained practitioners.

1. **Chun Lee**, female, 23, marketing consultant, resident of San Jose, California, U.S.A.

On February 14, 2002 Ms. Chun Lee and two friends were walking towards Tiananmen Square when several policemen stopped them and searched her friends' bags. Ms. Lee was simply standing and waiting off to the side when an officer suddenly screamed at her and threw her to the ground. More than ten uniformed and plainclothes policemen surrounded Ms. Lee and started beating her. They kicked her with their boots. One of the policemen stepped on her face, crushing her glasses, and punched her face, causing her nose to bleed badly. Then, with no explanation or inquiry, the officers tried to take her away. When Ms. Lee resisted this groundless arrest, the officers threw her back onto the ground and forcefully stepped on the back of her neck. They smashed her face into her scarf, smothering her until she was nearly unconscious. Then they strangled her with her scarf, and stuffed it down her throat. They then lift her up and carried her to a nearby police station.

At the station they threw her on the floor, searched her body and confiscated all of her belongings, including her passport. They then put her in a police van and drove her to a compound. As the van arrived at the building, the policemen dragged her out of the van by her hair, threw her down the steps of the bus, carried her inside and threw her to the foyer floor. Four policemen then cursed and interrogated her for several hours. One officer twisted her hand to force her to answer the questions.



▲ Ms. Chun Lee's bruises.

Ms. Lee was taken to a room with other practitioners. They requested a translator, and asked to place phone calls to their embassies. Their requests were denied. When they questioned the Chinese police about the legal grounds for their arrest, the police rudely yelled at them "shut up!" The police also brutalized several female detainees by dragging them into the room.

Ms. Lee was held for over 24 hours and was deported on February 15. While she was waiting for transportation to the airport, she was beaten again by a higher-ranking officer. He slapped her across the face so hard her ears rang and her jaw stuck open. The policeman continued to hit her in the face, pushed her to the floor, and to kicked her. She curled up in a ball and screamed. He stopped only because she continued her loud scream. The police confiscated her MP3 player and CD player. When she asked the officer to give them back, warning him that she would report the theft to the U.S. government, he simply replied that this was China [Apparently, he also thought it was ok to beat an innocent woman in China].

2. **Thai Ton**, male, 34, a biologist working for the federal government, resident of Durham North Carolina, U.S.A.

Mr. Thai Ton went to Tiananmen Square on February 14, 2002 to appeal for Falun Gong. As soon as the police recognized Mr. Ton as a Falun Gong practitioner, they immediately pushed him to the ground, stomped on his face, and broke his eyeglasses. They then took him to a detention center. The police confiscated his Palm Pilot computer, his wallet, and \$1,000. Because the beating, he suffered bruises and a gash on his hand. Mr. Ton was detained overnight before being forcibly deported. His belongings were never returned to him.

Related News Reports:

Family Awaits Word of NC Protesters in China?
The News & Observer, February 15, 2002
<http://www.newsobserver.com/ncwire/news/Story/910538p-907958c.html>

3. **Mark Gardner**, male, 22, student, Orange County, CA, U.S. A.

Mr. Mark Gardner went to Tiananmen Square on February 14 to display his yellow banner with the Chinese characters "Truthfulness, Compassion, Forbearance". Before he could even unfold the banner, the Chinese police threw him to the ground, pinned him down and kicked him in the face. They picked him up and forcefully placed him in a police van upside down, with his head to the floor. One police officer covered his mouth and nose to prevent him from speaking. He could not breathe until they shut the door and let go of his mouth. The policemen took Mr. Gardner to his hotel to retrieve his luggage, but confiscate his valuable belongings. The police then choked and punched him. Mr. Mark Gardner returned home with a black eye.



▲ Signs of battery sustained by Mr. Mark Gardner in China are clearly visible.

4. **Hiroyoshi Sawa**, male, 27, Computer Science Engineer, resident of Kyoto, Japan

On January 1, 2002, Mr. Hiroyoshi Sawa went to Tiananmen Square, where he unfurled a banner that read, "Falun Dafa is Good!" and proclaimed "Falun Dafa is Good!" in Chinese. Several policemen rushed over, shoved him into a police van, and grabbed his glasses, watch, and leather belt. After taking him to a prison, the police stripped Mr. Sawa of his Falun Gong T-shirt, beat him multiple times, and confiscated all of his Falun Gong books and materials. Mr. Sawa was locked in a cell from 2 p.m. until 6 a.m. the next morning, with no food or water. Whenever Mr. Sawa fell asleep or performed the Falun Gong exercises, the police came in and beat him. The police also interrogated him for information about Falun Gong practitioners in Japan. On January 2, the police escorted Mr. Sawa to Shanghai to board an airplane to Osaka, and forced him to pay an extra of 10,000 Yuan for the flight.

Related News Reports:

Falun Gong follower deported from China? Japan Times, January 6, 2002

Japanese Falun Gong follower deported after protest in Beijing? ODJ (Japan), January 4, 2002

5. **Connie Chipkar**, female, 61, a former teacher from Welland, Ontario, resident of Mississauga, Ontario, Canada

On January 23, 2002, Ms. Connie Chipkar went to Tiananmen Square to express her deep concern about the mounting persecution and murder of Chinese Falun Gong practitioners and to appeal to the hearts of the Chinese citizens. She removed her overcoat, displaying the "Falun Dafa SOS" sash she had worn across Europe, and began to softly sing a song about Falun Gong. In a matter of minutes, a policeman grabbed Ms. Chipkar's arms and dragged her away. He forcefully dragged her across the square and violently ripped the sash off of her clothes. He then forced her into a police van.



▲ Ms. Connie Chipkar manhandled while being arrested in Tiananmen Square.

Ms. Chipkar was interrogated in a police station for 3 hours. She was not allowed to contact the Canadian Embassy, and was held overnight in a police compound. She was deported from China the next day.

Related News Report:

[Group] Supporter Detained in China & Canadian Detained in [Group] Protest, Associated Press, Wednesday January 23, 2002

6. **Jared Pearman**, Male, resident of Orlando, Florida U.S.A.

On February 14, 2002, Mr. Jared Pearman arrived at Tiananmen Square and attempted to hold up a banner reading "Falun Dafa Truth, Compassion, Tolerance" in Chinese characters. He was tackled, kicked, and choked by four or five policemen.

Thinking that he was being kidnapped, and fearing that his life was in danger, Mr. Pearman tried to run away, but was chased down by military guards. They punched him to the ground, stomped on the side of his head, and kicked him in the face, back, groin, and stomach. Then, two military guards picked Mr. Pearman up and held his arms while others punched

his face and head. They took off his shoes and stomped on his feet with their boots to prevent him from running away again. They threw him on the ground again. While one policeman pressed his knee onto Mr. Pearman's head and twisted his arms, a senior officer repeatedly kicked him between his legs causing severe pain.

7. **Court Pearman**, Male, resident of Orlando, Florid, U.S.A

On February 14, 2002, Mr. Court Pearman went to Tiananmen Square. Although he did nothing, he found he was followed and surrounded by policemen, military guards, and a police van. He ran across the square and shouting "Falun Dafa is Good" in Chinese over and over until somebody tackled him to the ground. He was kicked and thrown into a van. A policeman then pressed his knees onto Mr. Pearman's head. He was taken to a detention center and interrogated. His requests to make phone calls and to speak with his embassy were denied.

Knowing that he had been arrested without just cause, Mr. Pearman escaped from the detention center by climbing down a fire escape. The guards caught him at the rear of the compound and beat him severely. Two men held each leg, one held each arm, one hit his face, and all of them kicked him hard. They continued beating him all the way back to the front of the building, into the elevator, and back to the interrogation room. They threatened to kill him, took his belt, and terrorized him for about an hour. Then he was put in a room with other practitioners. When Mr. Pearman was deported, the police carried him onto the airplane in tattered clothes, frightening the passengers.

8. **Albert Roman**, male, 25, a financial consultant, resident of Los Angeles, California, U.S.A

On February 14, 2002, Mr. Albert Roman went to Tiananmen Square. He wanted to kindly help the Chinese people to understand that Falun Gong is a peaceful spiritual practice and does not deserve to be persecuted. At Tiananmen Square, Mr. Roman pro-



Mr. Albert Roman

claimed, "Falun Gong is good" in Chinese. Within seconds, a policeman rushed over, pulled him into a police van and began choking and hitting him. The officer pressed Mr. Roman's face down to a seat and put him in a chokehold, which almost made him lose consciousness. The policeman then hit the back of his neck, his ribs, and his kidney area. When the van arrived at a detention center, the driver also joined in the assault. He grabbed Mr. Roman by the hair and jacket, and even ripped out tufts of hair as he forcefully threw him out of the van.

Mr. Roman was taken to a room and interrogated by a policeman. When he told his interrogator that the Chinese constitution grants the freedom to appeal, to assemble, and to express one's belief, the officer shamelessly responded, "We don't follow the constitution."

9. **Andre Hubert**, male, resident of Lörach, Germany

On February 14, 2002, Mr. Andre Hubert went to Tiananmen Square, unfurled a banner saying "Falun Dafa" with other German practitioners and proclaimed "Falun Dafa is good". Within 10 seconds, several policemen jumped on him and brutally knocked him down to the ground. They then threw him into a police van. Some policemen sat on him and pressed his face to the floor. Others kicked and beat him brutally. When the van arrived at a detention center close to Tiananmen Square, the driver joined in and hit his head and neck fiercely with his elbow. Mr. Hubert was then dragged out of the van and into the detention center, causing his shoes to fall off, and his belt to break.

Mr. Hubert and other western practitioners were taken to a detention "hotel" near the airport and were then illegally interrogated one by one. Mr. Hubert insisted on talking to officials from the German embassy, and refused to answer any questions as long as his request was not granted. The policemen then threatened him with long-term detention, and took him and five others, who refused to answer their questions, to in a suburb of Beijing.

In the detention center, the police repeatedly threatened that Mr. Hubert and five others that they would be sentenced to five years in prison. Practitioners explained that international laws and United Nations' conventions have no effect in China. The six practitioners were forced to submit to a physical ex-

amination. The policemen stripped off their clothes and humiliated them. All of their belongings were illegally seized. Mr. Hubert and two other Falun Gong practitioners, one from Sweden and one from Japan, were locked in a cell less than 15 square meters with 7 detainees. Instead of beds, there were only 8 sleeping slots in the wooden floor. A washbasin was at the end of the room, and only cold water was provided. There was a ditch in the floor, which was used as a toilet. The room was full of the smell of human feces, and there was filth everywhere. With only 8 sleeping slots, the 10 detainees could only sleep on their sides. The other prisoners told Mr. Hubert that this jail had the best conditions of all.



Mr. Andre Hubert was arrested and removed by six policemen in Tiananmen Square, Beijing

Mr. Hubert and other practitioners were incarcerated in this jail for two days. They were forced to sit upright and face the toilet all day. They were not permitted to go outdoors and get any fresh air.

On February 18, Mr. Hubert was taken from the prison to the Beijing airport and sent back to Europe.

Related News Report:

AFP: "Three Swedish Falun Gong Protesters to Leave China," February 17, 2002