

The Falun Gong Report

# Stories of Conscience





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The Falun Gong Human Rights Working Group

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First Edition - 2005  
Printed in Taiwan  
February 2005

ISBN 0-9752591-2-1

Library of Congress Number: 2005922518

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10299 Scripps Trail #226  
San Diego, California 92131  
U.S.A.

website: [www.falunhr.org](http://www.falunhr.org)  
email: [info@falunhr.org](mailto:info@falunhr.org)

Editor-in-Chief  
Shizhong Chen

Associate Editors  
Arleen Freeman  
Matthew Hildebrand

Editors  
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Haidi Tu  
Linda Ye  
Ying Yuan

Art Design  
Lillian Zheng

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Cover Photo:

A photograph of the Chen family. All six practice Falun Gong: Mr. Chen Yunchuan, the father; Ms. Wang Lianrong, the mother; Ms. Chen Shulan, the elder daughter; Mr. Chen Aizhong, the elder son, who was tortured to death on September 20, 2001; Mr. Chen Aili, the younger son, who was tortured to death on November 5, 2004; and Ms. Chen Hongping, the younger daughter, who was tortured to death on March 5, 2003. *Their full stories are on page 32.*

All of the artwork in this book was done by Falun Gong practitioners.

# Preface

“Tragedy,” a Chinese writer once wrote, “is the ripping of grace into pieces.”

September 27, 1999: Ms. Zhao Jinhua, age 42, was taken from her farmland to a police station in Zhaoyuan City, China. She died after suffering ten days of beating.

Ms. Zhao was known as one of the kindest people in her village. She was a practitioner of Falun Gong.

May 23, 2000: Mr. Su Gang, age 32, a computer engineer in Zibo City, China, was forcibly injected with neurodegenerative chemicals for eight days; he died eleven days later.

Mr. Su was a model worker in his factory. He was a Falun Gong practitioner.

April 18, 2001: The police from Macheng City beat Ms. Wang Huajun, age 36, until she lost consciousness. To set up a “self-immolation,” the police dragged her to the front of city hall, doused her with gasoline, and lit a fire. Ms. Wang regained consciousness momentarily and tried to stand up. However, the police stood around and watched her succumb to the flames.

Ms. Wang was known in the neighborhood as a kind person. She was a Falun Gong practitioner.

January 23, 2002: Mr. Zhan Wei, age 32, died from internal bleeding caused by punitive force-feeding carried out by the police.

Mr. Zhan was known as a most generous person in his company. He was a Falun Gong practitioner.

October 15, 2003: The police beat Mr. Lu Xingguo, age 45, to death. His body was covered with blood, his lips were ripped off, and all his teeth were knocked out.

Mr. Lu was known as one of the very best of the local officials. He was a Falun Gong practitioner.

July 9, 2004: Mr. Tang Jian, age 39, died after suffering months of torture. His body was covered with wounds.

Mr. Tang had won the Outstanding Teacher Award in his high school for many years. He was a Falun Gong practitioner.

January 11, 2005: Mr. Cheng Jingshan, age 64, died from brain damage resulting from police beating. The police beat him so severely that his face was disfigured.

Mr. Cheng was among the kindest grandpas to the children in his village. He was a Falun Gong practitioner.



These tragedies are only the tip of the iceberg of the Chinese government's brutal persecution of Falun Gong. Over 1300 Falun Gong practitioners are confirmed to have died from police violence since July 1999. The actual extent of the atrocities cannot be known due to the authorities' blockage of information.

These people could have stayed alive if they had agreed to renounce Falun Gong. In fact, that is the option the authorities "offer" to Falun Gong practitioners. In the same way the pagan rulers two thousand years ago offered the Christians a choice to conform before martyring them, the Chinese communist dictators want Falun Gong practitioners to "transform," to sign pledges to give up Falun Gong.

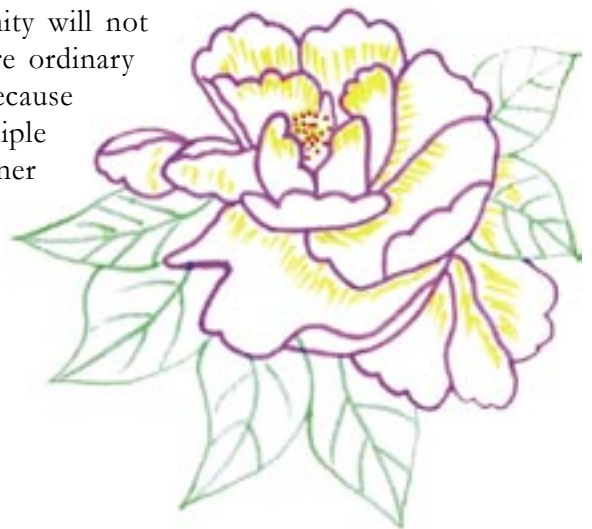
The stakes are so high and the choice is so "obvious," it is no wonder some people cannot comprehend: why not pretend to give in and practice Falun Gong secretly at home?

One Falun Gong practitioner wrote about her experiences in a jail: "The guards ordered the convicts to force me to recite the 'rules for convicts.' I refused to do so, no matter how they beat me, because I am not a convict. They said I was a convict, the same as they were, or I would not be in jail. I told them, 'No, I was jailed because I insisted on my conscience; I can get out easily by renouncing Falun Gong, but none of you can.'"

This simple account depicts the persecution at its core: reversing right and wrong, coercing the innocent to bow to guilt. Why are Falun Gong practitioners so unyielding to the coercion? Why are they so uncompromising in insisting on their conscience? If right and wrong can be compromised, why have right and wrong? If good can cave in to evil, what will values and principles be based on? Conscience, the innate knowing of goodness, is the very essence of humanity. Everything else, even our "inalienable rights," can be forcibly taken away. The alteration of our conscience, no matter how small, must be consented to from within. Conscience, thus, defines human nature, and the right to conscience is a human being's most fundamental right.

No crime, therefore, is worse than the crime against conscience. The Chinese government's persecution of Falun Gong not only violates Falun Gong practitioners' right to conscience, but is also an assault aimed at the destruction of human nature.

People who understand the true meaning of humanity will not give up being good people. Falun Gong practitioners are ordinary people from all walks of life; they are also extraordinary because they made a conscious commitment to follow the principle of Truth-Benevolence-Forbearance, to cultivate their inner selves and improve their mental and moral quality. This inevitably leads to individual integrity, courage, and universal love.



People thus enlightened will not submit to evil. The perseverance of Falun Gong practitioners is not only an insistence of their own right to conscience, but also the most gallant defense of humanity. The sacrifices they have made in peace are not passive suffering, but the truest embodiment of their conscious choice of goodness in resisting evil.

As a dedication to the bravery of Falun Gong practitioners, we present their stories in this book. Many Falun Gong practitioners have risked all to publicize the violations that they or their fellow practitioners have suffered. Their reports must not be taken lightly, lest the most fundamental values of humanity be forsaken.

The stories in this book, and in future volumes to come, represent the ultimate dedication Falun Gong practitioners have made to humanity. Their conscience, courage, and sacrifices will forever remain humanity's most precious heritage.



A morning group practice in Beijing's Ditan Park. This photo was taken before the persecution.

# Introduction

## Falun Gong, a Traditional Practice That Has Benefited 100 Million People in Over 60 Countries

Falun Gong - also known as Falun Dafa, the Great Way of Law-Wheel Cultivation Practice - is an ancient form of cultivation practice.

From its earliest establishment, Chinese culture has embraced the concept of the “Oneness of Heaven and Man.” The way for man to achieve the Oneness, or his true self, is cultivation practice. Chinese literature is filled with legends of people achieving the status of deities, becoming enlightened, or obtaining the Tao through cultivation, and there have existed thousands of different schools of cultivation over the course of Chinese history. Cultivation practice, therefore, is a generic term for the practice of mind and body transcendence.

Cultivation practice has left its imprint on almost every aspect of Chinese culture. The teachings of Lao Zi and Confucius, for example, were originally for guiding the cultivation of their respective disciples. A great number of historical figures who contributed to shaping Chinese history were practitioners of cultivation. In fact, cultivation of moral character was a prerequisite for students of any serious study, and the ethical values derived from teachings of cultivation played an essential role in establishing and maintaining social morality.

Cultivation has also long been recognized for its effects on physical health and supernormal abilities. The health benefits of Tai Chi and martial arts, for example, are well known. All famous doctors and physicians throughout Chinese history were practitioners of cultivation. Some of them had developed abilities to visualize meridian channels and points in the human body, some could see through the human body to detect illnesses, some could see how components of herbs function in the human body, and some could emit energy to cure diseases. These practitioners of cultivation were entirely responsible for establishing the theory and practice of Chinese medicine, such as acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine that we know today.



Communist rule of China brought an abrupt end to this rich tradition of cultivation. The Communist Party's atheist ideology and totalitarian power precluded any other ideas. Cultivation was branded as "superstition" and brutally persecuted. In the first two years of communist rule, approximately two million people were executed in the name of "suppressing counter-revolutionary superstitious sects and secret societies." For the next four decades, no one dared to mention cultivation in public.

Political repression cannot suppress illness, however, and repeated political persecution caused severe physical and psychological trauma to Chinese citizens. In the 1970's, feeding citizens' need for healing and fitness, some unique exercises were quietly introduced to the public under a novel name - qigong - and gained instant popularity for their remarkable health benefits. The term qigong, however, had never existed before, and no one knew the real origin of qigong.

In 1992, Mr. Li Hongzhi began to give lectures on Falun Gong. Mr. Li revealed that qigong was really the physical aspect of cultivation practice, that the term qigong had been coined to avoid political persecution, and that to receive the full benefit of cultivation one must pay attention to the mental aspect - improving one's moral and mental quality. By introducing Falun Gong to the public, Mr. Li brought thousands of years of cultivation practice tradition back to the Chinese people.

Awakened to the tradition, practitioners of Falun Gong followed the principle of Truth-Be-nevolence-Forbearance and devoted 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, improved health, and inner peace. As a testament to its superior benefits, Falun Gong had become a global phenomenon of over 100 million practitioners across more than 60 countries by 1999, just seven years after its introduction to the public.



Falun Gong spread rapidly by word of mouth and is practiced by millions of families in China. This photo shows four generations of one family practicing together in Anshi Village, Dongliao Town in Jilin Province in May 1998.



## The Escalating Hostility of Dictators towards Falun Gong

At the beginning, various levels of the Chinese government recognized and commended the benefits of Falun Gong practice to people and to society, and their support facilitated the spread of Falun Gong in the early 1990's. In fact, one third of the 60 million Communist Party members and a large number of high-ranking government officials practiced Falun Gong.

A few Party ideologues, however, were affronted by the increasing popularity of Falun Gong. These atheist Party vanguards could not accept the fact that after more than 40 years of Marxist indoctrination so many people, including Communist Party members, would look elsewhere for moral and spiritual guidance. They also had a vested interest in finding fault with Falun Gong as an excuse to mount ideological strikes against those more open-minded and supportive officials and to cleanse the Party to their liking. Turning a blind eye to Falun Gong's positive impact on the people and society, these power-seeking figures busied themselves with wave after wave of witch-hunting and discrediting of Falun Gong.

Among them was Luo Gan, Secretary-General of the State Council, and a close follower of Jiang Zemin, the Party's General Secretary at the time. From very early on, Luo Gan instructed the Ministry of State Security and the Ministry of Public Security to plant agents as Falun Gong practitioners. The clandestine investigations found no evidence to implicate Falun Gong; instead, many of these agents ended up practicing Falun Gong. The inquisitors then resorted to framing. In December 1994, a joint letter by "over one hundred Falun Gong practitioners" was fabricated, accusing Mr. Li of falsifying his date of birth, amassing wealth, evading taxes, etc., and was used as the basis for the Ministry of Public Security's order to ban Falun Gong.

The ban was to be announced on February 3, 1995. Fortunately, a Falun Gong practitioner working in the Ministry of Public Security learned about this one week before its announcement. He and



Awards given to Mr. Li Hongzhi and Falun Gong in the 1992 and 1993 Oriental Health Expos in Beijing.

Top left: Certificate of Honor to Mr. Li Hongzhi for Outstanding Contribution at the 1992 Oriental Health Expo;

Top right: Award for New Science Advancement to Mr. Li Hongzhi at the 1993 Oriental Health Expo;

Center: "Gold Award," presented to Mr. Li Hongzhi at the 1993 Oriental Health Expo;

Bottom left: Certificate of Honor to Mr. Li Hongzhi for Outstanding Contribution at the 1993 Oriental Health Expo;

Bottom right: Award of "Most Acclaimed Qigong Master," awarded to Mr. Li Hongzhi at the 1993 Oriental Health Expo.

other Falun Gong practitioners submitted three reports to dispel the false accusations, and were able to head off the crisis at the last minute.

In 1996, a concerted media campaign against Falun Gong began with an article published on June 17, 1996, in the *Guangming Daily*, the mouthpiece of the State Council. Many state-controlled newspapers around the country followed with slanderous articles. On July 24, 1996, the Communist Party's Department of Propaganda issued an internal notice, banning books authored by Mr. Li.

In early 1997, Luo Gan instructed the Ministry of Public Security to conduct a nationwide investigation of "Falun Gong's illegal religious activities." However, early reports from many places indicated "no problems discerned so far," and Luo Gan had to call off the investigation. Many agents who participated in the investigation began practicing Falun Gong.

At the end of May 1998, the Beijing TV Station broadcast a program featuring He Zuoxiu, a self-proclaimed physicist. He Zuoxiu's wife and Luo Gan's wife are sisters. In the program, He Zuoxiu made many false accusations against Falun Gong. Following suit, on July 21, 1998, Luo Gan once again resorted to the tactic of "trump up charges and find the evidence later" and instructed police departments around the country to "uncover and collect evidence of Falun Gong's spreading of heresy and conducting of criminal activities." Many cities then banned Falun Gong practice, and arrested and fined Falun Gong practitioners for holding group practices on the charge of "participating in illegal gatherings."

These incidents represent only a small fraction of the discrimination and coercion that Falun Gong practitioners encountered. Later on, the Chinese government claimed to be startled by the sudden appearance of a large following of Falun Gong. Many naïve observers also rationalized the Chinese government's persecution of Falun Gong as a reaction to feeling threatened. The fact is, the authorities had been monitoring the situation of Falun Gong at all times, and had attempted various tactics to suppress and intimidate Falun Gong practitioners.



On May 15, 1998, Mr. Wu Shaozu, Director of China's Sports Commission, along with other government officials and media, went to investigate Falun Gong in Changchun City, the birthplace of Falun Gong.

## The Tianjin Incident

The injustice failed to deter or provoke Falun Gong practitioners, however. Adhering to Mr. Li's teaching of "Other people may treat us badly, but we do not treat others badly, nor do we treat people as enemies," Falun Gong practitioners quietly endured the bullying, and time and again gave those prejudiced people opportunities to understand what cultivation is about and what kind of people practitioners are. Many practitioners, including Communist Party members and government officials, also wrote to the central leadership to testify from their own experiences that Falun Gong is beneficial to society, and not a threat. Those appealing could easily be implicated as "standing in opposition to the Party," "disrupting the Party's normal work," or even "counter-revolutionary." Any one allegation was enough for someone to lose everything, including his freedom, but practitioners stepped forward spontaneously and in large numbers to speak of the facts and in defense of Falun Gong.

The large number of appeal letters prompted a group of senior government officials, led by Mr. Qiao Shi, former Chairman of the People's Congress, to organize investigations in the later part of 1998 to examine the impact of Falun Gong on people's health and on society to provide a basis for solving the controversies surrounding Falun Gong.

Among these investigations were a series of health surveys sponsored by the State Council and the Ministry of Sports and conducted by state-owned medical institutions in several major Chinese cities (<http://www.fsccentre.org/Summary of Health Surveys.htm>). With over 34,000 practitioners participating, these are the most systematic and comprehensive health surveys done on Falun Gong practitioners to date. The results show that among those surveyed, 98.7% experienced improvement in physical health and 97.7% reported improvement in mental conditions from Falun Gong practice.

Based on these investigations, the group submitted a formal report to the Political Bureau of the Communist Party, with a conclusion that "Falun Gong has numerous benefits to the country and people and not a single detriment." This conclusion, however, felt ill to Jiang Zemin, the General Secretary of the Party, who bitterly wrote on the report: "[The report is] too complicated; I do not understand." With an obvious intention, Jiang assigned Luo Gan to handle the report and related issues.

Luo Gan readily took the hint and looked for opportunities elsewhere. On April 11, 1999, He Zuoxiu published yet another article slandering Falun Gong in a magazine in the city of Tianjin. Since the article was full of fabrications, many Falun Gong practitioners visited the editorial office of the magazine to tell the editors their personal experiences of Falun Gong practice, and ask the magazine to retract the erroneous article. On April 22 and 23, 1999, in broad daylight, armed police forces violently assaulted Falun Gong practitioners in front of the magazine's office and arbitrarily detained forty-five of them. Mysteriously, the police urged Falun Gong practitioners at the scene to go to the central government in Beijing to address their grievance.

## The “April 25th Peaceful Appeal” 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 Bureau of Appeal, located in the vicinity of the Chinese leadership compound, to request the release of the practitioners detained in Tianjin and the lifting of the ban on Falun Gong books.

The gathering was peaceful, orderly, and a demonstration of practitioners’ kindness. They stood three-deep in rows between the roadway and sidewalk so as not to block the traffic; they advised curious pedestrians to move on so as not to create a scene; they picked up trash that was littered around by cars and passers-by, and even the cigarette butts from the police watching them. The police, however, took advantage of the practitioners’ kindheartedness. Soon after the gathering began to form, they told practitioners to follow them to see the central leadership. The police then divided the practitioners into two columns and led them away by separate routes that converged at the gate of Zhongnanhai, the Chinese leadership compound. The separate routes resulted in an encirclement of Zhongnanhai, which was later used to incriminate Falun Gong.

According to one participant, Dr. Shi Caidong, Premier Zhu Rongji walked out of the gate and toward the practitioners at around 7:30 a.m., and inquired what the gathering was about. Premier Zhu then invited three practitioners to go inside the compound to have a dialog. It was from this dialog that the practitioners learned that Premier Zhu had issued an instruction a few days before to the State Council not to harass Falun Gong practitioners, but no one knew about this instruction. That afternoon, Premier Zhu met with five representatives of the Falun Gong practitioners, and ordered the release of those detained in Tianjin. Upon learning the news, the practitioners quietly dispersed. Because of this gathering Falun Gong began to receive international attention.



On April 25, 1999, over 10,000 practitioners appealed outside the State Council Bureau of Appeal in Beijing. Practitioners were orderly, standing on the sidewalk and carefully leaving room for pedestrians and traffic.

## Jiang's Personal Crusade against Falun Gong

The peaceful resolution of the April 25 petition was highly regarded by international observers and media. Many viewed it as a precedent of solving social conflict through compromise, a milestone in China's progress towards civil society.

Jiang Zemin, then General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party, however, deeply resented Premier Zhu's handling of the event. Less than three weeks earlier, when Premier Zhu returned from a successful state visit to the United States and Canada and was credited with getting China's effort to join the WTO back on track, Jiang could not even conceal his enmity and was awkwardly missing from Zhu's welcome ceremony.

Apparently seeking to augment his personal authority, Jiang wanted a different way - his way. According to reliable sources, when Luo Gan reported the course of the April 25 Falun Gong petition, Jiang waved his fists and yelled: "Crush it! Crush it! Resolutely crush it!" At the first meeting of the Party's Standing Committee of the Political Bureau to discuss the April 25 petition, Premier Zhu pleaded: "Just let them practice..." Before Zhu could finish, Jiang pointed a finger at him: "Foolish! Foolish! Foolish! It will lead to the destruction of our party and nation!"

Premier Zhu fell silent. He knew all too well what it meant to defy a paramount chief of the Chinese communist power. In 1966, Liu Shaoqi, then heir-apparent to Chairman Mao, fell from power. He died three years later in handcuffs and tied to a wooden board naked, after suffering extensive torture and inhuman treatment. In 1971, Lin Biao, Mao's second heir-apparent, fled for his life

but was mysteriously killed in Mongolia. In 1976, Deng Xiaoping, Mao's right-hand man, was stripped of power and "expelled from the Party forever." Deng was fortunate enough to have survived and later rose to leadership; however, he duplicated what Mao had done to him, sacking his own handpicked successors Hu Yaobang and Zhao Ziyang in 1987 and 1989, respectively. All these were too familiar to those at the meeting, and no one opposed Jiang further.

While most officials in the government would not openly oppose Jiang, his high-handed



On May 26, 1999, under orders from the central government, local authorities in Hegang City, Heilongjiang Province used a high-pressure hose to shoot water on practitioners and force them to leave their practice site.

policy was not popular either, for many government officials practiced Falun Gong or were sympathetic to Falun Gong. Some government officials wrote to Jiang and other top leaders to suggest more conciliatory approaches. To heighten the pressure, Jiang gave a speech on June 7, 1999, to the full assembly of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee.



Chinese authorities and media staged public destructions of hundreds of thousands of Falun Gong books and materials across the country. The words on the steamroller read "Smash Falun Gong's printed materials."

Jiang's June 7 speech was soon distributed to all Party branches as a Central Committee document. It was significant in several respects. The speech accused Falun Gong practitioners of "fighting with the Party and the government to win the people's favor," established "the Party's position on Falun Gong," and mandated "severe treatment" of those who refused to comply with the Party's position. Following Jiang's speech, the Central Committee made the decision to persecute Falun Gong.

More importantly, Jiang had already sensed that the existing government and Party structure would not fully support his personal crusade against Falun Gong. In the speech, Jiang appointed Li Lanqing, Ding Guangen, and Luo Gan to form a body specifically for handling the Falun Gong issue. This was the origin of the infamous "610 Office." Three days later, on June 10, 1999, according to Jiang's instructions, the "Central Committee's Leadership Group on Handling the Falun Gong Issue" was formed, with Li Lanqing as the head. Serving the Central Leadership Group was the "Central 610 Office," the real operational entity, with Luo Gan in charge. The Leadership Group and the "610 Office" were set up as independent organs within the Party and the government, with absolute power over the Party and the government. It has the authority to directly issue orders to the military, security forces, police, the judiciary, and the propaganda ministry, and the power to command all government resources and systems. Below the Central Leadership Group and the "Central 610 Office" are the leadership groups and "610 Offices" at all levels of the Party and the government, from federal to municipal, with corresponding power to direct resources and systems at their levels. Simply put, the "610 Office" system is Jiang's personal network for controlling the whole government.

With everything under his control, Jiang's crusade against Falun Gong was in full operation.

## Falun Gong Practitioners' Nationwide Petition on July 20, 1999

On the morning of July 20, the state-run media began to bombard the nation with anti-Falun Gong hate propaganda, saturating the airwaves and print media with fabrications and invectives. The propaganda machinery also broadcast tearful “confessions” and “denunciations” from “transformed” Falun Gong practitioners to intimidate Falun Gong practitioners, their families, and those who were sympathetic to them. The night before, in a nationwide blitz of arrests, the authorities had detained all Falun Gong practitioners they thought of as key to the Falun Gong “organization.” From their past experience, the authorities were confident that without these “key leaders” the Falun Gong “organization” would collapse in disorder and the 100 million Falun Gong practitioners would simply disperse due to the high pressure.

For the next few days, however, in every major city in China, Falun Gong practitioners came spontaneously by the tens of thousands to petition the city and provincial governments. Large numbers of Falun Gong practitioners also traveled to Beijing spontaneously to appeal to the central government. Witnesses estimated that millions went to Beijing in the first two days. They came with kind hearts and with trust in the government, and they came for one very simple reason: to testify to the goodness of Falun Gong from their personal experiences, and to urge the government to correct its mistake of launching a persecution based on groundless incrimination.

The authorities were not interested in hearing what Falun Gong practitioners had to say, however. The peaceful petitions were met with violence from the police, who had the heart to wield clubs at 80-year-old ladies, to kick pregnant women, to slap preteen children, and to strip the clothes from young women in broad daylight. In contrast with the violent police, Falun Gong practitioners remained completely peaceful; not a single Falun Gong practitioner in the whole nation retaliated.

It is not known how many Falun Gong practitioners participated in the petitions on July 20, 1999. What is known is that the number was so large that there were not enough detention centers to hold them. Instead, the police forcibly herded practitioners into sports arenas and large warehouses, where they demanded the practitioners to provide their names and identify their work units. The kindhearted and unsuspecting practitioners felt that they had nothing to hide and complied, not knowing that the information would be used for further persecution. The police then ordered the work units to come and pick up the practitioners.



The result of Falun Gong practitioners' petition is arrest and detention; practitioners are herded together and sent to different detention centers and labor camps.

As darkness fell, July 20, 1999, went down in history as the beginning of an unprecedented persecution. Amidst this sudden descent of terror, Falun Gong practitioners came forth with courage; amidst the storm of violence, practitioners exemplified peace. As the contest of courage and terror continues to unfold for a few more years, July 20, 1999, will be remembered as the beginning of Falun Gong practitioners' journey of peace.

## Solemnity and Heroism on Tiananmen Square

Throughout the persecution, Tiananmen Square in Beijing has been a focal point. Hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of Falun Gong practitioners have come to the vast square from all over China and the world to stage petitions, unfurl banners declaring the innocence of Falun Gong, demonstrate the Falun Gong exercises, and simply proclaim: "Falun Gong is wonderful!" For this simple and peaceful expression of opinion, they have suffered tremendously. Almost all were beaten by police or hired thugs, who felt no inhibition in the presence of thousands of tourists on the Square; some were beaten to unconsciousness, while some were beaten to death on the spot; children and the elderly were assaulted with full force; pregnant women were kicked in their abdomens. The attacks were usually so violent and forceful that the victims were silenced in less than a minute. Yet, for just that brief moment, practitioners kept coming and coming, despite the consequences. This seemed puzzling to foreign journalists: Could it be worthwhile? What was this all about?

For Chinese, Tiananmen Square, the "Heavenly Peace Gate" Square, is sacred. The modern history of China is considered to have begun with a student-led patriotic demonstration in Tiananmen Square back in 1919. Several other demonstrations with historical impact, including the 1976 and 1989 pro-democracy demonstrations, also took place in the Square. Tiananmen Square is therefore regarded as a sanctified ground for patriotism, sacrifice, and the last resort to appeal to public conscience.

The sudden descent of terror threw the lives of Falun Gong practitioners into a tailspin, but could not take away their internal conviction and commitment to being good people. After the initial shock, and trusting that the gov-



On September 29, 1999, practitioners demonstrated the Falun Gong exercises at Tiananmen Square as a peaceful appeal to the general public. Policemen rushed over to force practitioners into the police van.



A policeman grabs one practitioner's unfurled banner, as other Falun Gong practitioners unfurl their banners nearby.

ernment would halt the persecution if they could clear up the officials' misunderstanding about Falun Gong, practitioners all over China started to converge at the State Council Bureau of Appeal to hand in their petitions, explaining how Falun Gong is beneficial and can only make positive contributions to society. The kindhearted practitioners soon discovered that the State Council Bureau of Appeal had been turned into a detention center: the "State Council Bureau of Appeal" sign was taken down, and those who asked for directions were tricked into waiting police vans and escorted to detention centers, with no chance to submit their petitions.

As more and more practitioners came, the authorities issued a ban on coming to

the State Council Bureau of Appeal to petition for Falun Gong and ordered local governments to enforce the ban. This was another unconstitutional order and a shocking step back to the Cultural Revolution. The State Council Bureau of Appeal was set up after the Cultural Revolution as a way to help resolve those "frame-up, sham, and unjust cases" and for the wronged to address their grievances. There were literally millions of such cases at that time, and establishments at different levels tried to cover up and escape responsibility. In response to the outcry from the whole society, the State Council Bureau of Appeal was established to receive complaints directly from the victims, circumventing layers and layers of obstacles. Referred to as "heaven's ears" by Chinese citizens, this mechanism played a key role in settling the social discontent that resulted from the Cultural Revolution, and the right to address grievances to the State Council Bureau of Appeal was subsequently written into China's constitution. The brazen stripping of this constitutional right, and the appalling beatings of practitioners caught traveling to Beijing by different levels of authorities, unmistakably signaled to the practitioners that the government was not at all interested in what they had to say. The practitioners were left with no choice but the last resort of appealing to public conscience - and where more symbolic than in Tiananmen Square?

The first known demonstration by Falun Gong practitioners was on September 29, 1999. The night before, a group of practitioners from different parts of China gathered at Tsinghua University, calmly took pictures, wrote down what they were going to do, e-mailed their plans to people they knew overseas, and the next morning, they went!

On the Square, they chose to display the second set of Falun Gong exercises. This was probably the longest demonstration practitioners were able to stage; according to one participant, time seemed to freeze at that moment. Completely unprepared, the police took a while to react; and unprepared for how to react, the police showed their true face, kicking, beating, wrestling, and eventually manhandling all of the peaceful practitioners. We do not have a complete name list of these

practitioners, and we do not know their whereabouts; however, their heroism and that solemn moment are imprinted in history forever.

The public demonstrations in Tiananmen Square were disastrous for Jiang Zemin. From August to October, 1999, Jiang traveled abroad frequently. Among other things on his agenda, he tried to sway world opinion with his version of “handling the Falun Gong issue” and entice other governments’ cooperation with his persecution through giving away business interests and territory claims. Feeling confident, and contrary to his later rejection of international criticism as “interfering with internal policy,” he personally passed out booklets that smeared Falun Gong to leaders of other governments, and offered interviews on the subject of Falun Gong to the international media, thus inviting international attention to the Falun Gong issue and to his ability to handle crises.

The continuous demonstrations by Falun Gong practitioners not only deflated Jiang’s claim of having solved 98% of “the Falun Gong problem,” but also unmasked his fairy tale of “education and affection” in “solving” the “problem.” People, including international reporters, started to wonder: if the police can be this violent in broad daylight, what will they not do behind the closed doors of jails, detention centers, and labor camps?

The practitioners’ sacrifices, however, were tremendous. Not only were those on the Square brutalized, but those suspected of having the “inclination” to travel to Beijing were rounded up by local authorities and coerced into signing the so-called “double pledges”: pledge to renounce Falun Gong and pledge not to appeal for Falun Gong. Those who refused to comply were tortured, some to death.

However, Falun Gong practitioners continued to stage petition after petition on Tiananmen Square. In October, an enraged Jiang ordered the Chinese national legislature to pass a law to legitimize a tougher persecution. 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.”



Two policemen kick and drag one practitioner who is appealing on Tiananmen Square, while a plainclothes officer grasps the practitioner’s yellow banner.

At the same time, Jiang ordered all levels of government to stop practitioners from going to Tiananmen Square, and those officials who failed to do so would be demoted. Precious resources were diverted to set up checkpoints at airports, train and bus stations, public highways, and even hotels to intercept Falun Gong practitioners. To pass the checkpoints, travelers were required to curse Falun



Plainclothes police seizing Falun Gong practitioners at Tiananmen Square during their peaceful appeal.

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Gong, or to spit on or step on Falun Gong books, and anyone who refused would be detained.

To further diminish practitioners' ability to travel to Beijing, Jiang issued an order to "destroy their reputation, bankrupt them financially, and exterminate them physically." The cruelty of this order was amplified by the greed of local officials, who took the opportunity to loot or seize practitioners' homes, personal property, and businesses, and to extort large amounts of ransom from the families of those they arrested. The oppression by local tyrants sometimes had the effect of compelling practitioners to go to Beijing, because they could not safely remain at home and had nothing

left but grievances to address.

With no money, no help, no map, and no compass, many practitioners started to walk or bike to Beijing. Scaling mountains, crossing the wilderness, sleeping under trees, begging for food, and avoiding checkpoints, they went to Beijing step by step and one by one. Along the way, they were intercepted by ferocious policemen, by misinformed locals, and by patrol teams recruited to hunt them. But they were also helped by kindhearted people, by those who were willing to listen to their side of the story, and by those who looked in their eyes and found not bitterness but peace. After their few seconds on Tiananmen Square, they refused to give out their names and addresses to the interrogating police, or they would be escorted back and it would be months before they could walk to Beijing again.

It is important to note that these appeals all happened spontaneously. From its past despotic experiences, the Chinese government thought it could paralyze the Falun Gong "organization" by arresting all the important "leaders." What the government could never understand is that Falun Gong genuinely has no organization. While practitioners may know each other, their decisions and actions are completely from their own hearts, their own initiatives, and their own determination to speak the truth.

## Torture and Killing

For more than fifty years, the Chinese communist regime has had its way in destroying people's wills and crushing non-conforming groups through terror and deceit; it had never failed at any previous persecution. The continuing appeals by Falun Gong practitioners in Tiananmen Square, and the insistence on the right to practice by millions upon millions around the nation, made it clear that Falun Gong practitioners will not yield to the persecution. Embarrassed and enraged, Jiang instructed through the "610 Office" system that "No measure is too excessive against Falun Gong," ordering the use of extreme torture. As the persecution continued to meet practitioners' peaceful resistance, Jiang's personal crusade became a personal vendetta.



Two policemen from the Longshan Labor Camp used three electric batons to shock Ms. Gao Rongrong's face for seven hours. This picture of Ms. Gao's burnt face was taken ten days later. (Her full story is on page 114.)

Since July 20, 1999, from information that has leaked through the tight control of the Chinese government, we know that millions of people have suffered arbitrary incarceration, almost all under inhumane conditions; hundreds of thousands, including pregnant women, the elderly, and young children, have been put into labor camps; thousands have been detained and severely tortured with nerve-damaging drugs in mental hospitals. Thousands have died in custody, while countless others are still unaccounted for. The scope and severity of the atrocities are difficult to fathom.

The worst atrocities are usually those of genocide. Genocidal killings are done to physically eliminate a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group, and so they generally result in a large number of deaths.

The persecution of Falun Gong by Jiang Zemin and his "610 Office" system uses a different kind, arguably a worse kind, of killing: the killing of people's minds. Its goal is not to physically kill a large number of people, although the death toll is of no concern to the murderers. The purpose is to force a victim to choose between a physical death and a mental demise - the giving up of his will, his fundamental values, and his conscience.

Torturing to the brink of death, therefore, is a necessary ingredient of this kind of killing. The Chinese police have openly told Falun Gong practitioners: "We will make you beg for life while dying, and beg for death while living!" The only way out? To lie and say that Falun Gong has done harm to them and to society, to say Truth-Benevolence-Forbearance is evil, and to thank and applaud the government for saving them from Falun Gong. Tell lies to live, or tell the truth and die.

Due to the Chinese government's blockage of information, we do not know how many practitioners have been tortured to death in police custody. From the reports describing over 1,300 deaths of practitioners in the hands of the police, we see an almost unimaginable picture of tragedy: some died from their bodies being ripped apart by slowly pulling the limbs; some died after being locked in "water cages" and immersed in filthy water for months; some died from prolonged electric baton shocks on or in their genitals; some were frozen to death; some were burned alive. In extreme cases, an eight-month-old infant was killed with his mother, a 75-year-old grandmother was murdered, and a disabled man with a hunched back was killed when police forcefully "flattened out" his torso.



Ms. Wang Xia was just skin and bones as the result of the relentless torture. At the time of this picture, she weighed only about 45 pounds and lapsed in and out of consciousness.

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In addition to external injuries, the police also inflict internal pain through horrific force-feeding. These torturous force-feedings are not at all meant to nourish, but to cause excruciating internal pain. Policemen, guards, or convicts who are ordered to do so will jam a firm plastic tube into the victim's nose and force it down to the stomach; sometimes it enters the lungs instead. The tube is often pulled out and re-inserted several times, causing internal bleeding. Boiling water, urine, feces, hot pepper oil, concentrated vinegar, mustard paste, and other irritating liquids are then poured through the tube. Of the known cases of killings of Falun Gong practitioners, this is by far the number one cause of death.

The mass killings of Falun Gong practitioners by the Chinese authorities have been reported by many journalists and human rights organizations. For example, in a *Wall Street Journal* report on December 26, 2000, Mr. Ian Johnson (who won the Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting for his series of reports on the persecution of Falun Gong) wrote:

"WEIFANG, China - Rising out of the North China Plain... this is an unremarkable Chinese city in every respect but one: local police regularly torture residents to death. Since the beginning of the year, when police killed a 58-year-old retiree, at least 10 more Weifang residents have died in police custody. Weifang, which has less than 1% of the national population, accounts for 15% of those deaths."

Since Mr. Johnson's report, at least twenty-one additional Falun Gong practitioners have died at the hands of the Weifang police.

It is important to note that the killings carried out in Jiang's persecution against Falun Gong aim only to demolish the minds and consciences of the victims, but they also result in the moral destruction of the torturers. Deceived by the hate propaganda, driven by government instruction, encouraged by promises of impunity, and enticed by financial rewards, police carry on torture and killing completely devoid of humanity, as some openly yelled at Falun Gong practitioners, "We are

reincarnated little devils from hell, and we'll beat you into hell as well.”

It is a killing of conscience, indeed.

## “Transformation”

Horrific as the tortures and killings are, the most sinister aspect of the Chinese government's persecution of Falun Gong is the so-called “transformation” - the brainwashing of practitioners so that they go against their own wills to publicly renounce and condemn Falun Gong. Human language cannot express the evilness of “transformation.” For victims of the persecution, the most painful memories are invariably of “being transformed.”

Mr. Zhao Ming, who suffered twenty-two months of torture in six different detention centers and a labor camp, wrote, “After being given electric shocks for over half an hour, a thought came to my mind, ‘That’s it. I don’t want to bear it anymore. I can disclose their crimes after I get out.’ Because of this thought, I gave in... Many fellow practitioners asked me what pained me the most in the forced labor camp. This is it... The wounds from the physical torture can heal as time passes by, but the mental pain from this persecution can haunt a person for his entire life.”

Through international pressure, Zhao Ming was freed and allowed to continue his studies at Trinity College in Ireland. He recalled, “I stepped out of the labor camp without any happiness, hope, or relief, because my spirit had been murdered.”

Another Falun Gong practitioner wrote about her haunting experience: “On October 10, 2000, I had reached my limit of enduring the torture, and was forced to write the pledge to never again practice Falun Gong. The hurt is beyond description. At that moment I felt that my whole life, all the essence of my being - everything - had vanished from me, and all I had left was an empty shell. I mumbled incessantly: ‘I am transformed, I am transformed, I am...’ Two years have passed, but I still have not completely walked out from the shadow and shame of being forced to betray my beliefs and barter away my own principles. From my own personal experience, I can attest to how those who are forced to ‘transform’ have been tortured beyond the limits of what any person can bear.”

The “transformation” process embodies and distills all of the sinister nature of the Chinese government's persecution of Falun Gong. To force Falun Gong practitioners to give in, the police spare no trickery or coercion. They bring in practitioners' families to beg them to give in and “go home”; they torture practitioners in front of others until the others submit; they even plead with practitioners that they be “sympathetic” to the officers' “hard work.” To soften a practitioner's resolve,



Mr. Zhao Ming

one police officer will inflict savage beatings and another will act sympathetic. Once the “tender” approach fails, the police do not hesitate to resort to torture. They even use nerve-damaging drugs to subdue practitioners and then press their fingerprints onto prepared “pledge letters.”

Many “transformed” practitioners have suffered further humiliation from being forced to read their “pledge letters” to brainwashing classes or on publicly broadcast radio or television programs. To show that they are “sincere” in their “transformation,” some practitioners have been forced to assist the police in coercing their fellow practitioners to “transform”: to use their own experiences of “being saved by the government” to persuade other practitioners, to curse others as they have been cursed before, and to use on others the torture devices that they have been subjected to. In this way, they “show in action” that they have “completely broken away from Truth-Benevolence-Forbearance.”

One can only guess at the guilt, shame, and self-loathing that “transformed” practitioners have endured. What helps them to recover, in the end, is Falun Gong. Mr. Chen Gang’s experience is typical: “When I was in desperation, it was again Falun Gong that lifted me up. No matter how much I felt like a damaged lonely boat striking out in the storm, I felt that I still had a pure and harmonious space inside my heart, the perfect harmony and serenity that I had experienced, and the pure land of Truth-Benevolence-Forbearance... Gradually, I found my self-confidence and my direction, and recovered my serenity and caring state.”

Coercion cannot change one’s heart. Since the persecution began, tens of thousands of Falun Gong practitioners have published “solemn declarations” on the Clearwisdom web site, a site created by overseas Falun Gong practitioners. These solemn declarations are practitioners’ avowals that whatever they succumbed to saying or doing against Falun Gong under duress and deception is null and void, and that they will resolutely continue to practice Falun Gong.

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

At the same time as the violent persecution, Jiang’s regime also launched a far-reaching campaign of disinformation to justify its persecution and to escape world condemnation. State-run media flooded the printing presses and airwaves with fabrications about Mr. Li Hongzhi and Falun Gong. As with all lies, the propaganda fails 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 100 million practitioners, would be many orders of magnitude below the national average. In another example, the Chinese government claimed that Mr. Li Hongzhi had falsified his date of birth, and even produced a “hospital record” to prove that his mother was treated with oxytocin in 1952, before his birth. Oxytocin, however, was not to be identified until 1953.

In early 2001, the authorities attempted an outrageous stunt: a staged self-immolation of five people in Tiananmen Square. No less devious than Nero’s shift of blame for the Great Fire of

Rome to Christians, the state-run media alleged that the immolators were Falun Gong practitioners and incited hatred in society towards Falun Gong. This staged self-immolation, however, has been analyzed by neutral reporters and by careful observers of the same videotape that was published by the Chinese government:

- An investigative story published by the *Washington Post* reported that no one had ever seen Ms. Liu Chunling, one of the “immolators,” practice Falun Gong.
- Police were mysteriously patrolling Tiananmen Square with dozens of pieces of firefighting equipment that day.
- Liu Siying, the 12-year-old girl “immolator,” was purported to have had a tracheotomy, but spoke and sang clearly to the interviewing camera, a medical impossibility.
- Ms. Hao Huijun, another “immolator,” was reported to have graduated from Henan Music College in 1974. That college’s own website reveals that it did not admit students between 1962 and 1984.
- Mr. Wang Jindong was shown to have been badly burned; hair burns and plastic melts extremely rapidly; however, his hair and the plastic 7-UP bottle that he had “used to douse gasoline” remained miraculously intact.

These holes prompted International Education Development, a UN NGO, to issue the following statement during the 2001 session of the UN Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights: “The regime points to a supposed self-immolation incident in Tiananmen Square on January 23, 2001, as proof that Falun Gong is an ‘evil cult.’ However, we have obtained a video of that incident that in our view proves that this event was staged by the government.” (For an analysis of the CCTV footage of the staged immolations, please visit: <http://www.faluninfo.net/tiananmen/immolation.asp>)



One of many picture clips that the Chinese Central Television Station had to explain after its initial publication. A policeman dangling a fire-extinguishing blanket with one hand stands calmly next to an “immolator,” as if posing for a perfect shot. The plastic bottle remains, unaffected by the heat, on the “immolator’s” legs. CCTV later explained that the 7-UP bottle was placed there afterwards as an example of the container of gasoline used in the “immolation.” Note also the snow clumps on which the “immolator” sits. Their survival from the heat was not explained.

## The Chinese Government's Global Coercion of Conscience

In addition to deceit, the Chinese government has also repeatedly made threats of economic sanctions against countries, states, cities, and businesses that dare to criticize its persecution of Falun Gong. This creates a fear, a fear of being left out of some economic gain, a fear of speaking for conscience. With this tactic, the Chinese government has induced several major Western news media corporations to apply self-censorship in reporting China's human rights violations, forced cities in a number of countries to rescind their moral support for the victims, and even coerced some democratic governments to stifle the voices of Falun Gong practitioners. In France, Germany, Iceland, Russia, Ukraine, Thailand, and a few other countries, there have been cases in which local police forces were pressured into arbitrary and wrongful detention of Falun Gong practitioners who were merely exercising their rights of peaceful demonstration.

The Chinese agencies, however, do not stop at blackmail. Canadian Member of Parliament Rob Anders had the following to say about being physically assaulted by Chinese diplomats in February 2000:

"I wore [a T-shirt that talked about Falun Gong] out to a function that was being hosted by the People's Republic's embassy here, in this building [Parliament]. I stood at the back of the room, and then all of a sudden I had four or five men surround me and start to harass me, and point fingers, and jostle me physically, saying that I had to leave, that I wasn't welcome, go home, you know, cowboy, you don't know what you're doing... and what crossed my mind immediately was four or five people that comprise a gang on behalf of the People's Republic of China think they can get away with doing that to me as a Member of Parliament, on Canadian soil, in my place of work, in the House of Commons - can you imagine what they're doing to people back home in their own country? It was absolutely over the top! And then when a media reporter came over with his camera, they

started to grab his camera, they tried to force it down to the ground, they told him to go away... They were issuing orders to a member of the free press here in Canada. ... It was absolutely outrageous. And it just proved what Falun Dafa is up against. ... We're at a very critical moment. If we don't take a stand now, history will look back at us and sigh."

Similar incidents of intimidation and assault have also happened in the United States, Iceland, Germany, Australia, Russia, Romania, Thailand, Cambodia, Hong Kong, and many more. Simply put, the Chinese regime has exported its persecution to the world as a global campaign of evil against conscience.



Hong Kong police violently arrest practitioners peacefully appealing outside the China Liaison Office in Hong Kong on March 14, 2002.

## Murder Attempt on Falun Gong Practitioners in South Africa

On June 28, 2004, at around 8:30 p.m., five Falun Gong practitioners were driving from Johannesburg International Airport to Pretoria, the capital of South Africa, when a white car came up from behind and opened fire with an AK-47 assault rifle. The practitioners tried to change their speed to dodge the attack, but the assassins kept speed with them and continued to shoot. The practitioners' car and driver were hit and forced off the road; the injured driver managed to stop the car in a field. The gunmen stopped and watched for a few seconds, then fled the scene.

This shooting was by no means a simple homicide attempt. The victims were among the group of nine Falun Gong practitioners from Australia who were there to file a lawsuit - charging China's Vice President, Zeng Qinghong, and the Minister of Commerce, Bo Xilai, who were visiting South Africa from June 27 to June 29 - with torture, genocide, and crimes against humanity. Even before they left Australia, one of them had received two threatening phone calls. When they arrived in Johannesburg International Airport, they noticed a suspicious-looking man following and watching them. In addition, Mr. David Liang, the driver who was shot, was wearing a Falun Gong jacket. The South African police noted that the shooting site was not a high-crime area. The gunmen obviously did not want to rob the practitioners. These factors point towards a political motive for this shooting.

A hasty statement on June 30 by China's embassy in South Africa only adds to the suspicion. As the representative of Chinese nationals in South Africa, the embassy showed no sympathy towards Mr. Liang, who suffered gunshot wounds in both feet and bone fractures in the right foot. On the contrary, the embassy claimed that the incident was a Falun Gong conspiracy, and warned the international media not to make any "irresponsible report about the incident."

This shooting was by no means an isolated attack on Falun Gong practitioners. To stifle overseas Falun Gong practitioners' efforts to reveal the brutality in China, agents of the Chinese government have resorted to violence and hate crimes to intimidate Falun Gong practitioners. In the USA alone, there have been multiple incidents of physical assault against Falun Gong practitioners by Chinese nationals with close ties to the Chinese consulates in Atlanta, San Francisco, Chicago, and New York City. In response to these blatant infringements of



Top picture: Mr. David Liang's feet after the shooting in Africa.

Bottom picture: Mr. Liang, in a wheelchair, tells his story at a press conference in Sydney, Australia.

civil rights, the US House of Representatives unanimously passed a resolution (House Concurrent Resolution 304) on October 4, 2004, calling on China to immediately stop persecuting Falun Gong inside and outside China.

## The Struggle between the Truth and Lies

On March 5, 2002, at around 8 p.m., eight channels of the local cable TV system in the city of Changchun simultaneously broadcast documentary films showing the spread of Falun Gong around the world, the Chinese government's violent persecution against Falun Gong, and the staged self-immolation in Tiananmen Square. The broadcast lasted more than fifty minutes. The shockwave spread quickly and far beyond Changchun; by the next day, people in other regions had begun to whisper to each other: "The self-immolation is a hoax!"

The broadcast was the first-ever showing of dissenting messages from any persecuted group in state-controlled media in the entire history of communist China. The magnanimous act is not only another demonstration of Falun Gong practitioners' courage, but also represents their deepening understanding of the nature of the persecution and their benevolence towards the general public, who are under the control of the lies of Jiang's regime.



Mr. Liu Chengjun was tortured to death at age 32 for breaking into the Chinese regime's cable television system to broadcast a program revealing the truth about the persecution of Falun Gong. (His story is on page 92)

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At the beginning of the persecution, the trusting Falun Gong practitioners believed that the persecution must have been the result of the leadership being misinformed and misled by a few who hated Falun Gong, so they came to Beijing in large numbers or wrote to the government to plead their case. At the same time, they peacefully endured the ill-treatment from the police, and calmly told them "We don't hate you for not understanding us," and "If our sufferance can deflate some of your hatred toward Falun Gong, I am willing." Their forbearance has moved even the most iron-hearted police.

Because there are so many Falun Gong practitioners, and because they are so self-disciplined and so peaceful, it was difficult for their neighbors, colleagues, families, and friends to turn against them. The staged self-immolation, however, had the nation deceived. As reported by a *Washington Post* article on August 5, 2001, "The self-immolation of five purported [practitioners] in Tiananmen Square on Jan. 23 was a turning point. A 12-year-old girl and her mother died, and the party made the incident the centerpiece of its campaign to discredit Falun Gong. By repeatedly broadcasting images of the girl's burning body and interviews with the others saying they believed self-immolation would lead them to paradise, the government convinced many Chinese that Falun Gong was an 'evil cult.'"

Many misinformed people began to assist in the government's persecution, or even directly participate in the abuse and beatings. Policemen were even more affected. Consumed by the hate propaganda, some intensified their torture and killing of Falun Gong practitioners, claiming, "We will kill you and set your body on fire as self-immolation!"

There is no question that these are criminal acts, and it is easy to hate back. However, to Falun Gong practitioners, their violators are also victims of the Chinese government's persecution, and they should be given the opportunity to awaken. With great benevolence, Falun Gong practitioners take great risks to tell the facts to their torturers, to their misinformed classmates, and to the general public, so as to wake them up from a persecution that is completely based on lies. They mass-mail letters to police stations, they pass out flyers in supermarkets, they distribute VCDs to mailboxes, they post articles on the Internet, etc. In the Chinese language, this is called "clarifying the truth."

Their truth clarification is powerful. There are numerous stories of policemen changing their attitude towards practitioners, cellmates of practitioners learning Falun Gong, strangers protecting practitioners, and prejudiced family members helping to clarify the truth. There are even people in charge of "610 Offices" who have become Falun Gong practitioners.



To let the Chinese people learn the truth about Falun Gong and the persecution, practitioners have posted flyers in many public places. This photo shows people reading the Falun Gong flyers.



A Falun Gong banner hung on a utility tower in a small village Northeast China. To hang the banner, a 62-year-old woman spent two-and-half hours climbing the tower in the cold.

To Jiang Zemin, the truth is disastrous. Upon learning of the Changchun broadcast of Falun Gong programs, he issued a strict order that if a similar broadcast happened again, all city officials would be fired. He also instructed the Changchun police department that all Falun Gong practitioners involved in the broadcast must be "killed without pardon." Later, Jiang instructed the "610 Offices" that any Falun Gong practitioner spotted distributing Falun Gong material must be "shot on sight."

For their benevolent spreading of the truth, Falun Gong practitioners have sacri-

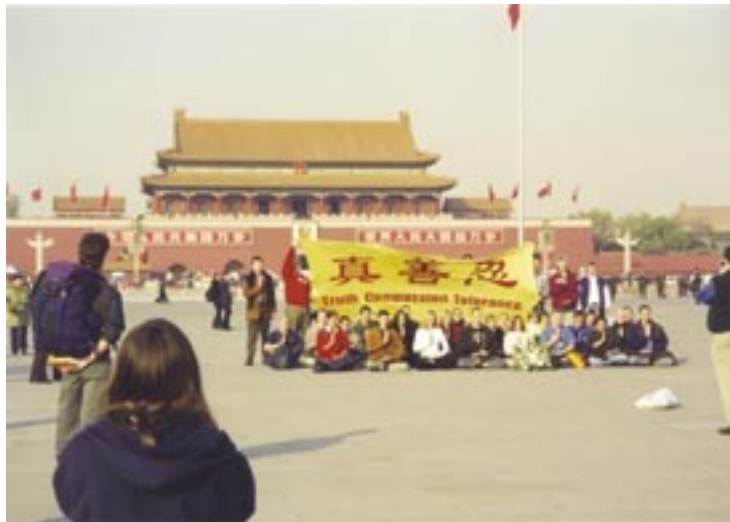
ficed enormously. In the month following the Changchun broadcast, over 5,000 practitioners were arrested in the city, and at least a dozen died during “interrogation.” When the police arrested Mr. Liu Chengjun, the organizer of the broadcast, they fired two shots into his leg even after he was handcuffed and shackled. Mr. Liu died on the night of Christmas 2003, after enduring over one year of extreme torture.

However, truth is invincible. After the Changchun broadcast, many similar broadcasts followed in other cities. Every hour, in every corner in China, numerous Falun Gong practitioners are preparing and distributing truth clarification materials. They may not have comparable literary grace, but they are the living Justin the Martyr, Origen, and Ignatius.

## “Coming for You”

On November 20, 2001, at around 2 p.m., thirty-six Western practitioners from twelve countries gathered on Tiananmen Square. They sat in a meditation 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, several police vans rushed over and surrounded the group, and officers began dragging, kicking, punching, and pushing the practitioners into the vans. In response, they started to shout in Chinese: “Falun Gong is good!”



On November 20, 2001, in an unprecedented appeal for the rights of the Chinese people, thirty-six Falun Gong practitioners from twelve countries raised a banner reading “Truth-Benevolence-Forbearance” and sat in a meditation pose on Tiananmen Square. They were arrested, beaten, and deported.

These thirty-six foreigners were the first of many foreign practitioners who traveled to China to hold peaceful appeals. Like their fellow practitioners in China, they wanted to let the Chinese people know the truth. In their own countries, they often pass out flyers to Chinese tourists who are surprised to learn that, contrary to what the Chinese government had led them to believe, Falun Gong is not banned in other countries. Sometimes they engage Chinese tourists in conversation and discover just how misinformed they are about Falun Gong. To let more Chinese people know the truth, they decided to go

to China.

To date, hundreds of practitioners from Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Korea, Poland, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the USA, and several other countries have traveled to China, as their song sings: “Facing violence and danger, again and again I come for you; I come with love for you...”

For their love of a traditional Chinese practice, for their benevolence to the Chinese people, they were arrested, mistreated, and deported; many were beaten, some severely. While most were arrested on Tiananmen Square, many were abducted while walking on the street or taken from their hotel rooms. While in detention, they were not allowed to contact their families or their embassies. They were interrogated and intimidated, and most had their valuable belongings robbed by the police. When they cited international standards for the treatment of foreign nationals, the police simply stated: “This is China.”

If the Chinese policemen have no inhibition in beating these foreigners, knowing that they are to be deported within hours, what would they not do to Chinese Falun Gong practitioners, whom they can incarcerate indefinitely?

## Falun Gong Practitioners’ Quest for Justice

When Jiang Zemin launched the persecution against Falun Gong, he was counting on a quick kill. The state-run media publicly announced that the government would “completely solve the Falun Gong problem” in three months, and Jiang himself confidently proclaimed: “I don’t believe I cannot conquer Falun Gong.”



Mr. Joel Chipkar stands outside the Chinese Consulate in Toronto, Canada. In a landmark ruling, the Ontario Superior Court ruled that a Chinese consular official who attacked Mr. Chipkar in a newspaper acted outside of his official functions and is at fault for libel.

As the struggle between the truth and lies, love and hate, peace and violence unfolds, as it becomes more and more clear that Jiang will never succeed in his campaign to eradicate Falun Gong, the contrast between courage and cowardice also starts to show. In July 2001, during Jiang Zemin’s visit to Malta, a Chinese woman walked up to him and asked him to stop persecuting Falun Gong practitioners. In April 2002, when Jiang visited Germany, a white male greeted him in Chinese, and then said “Falun Dafa is good” in Chinese. Fearing to

see more protests from Falun Gong practitioners, Jiang demanded that his foreign hosts take drastic measures to ensure that he would see no more Falun Gong practitioners. As a result, in so many state visits, Jiang's motorcade has dared not use the front gates of hotels or restaurants, but instead used back doors or underground tunnels.

Jiang, however, has more than protests to run from. With the help of many prominent human rights lawyers, Falun Gong practitioners around the world have filed dozens of lawsuits against Jiang and his accomplices for genocide, crimes against humanity, and torture, making Jiang the only dictator in history to be sued in over a dozen countries. As more and more shocking facts of the Jiang regime's hate incitement, state terrorism, violence, and cruelty are revealed, the day of a new Nuremberg trial of the regime's crimes against conscience is bound to come.

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

The persecution of Falun Gong is still ongoing in China. The sole objective of the persecution is to force Falun Gong practitioners to renounce their own conscience, and the coercive methods used are of the most heinous kind. It is not just another same old story of one race against another, one class of people against another, or even one faith against another. It is evil against goodness in its most pure form.

It is said that the only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good people to do nothing.

In the hope that the world will intervene, we submit this book of real stories to you, the good people of the world, and ask you to be a voice for those without one, to do all within your power to stop the crime against conscience.



*Dedicated To*

*The Peaceful and Courageous Falun Gong Practitioners in China*





Huang Ying is three years old. She does not remember the last time she saw her mother, Ms. Luo Zhixiang, who was tortured to death at the Huangpu Drug Rehabilitation Center in Guangzhou City. She kisses her mom's picture when she misses her.

# “Why Not Let Popo Know?” “She Would Cry, Sadly Cry”

Huang Ying, born on May 18, 2001, is the daughter of Ms. Luo Zhixiang and Mr. Huang Guohua, both Falun Gong practitioners.

Ying last saw her mother in August 2001. With her husband jailed and the police constantly shadowing her, Ms. Luo had to leave Ying in the care of her grandma Nainai, Mr. Huang’s mother.

In the end, Ms. Luo did not escape the deadly persecution. On December 5, 2002, Nainai took Ying to the city of Guangzhou to see her mother’s body for the last time.

Family and friends withheld the news of Ms. Luo’s death from grandma Popo – Ms. Luo’s mother, who lives in the city of Haikou – for fear that she was too frail to bear the shock. No one thought of explaining the delicate situation to Ying, merely one and a half years old at the time, but she surprised everyone.



Huang Ying’s mother,  
Ms. Luo Zhixiang

When Popo asked: “Where is mother?” Ying answered sincerely: “Mama is working in Guangzhou.”

When Popo was not around and other people asked: “Where is mother?” Ying always answered: “Mama was killed by bad people!” “Why not let Popo know?” “She would cry, sadly cry.”

Maybe that was just coincidence; perhaps the girl was too young to understand it at all.

One day, at another practitioner’s home, Ying saw a booklet, “Practitioners Persecuted to Death in Guangzhou.” An adult turned to a page and asked Ying whose photo was there. Ying answered calmly: “This is mama,” and then went aside to play. The adults at the room looked at each other and felt relieved, thinking that Ying did not understand death and could not be hurt.

They were wrong. After the adults went into another room, Ying picked up the booklet, turned to the page with her mother’s photograph, and let the tears silently stream down her cheeks.

When the adults saw this, they all cried. This little girl, one and a half years old, already

knew to be considerate of others.

Maybe you are curious how this lovely girl came to be this way.

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Ms. Luo Zhixiang, born on October 6, 1973, in the city of Haikou, was an engineer at the Guangdong Agriculture and Construction Industry Corporation. She began to practice Falun Gong in 1997, and was known as a kind and hard-working person. In April 1999, Ms. Luo met Mr. Huang and they fell in love.

On July 20, 1999, Jiang Zemin launched the persecution against Falun Gong. The young lovers went to Beijing together to appeal to the central government to stop the persecution, and both were arrested. Mr. Huang was detained for one month. Ms. Luo’s company fired her.

In April 2000, the young couple married. Half a year later, on the night of October 29, 2000, Mr. Huang was arrested for passing out flyers exposing the persecution and was savagely beaten. After 135 days of detention, on March 15, 2001, Mr. Huang was sentenced to two years of forced labor.

At the time of Mr. Huang’s arrest, Ms. Luo was already pregnant. On May 18, 2001, she gave birth to Huang Ying, and gave her the nickname “Kaixin,” or “Happy” in Chinese. The local “610 Office” shadowed her all the time, threatening to kidnap her to brainwashing class. To escape the persecution, Ms. Luo left Ying with Nainai and went into hiding. The local “610 Office” posted a bounty of 30,000 Yuan for Ms. Luo’s arrest.

Mr. Huang was released on December 30, 2001, and found his wife in May 2002. The couple had been married for two years, but separated for one and a half years. Their daughter was already one year old, but had not yet seen her father. They simply wanted to be united with their daughter and to live a peaceful life.

The police, however, tracked them down. On November 20, 2002, at 1 p.m., the police broke into their apartment and took the couple away. That night, they were locked in two iron cages. At that time, Ms. Luo was three months pregnant with a second child.

To protest the arbitrary detention and the ill treatment, they went on a hunger strike, and both suffered force-feeding.



The inside corner of a room in the house where Huang Ying lives with her grandparents.



Huang Ying with her father and grandmother. This picture was taken on December 24, 2003, after Huang Ying's father was released from the labor camp.

Mr. Huang recalled: “[The police] forced a rubber tube into my nose, while five others pinned down my head and four limbs. When they finished, they pulled out the tube, and it was covered with my blood. They force-fed us every other day, me in the morning and my wife in the afternoon.”

On November 28, 2002, the police told Mr. Huang that because his wife was pregnant, she would be released. Mr. Huang never saw her again.

The police deceived Mr. Huang, and handed Ms. Luo to the local “610 Office.” The “610 Office” then sent her to a brainwashing center, where she was tortured for her belief. On November 29, 2002, the authorities sent her to a hospital. Two days later, grandma Nainai was notified that Ms. Luo was on the verge of death. Nainai and Ying arrived in Guangzhou City on December 5, but Ms. Luo was already dead. She had passed away, along with her unborn child, at age 29.

The authorities claimed that Ms. Luo had committed suicide by jumping from a building. Before her death, she had been on a hunger strike for eleven days, and was too weak to walk. There were also three persons assigned to monitor her at all times; it would have been impossible for her to find a chance to jump from a building. An autopsy showed that no bones were broken and that the cause of death was brain damage. For this reason, Ms. Luo's relatives demanded an explanation, but the authorities refused.

The authorities informed Mr. Huang of his wife's death on April 2, 2003, four months after the fact. He was released on December 16, 2003. The local “610 Office,” however, continued to follow him. In July 2004, details of Ms. Luo's death were reported overseas. Upon learning this, the local “610 Office” wanted to arrest Mr. Huang again. To escape further persecution, he left China and took refuge in Thailand. He is now applying for United Nations refugee status.

Ever since Mr. Huang left Ying, the little girl tells grandma Nainai that she misses her father. She also kisses her mother's photo often and tells Nainai, “I saw Mom. She is so beautiful. Mom comes to see me.”

Ying's mother gave her the nickname “Happy.” Can she be really happy?

The persecution of Falun Gong has taken Ying's mother away from her and forced her and her father apart. There are many other children like little Ying. Will we ever find out just how many?



A photograph of the Chen family. All six practice Falun Gong: Mr. Chen Yunchuan, the father; Ms. Wang Lianrong, the mother; Ms. Chen Shulan, the elder daughter; Mr. Chen Aizhong, the elder son, who was tortured to death on September 20, 2001; Mr. Chen Aili, the younger son, who was tortured to death on November 5, 2004; and Ms. Chen Hongping, the younger daughter, who was tortured to death on March 5, 2003.

# A Family's Belief in Truth-Benevolence-Forbearance

This was a typical Chinese family, a happily married elder couple with four adult children, two sons and two daughters: Mr. Chen Yunchuan, the father, born in 1928; Ms. Wang Lianrong, the mother, born in 1932; Ms. Chen Shulan, the elder daughter, born in 1966; Mr. Chen Aizhong, the elder son, born in 1967; Mr. Chen Aili, the younger son, born in 1967; and Ms. Chen Hongping, the younger daughter, born in 1970. They are residents of Canfangying Village, Beixinpu Town, Huailai County, Zhangjiakou City, Hebei Province.

This was a traditional Chinese family. When the father was a young boy, his father, who was a devout Buddhist, told him that in fifty years there would be a Great Law taught and that he must not miss the precious opportunity. In 1997, the father began to practice Falun Gong, and soon all his lifelong diseases were gone. He then told his children that this was the Great Law that their grandfather had talked about. One by one, all four children began practicing Falun Gong.

This was a trusting Chinese family. On April 25, 1999, upon learning about the authorities' arrest of fellow Falun Gong practitioners in Tianjin City, the whole family went to Beijing to tell the government their own experiences of the benefits of Falun Gong cultivation. They sincerely believed that the arrest was a mishap and that if the government knew the truth, it would change its hostile stand towards Falun Gong. It seemed that their trip, and the trips of tens of thousands of others, were worthwhile, as the government released the detained Falun Gong practitioners. The family was even happier because on that day the mother, who witnessed the noble behavior of Falun Gong practitioners, decided to begin practicing Falun Gong. In just a couple of months, the arthritis and asthma that had plagued her for thirty years were gone.

This peaceful family was torn apart by the sudden descent of terror as the Chinese government's persecution of Falun Gong began. Since July 20, 1999, every member of the family had been detained multiple times. They all suffered barbaric torture, and each had close brushes with death. On September 20, 2001, Mr. Chen Aizhong, the elder son, was tortured to death in the Tangshan No.1 Labor Camp in Hebei Province.

The horrific atrocities this family suffered drew attention from the Special Rapporteurs of the United Nations Human Rights Committee. On February 8, 2002, the Special Rapporteur on the Question of Torture, the Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions, and the Chairman-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Arbitrary

Detention sent a joint urgent appeal on behalf of this family, urging the Chinese government to protect their safety and basic rights.

In its typical reply, the Chinese government claimed—in a letter to the Special Rapporteurs, dated September 3, 2002—that its treatment of members of this family “was conducted in accordance with the law and did not entail the infringement of any human rights,” but did not dispute the fact that Mr. Chen Aizhong died in police custody. In particular, in addressing the Special Rapporteurs’ concern for the safety of Ms. Chen Hongping, the Chinese government claimed, “at no time was she subjected to corporal punishment or ill-treatment.”

At the time when the Chinese government tried to assure the Special Rapporteurs, Ms. Chen Hongping had already suffered fifteen months of torture. On March 5, 2003, after another half year of suffering, the family’s youngest daughter passed away.

The killing of two children, even after the United Nations’ intervention, showed such a blatant contempt of universal standards that the world-renowned human rights lawyer Ms. Karen Parker called it “a most remarkable” example of the Chinese government’s violation of human rights. In her speech as the chief delegate of Humanitarian Law Project to the 61st Session of the UN Human Rights Commission in April 2004, Ms. Parker brought the atrocities of the Chen family to the Commission: “Although Asma Jahangir, a specialist in the illegal killing working group, together with the illegal arrest special task force, has sent an urgent appeal regarding the suffering of Chen Aizhong’s family to the Chinese Government, unfortunately some of Chen Aizhong’s family members were still persecuted to death. Among them was Chen Hongping, who underwent cruel torture for a year and a half, with her weight dropping from 55 kg to 25 kg. She finally died on March 5, 2003.”

In the same session, Ms. Asma Jahangir, the UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions, stated to the UN Human Rights Commission, “The Special Rapporteur continues to be alarmed by deaths in custody in China... followers of the Falun Gong movement die as a result of severe ill-treatment, neglect, or medical attention. The cruelty and brutality of these alleged acts of torture defy description. In this connection, the Special Rapporteur wishes to reiterate her call to the Government of China, voiced in so many letters of allegations and urgent appeals, to take immediate steps to protect the lives and integrity of its detainees.”

This time, the Chinese government had no answer; it simply ignored the condemnations and continued its persecution. On November 5, 2004, the old couple lost their third child, the only remaining son, Mr. Chen Aili.

At the time when this book went to press, the old couple was under house arrest. Their only remaining daughter, Ms. Chen Shulan, was detained in the Tiantanghe Women’s Labor Camp. Shulan’s daughter, Ms. Li Ying, age 13, was detained in Beijing. Their lives are all in danger during this persecution.

The tragedy of the Chen family is typical of the Chinese government’s persecution of

Falun Gong. The only reason for their sufferance is that they have committed their lives to become the best people they can be, and have the conviction and courage to openly acknowledge that commitment. What will humanity become if we allow good people to be killed one by one? What will the future be like if we cannot stop an evil onslaught against good people? Here we present the story of each individual in this family and hope that their sacrifice can stir your conscience.

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### **Mr. Chen Yunchuan, the Father**

On July 20, 1999, Mr. Chen, his wife, two sons, and thirteen other Falun Gong practitioners went to Beijing to appeal to the central government, but were arrested by the police on their way. During three days of detention, the police tried to force them to renounce Falun Gong. On the third day, the police beat the 62-year-old father, forced the sons to watch, then beat the sons and forced the father to watch. Mr. Chen's chest was bruised to a dark blue. The police beat them for a whole day before releasing them.

On October 13, 1999, the Chen couple, with their elder son, visited their elder daughter, Ms. Chen Shulan. Local officials and police broke into Shulan's home, looted 9,000 Yuan, and forcibly took the three to a police station. To force them to renounce Falun Gong, these ruffian officials beat each of them savagely in front of the other two.

The next day, the local officials and police tracked down the remaining members of the family, looted their money, and incarcerated them for over a month.

The authorities released Mr. Chen in mid-November 1999, but ordered him to pay a fine of 1,600 Yuan. As the local official had looted all his money, he had no money to pay, so the ruffian officials forced Mr. Chen to do free labor for them for half a month.

On December 5, 1999, the rest of the family was released. Since none of them agreed to renounce Falun Gong, the officials continued to harass them and ordered the family to "report" their activities to the local government every day.

To address their grievances about being mistreated by the local officials, the two daughters and younger son went to Beijing on December 21, 1999, to file a petition to the State Council Bureau of Appeal. They were all arrested and severely beaten.

On December 27, seeing that his children were not safely back, Mr. Chen went with his wife and elder son to Beijing. Because of this, they were all savagely beaten and detained by the local authorities. The whole family, except the elder daughter, was detained for the next ten months with no legal procedure.

On October 5, 2000, all five detained members of the family went on a hunger strike to protest the extended illegal detention. The police subjected them to brutal force-feeding. On

the ninth day of their hunger strike, seeing that all five were in critical condition, the police released the family.

Ten days later, on October 24, they started walking to Beijing to appeal for Falun Gong. The journey was about 100 km, but to avoid police checkpoints, they scaled mountains and walked in the wildness. Weakened by the extended detention and torture, the mother had to be helped by the two sons. Nothing could change their steely will, however. They had just one thought: to tell the people and the world that Falun Gong is good, and the persecution is wrong.

On the morning of October 27, they arrived at Tiananmen Square. Facing the tourists, they called out from their hearts, "Falun Gong is wonderful!" The plainclothes police ganged up on them, and beat and arrested them.

On October 29, the family was escorted back to their hometown and detained in a local police station. During an interrogation, a guard grabbed Mr. Chen's collar, choked him, and pulled him down from a bed board. The choking and the fall caused Mr. Chen to lose consciousness for half an hour. To protest the inhuman treatment, Mr. Chen and his family went on a hunger strike. They were all brutally force-fed. By the thirteenth day of their hunger strike, the younger son and daughter had to be sent to a hospital for emergency treatment. They were released with their mother that day.

On November 15, 2000, Mr. Yang Guibao, a fellow practitioner detained in the same room with Mr. Chen was tortured to death. The next day, afraid of more death in custody, the police released Mr. Chen and his elder son. At that time, Mr. Chen and his son had been on a hunger strike for nineteen days. They started to have blood in their urine, low blood pressure, weak pulses, and other signs of being in critical condition.

The local authorities, however, grew afraid that the Chen family might expose the news of Mr. Yang's death to the public, so they tried to incarcerate the family again. On November 28, 2000, at 9 a.m., a team of about twenty policemen surrounded Mr. Chen's house and tried to break in to arrest them. This blatant lawlessness in broad daylight stirred up the whole neighborhood, and hundreds came to the scene. Mr. Chen took out a loudspeaker, and told his neighbors the truth about Falun Gong and the persecution his family had suffered for not giving up Falun Gong. His righteousness and the plight of the family moved many neighbors to tears. Some angrily commented, "Even staying home is not safe, where on earth is justice? How can the officials be such bullies?" The police were forced to retreat.

On January 1, 2001, the Chen family went again to Beijing to appeal to the government to stop persecuting Falun Gong. They were all arrested. Mr. Chen was locked in a small room in the basement of a police station in Beijing for four days. The room was only about two square meters in size. It had a tight door, and no fresh air or light. Slowly, the oxygen became depleted, and Mr. Chen had difficulty breathing. After four days, Mr. Chen almost suffocated to death. Only then did the police take him out of the room and transfer him to the Haidian District Detention Center in Beijing, where the police continued to interrogate him to force him to renounce Falun Gong. Although the room was quite cold, the police stripped off

his clothes and used an electric fan to blow cold air on him for two hours. At that time, Mr. Chen had already been on a hunger strike for five days and was very weak. He finally passed out. Still the police ordered three inmates to beat and force-feed him for over half an hour. On January 9, 2001, he was escorted back to the Huailai County Detention Center in Hebei Province with his two sons. There, the guards beat the three of them all over their bodies. On July 17, 2001, he was sentenced to two years in jail. On August 27, 2001, Mr. Chen was transferred to the Shijiazhuang Beijiao No. 4 Prison.

On September 21, 2001, Mr. Chen's elder son, Mr. Chen Aizhong, was tortured to death.

On March 5, 2003, Mr. Chen's younger daughter, Ms. Chen Hongping, died from torture.

The repetitive jailing and torture and the loss of one son and one daughter could not force Mr. Chen to give up his conscience. On February 28, 2004, the local officials abducted Mr. Chen, his wife, and his younger son and took them to a brainwashing center to force them to renounce Falun Gong. They went on a hunger strike. On April 27, Mr. Chen and his son were on the verge of death, and were sent home, but his wife was still detained and on a hunger strike.

On July 26, 2004, Mr. Chen was once again taken to the brainwashing center.

On October 19, 2004, the police released Mr. Chen and his wife. At that time, Ms. Wang was in critical condition.

Two weeks later, on November 5, 2004, the old couple lost their youngest son.

The authorities now have the old couple under house arrest, and their only remaining daughter has been detained in a labor camp.

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## **Ms. Wang Lianrong, the Mother**

Ms. Wang Lianrong suffered along with her husband through much of the multiple arrests and beatings.

On January 1, 2001, Ms. Wang and her whole family went to Beijing to appeal for Falun Gong. She was arrested and detained at the Huairou County Detention Center in Beijing for six days. Although it was winter, the guards stripped off her clothes, poured cold water on her body, and blew cold air on her with an electric fan. She went on a hunger strike to protest the torture and was released six days later. She became homeless to avoid further arrest and torture.

Her elder daughter found her later, and they rented an apartment in Beijing together. On September 17, 2002, the police broke into their apartment, arrested Ms. Wang and her

daughter, and detained them in the Huailai County Detention Center. Ms. Wang went on a hunger strike for over ten days and was released.

On February 28, 2004, the local officials abducted Ms. Wang, her husband, and her younger son and took them to a brainwashing center to force them to renounce Falun Gong. Ms. Wang went on a hunger strike for a long time, and was released on October 19, 2004, when she was on the verge of death.

Ms. Wang also suffered the loss of three children to the persecution: her elder son on September 21, 2001; her younger daughter on March 5, 2003; and her younger son on November 5, 2004.

The authorities now have Ms. Wang and her husband under house arrest. Her only remaining daughter has been detained in a labor camp.

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### **Ms. Chen Shulan, the Elder Daughter**

Ms. Chen Shulan suffered along with her parents through much of the multiple arrests and beatings.

On January 1, 2001, Shulan went to Beijing and was arrested with the family; she was released because she had a daughter to care for.

On June 9, 2001, Shulan and her sister were arrested for hanging up banners that stated the truth about the persecution of Falun Gong. She went on a hunger strike. Six days later, she was in critical condition. Afraid that she might die in custody, the police released her.

Later, Shulan found her mother, who had become homeless. She lived with her mother in Beijing. However, on September 17, 2002, the police broke into their apartment and arrested them. She was first detained in the Seventh Section of the Beijing Police Station, and later transferred to the Tiantanghe Woman's Labor Camp.

Shulan has lost all three of her siblings.

Shulan is now detained in the Tiantanghe Women's Labor Camp, and continues to suffer inhuman treatment.

The police in Beijing have detained her daughter, Ms. Li Ying, who is only 13 years old.

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## Mr. Chen Aizhong, the Elder Son

Mr. Chen Aizhong was the first one in the family to be persecuted to death.

Aizhong began practicing Falun Gong in 1998. Since the persecution began in July 1999, he suffered along with his family through much of the multiple arrests and beatings.

On October 29, 2000, Aizhong went on a hunger strike protesting the local authorities' illegal detention of his family. He was released with his father on November 16, after nineteen days on a hunger strike.

However, only five days later, on November 21, the police arrested him again with his brother and sisters. The police tied him to a cross and beat him savagely. The next day, seeing that he was on the verge of death, the police released him.

On January 1, 2001, Aizhong went with his family to Beijing to appeal for Falun Gong. He was arrested and detained at the Dongbeiwang Detention Center in Beijing for seven days. The police stripped off his clothes, chained him to a tree, packed snow around him, and forced him to stand naked for more than an hour. The melting snow formed two ice-water pits under his feet. As a result, he fainted many times, and both his legs were disabled. The police then savagely beat him with clubs and used high-voltage electric batons to shock his head, face, arms, legs, and his private parts. His body ended up being covered with large blisters and dark bruises, and he continued to pass out frequently.

After four days of torture, the police still were not able to force Aizhong to renounce Falun Gong. They then transferred him to the Haidian District Detention Center in Beijing. At that time, Aizhong had been on a hunger strike for four days. Although the torture had already disabled his legs, the heartless police continued to torture him. They ordered inmates to strip off his clothes and pack snow all around him. He was buried in the snow for more than three hours. Seeing that did not break Aizhong, the inmates then beat him on his knees and broke one of his legs. After that, the inmates tortured him with a cruel method named "un-locking": they inserted toothbrushes between Aizhong's fingers, tightly grabbed his fingers, and turned the toothbrushes. This torture broke his fingers. As a result, his hands were also disabled.

On January 9, 2001, Aizhong was escorted back to the Huailai County Detention Center in Hebei Province with his father and younger brother. Although he was completely disabled, the authorities sentenced him to three years of forced labor. On September 12, 2001, he was sent to the Tangshan First Labor Camp in Tangshan City. There, he was tortured severely. He went on a hunger strike to protest the torture. On the seventh day of his hunger strike, the



The elder son, Mr. Chen Aizhong, died from brutal force-feeding at the age of 33.

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guards brutally force-fed him and shocked him with electric batons. Two days later, on September 20, 2001, they force-fed him again, and damaged his lungs. Aizhong died at age 33.

Another practitioner saw Aizhong the day before he died. He was very feeble, and his body was covered with wounds and bruises. However, Aizhong used all his force to hold the arm of his fellow practitioner, and said to him with great effort, "Many people are waiting to hear and learn the truth." What a magnificent life! Even when he was nearing the end of his own life, he thought about others, and thought about how to help others.

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## **Mr. Chen Aili, the Younger Son**

Mr. Chen Aili suffered along with his family through much of the multiple arrests and beatings.

On September 25, 1999, the officials summoned Aili to the local police station to force him to renounce Falun Gong, but he firmly refused. Over twenty ruffian officials and police then beat Aili from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and looted 3,000 Yuan from him.

On October 14, 1999, Aili practiced the Falun Gong exercise in a public park. The police arrested and detained him. They stripped off his clothing, poured buckets of ice-cold water over him, and tortured him night after night. Aili did not give in.

On January 1, 2001, Aili went with his family to Beijing to appeal for Falun Gong. He was arrested and detained together with father and brother at the Haidian District Detention Center in Beijing for nine days. He went on a hunger strike to protest the illegal arrest, and refused to tell the police his name and home address. To break his will, the guards kicked his head, waist, abdomen, thighs, and private parts, slapped his face, and shocked him with electric batons. Aili resisted the coercion and insisted on saying, "Falun Gong is good!"

The guards then instigated the inmates to force him to eat. As long as Aili did not eat, no one in the room was allowed to eat. This caused the inmates to beat him, but still he did not give in. The police then force-fed him.

On January 9, 2001, he was escorted together with his father and brother back to the Huailai County Detention Center in Hebei Province. The three insisted on doing the Falun Gong exercises, and were locked in separate rooms and tortured. A guard stretched and handcuffed Aili's hands to a window, and continuously shocked him with a 100,000 volt electric baton. As a result, both his arms were covered with blisters, which soon started to fester. In this state, he was then forced to work more than a dozen hours every day. When he was unable to finish the work because he had difficulty moving his arms, guards ordered an inmate to beat his eyes with the sole of a shoe, causing blood to ooze out from cuts all over his face. Aili knew that all of this treatment was to break his will and force him to renounce Falun Gong. He resisted the coercion by calling out loud, so everyone in the prison could

hear him: “Falun Gong is good!” That was what guards were most afraid to hear, and they stuffed a towel into his mouth to stop him. This kind of coercion went on for months, but Aili resisted with strong righteousness.

Since the guards there failed to force Aili to renounce Falun Gong, they transferred him to the Zhuolu County Prison on August 17, 2001, for ten days. There a guard slapped his face more than one hundred times, causing his teeth to break and his mouth to bleed profusely. Aili had no fear, and led practitioners there to say together, “Falun Gong is good!” He also insisted on doing the Falun Gong exercises in the jail. At first, the guards beat him, but they eventually gave up and left him alone to do the exercises.

The authorities sentenced Aili to two years in jail without any legal procedure. On August 27, 2001, he was transferred to the Randong Prison in Fengnan County, Tangshan City. The guards instigated inmates to take turns torturing him. They first stretched and handcuffed his hands to a chair for eleven days, deprived him of sleep, and poured boiling water on his head. They would not remove the handcuffs even when Aili needed to use the restroom; he had to pull the chairs with the handcuffs to the restroom. As a result, his skin was broken and bleeding on both of his arms. After the eleven days of torture, they did not succeed in coercing Aili. The guards then forced him to stand during the nights, and hung him up in the air during the day. One day they instigated inmates to handcuff Aili's hands to two doors and pushed the doors open very hard. The inmates were next ordered to take turns beating him for hours, slapping and beating his face with their fists, force-feeding him unknown drugs, shocking him with electric batons, and hanging him up in the air. This went on for six days, but they still could not make Aili give in. The guards went crazy and one day ganged upon him. They slapped his face with the sole of a shoe, beat him savagely, smashed his head against a wall, and tried to force him to sign his name under a statement that slandered Falun Gong. Aili refused. One guard then forcefully pushed his right thumb against his arm, causing severe pain and damage to Aili's hand. Several guards then grabbed Aili's arm to “sign” his name. With great righteous effort, Aili defeated the police, but his right thumb swelled to the size of a light bulb the next day.

The guards also tried to force Aili to read materials slandering Falun Gong. Regardless of the consequences, Aili always tore up those materials and would rather face the torture. One day, a guard read a slanderous article to him, and asked what he thought. Aili answered resolutely: “The more you read, the more I want to practice Falun Gong, and the more resolute I am in practicing Falun Gong.” Despite the constant threat of torture, Aili never gave in to coercion, and never cooperated with the guards. He refused to recite the “rules for convicts” and refused to wear the convict's badge. Once the guards sewed a convict's badge to his cloth, but he just took off the cloth. Since then no one has forced him to wear the badge anymore.

After two months of torture, Aili still would not give up Falun Gong. The guards then hung him up in the air for two months. For the first ten nights, they also deprived him of sleep. Inmates poured cold water on his body and burned him with cigarettes. The long-

term torture wore him out and he was in and out of consciousness. Under such conditions, the guards got Aili to sign a pledge renouncing Falun Gong. However, as soon as Aili regained his consciousness, he announced that the signature was forced and therefore invalid. This enraged the guards. On October 12, 2002, the guards ordered inmates to hold Aili up while others punched his head with their fists. As a result, Aili's whole face bled. They then smashed his head against the wall many times and shocked his mouth with an electric baton. The guards ordered inmates to torture him twenty-four hours a day. These inmates burned his ears with lighters, and the smell of burnt flesh filled the air. They also poured boiling water on his head. This torture brought Aili to the verge of death. He was sent to the jail hospital for treatment. He had a high fever and cramps that recurred every day. Even while he was in critical condition, the police tried to force him to read articles slandering Falun Gong. When Aili refused, he was again savagely beaten. He was force-fed nerve-damaging drugs three times a day, and as a result, his head became numb and his vision was blurry for more than two months. An inmate kicked Aili's stomach for a long time, causing him to be unable to stand for more than ten days. The mental and physical torture caused him to lose his memory and be unable to speak for two months. The inmates all said: "He has become a dummy."

On January 8, 2002, Aili's sister Shulan visited him in the jail, told him the news of Aizhong's death, and secretly brought to him a piece paper with Falun Gong teachings written on it. Learning of the death of his brother and reading the Falun Gong teachings awakened his memory and gave him new courage. Seeing how righteous and resolute he was, the inmates and guards lost their will to continue the torture. One day in May, the jail authorities hired thugs from outside to beat Aili. He again called out "Falun Gong is good!" and said it every day for the next two months. In July, he resumed doing the Falun Gong exercises in the jail. When the jail tried to stop him, he went on a hunger strike for forty-five days, starting on July 5, 2002. On the tenth day of his hunger strike, the police started to subject him to punitive force-feeding. They tied him up and inserted a tube into his stomach through his nose. They intentionally inserted the tube and pulled it out repeatedly to create excruciating pain. They then left the tube in place for many days.

In early January 2003, Aili developed a high fever and had excessive blood in his stool. To avoid the responsibility of having Aili die in custody, the jail released him on January 8, 2003.

On February 28, 2004, the local officials abducted Aili and his parents and took them to a brainwashing center to force them to renounce Falun Gong. They went on a hunger strike. On April 27, Aili and his father were on the verge of death and were sent home. They were not free, however, but were locked inside their house under twenty-four-hour surveillance. Aili never recovered from the damage caused by the long-term persecution and sustained torture. He died on November 5, 2004, at the age of 37.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Ms. Chen Hongping, the Younger Daughter



Ms. Chen Hongping died at age 32.

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Ms. Chen Hongping suffered along with her family through much of the multiple arrests and beatings.

On September 10, 1999, Hongping practiced the Falun Gong exercises in a public park. The local officials arrested her, fined her 2,000 Yuan and looted 3,000 Yuan worth of property from her. Because she refused to renounce Falun Gong, these ruffian officials beat her for over two hours, causing cuts and bruises all over her body. To prevent her family from seeing her injuries, they detained her for fifteen days.

On October 13, 1999, Hongping was arrested at the home of a fellow practitioner. The police shackled her with an 18 kg shackle, handcuffed her, and shocked her with electric batons. The torture went on for seventeen days. While in jail, she told the inmates the truth of Falun Gong. For this, the police hung her up by handcuffs for an hour.

On October 24, 2000, Hongping went with her family to Beijing to appeal for Falun Gong. She was arrested and detained in the Xuanwu District Police Station in Beijing. Because Hongping refused to cave in to police coercion, the police grabbed her by the hair and dragged her on the ground for several hundred meters, causing cuts and bleeding on her legs and feet. On October 29, she was escorted back to her hometown, and went on a hunger strike to protest the illegal detention and mistreatment. The police beat her and force-fed her. On the thirteenth day of her hunger strike, Hongping vomited blood and had very low blood pressure. Only then was she sent for emergency treatment; she was released afterward.

On November 21, 2000, for no reason, the police arrested Hongping and her sister and brothers. When trying to escape from the police, she was seriously injured, and was sent home.

On January 1, 2001, Hongping went with her family to Beijing to appeal for Falun Gong. She was arrested and detained at the Huairou Detention Center in Beijing, where guards stripped off her clothes, poured cold water over her body, and blew cold air onto her with an electric fan. She was released only after she went on a hunger strike for fourteen days to protest the torture.

On June 9, 2001, Hongping and her sister put up truth clarification banners on the way to visit their grandmother. Someone informed the police, and the police arrested them. The police took Hongping to the Donghuayuan Police Station in Huailai County, hung her up, and savagely beat her to the point that she vomited blood. Her body was covered with dark blue bruises, a large area of her hair was torn off, and both her legs were broken.

The next day, the police sent her to the Gaoyang Labor Camp in Hebei Province. There, the police subjected her to continuous beating and brainwashing in an attempt to force her to renounce Falun Gong. The police also deprived her of sleep in order to break her down, but Hongping never yielded to the coercion. After one and a half years of torture, her weight dropped from 55 kg to 25 kg, and she was in critical condition. On January 29, 2003, she was sent to the local hospital for emergency treatment. The doctor diagnosed her with failure of four vital organs, and she was on the verge of death. To avoid their responsibility for Hongping's death, the labor camp quickly sent her home that night. From that time on, she had a high fever and a persistent cough. Her eyes were dull and blank, and her heartbeat was very weak. She was unable to take in any food. She could not recover from the torture. On March 5, 2003, Hongping passed away at age 32.





In 1997, Mr. Hu Qingyun, a judge of the Jiangxi Province Supreme Court, was diagnosed with leukemia. In his last few days, he began to practice Falun Gong. His health improved rapidly and he recovered from the leukemia. After he sent an appeal letter to Chinese government leaders and explained how Falun Gong helped him, he was sentenced to seven years in prison. He was not allowed to practice Falun Gong and died in less than a year.

# A Leukemia Patient's Miraculous Recoveries and Tragic Death

*Reuters: Falun Gong follower dies in custody in China*

*BEIJING, November 9, 2001 (Reuters) - A former judge in China's southern province of Jiangxi died in detention after being jailed for involvement with the banned spiritual movement Falun Gong, a prison doctor said on Friday. Hu Qingyun, once a judge at a provincial high court, died of leukemia earlier this year, the doctor at the Jiangxi Provincial Labour Reform Bureau Hospital told Reuters by telephone. [...] Hu's is perhaps the highest profile case of a former government official dying in detention after being accused of involvement with Falun Gong. The Falun Gong information center said Hu's belief in the outlawed spiritual system, [...] had kept him alive since 1998, shortly after he was diagnosed with leukemia and told by doctors he had three days to live. His death came about two months after he was sentenced to seven years in jail for selling Falun Gong books illegally, it said. [...] Hu had been held in custody for 18 months before the sentencing, it said.*

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Mr. Hu Qingyun was a judge of the Jiangxi Province Supreme Court in Nanchang City, Jiangxi Province. In 1997 he was diagnosed with leukemia. After receiving treatment at five major hospitals, the doctors concluded that he would not live and that his family should make funeral arrangements. In his last few days, he began to practice Falun Gong. His health improved rapidly and he soon recovered from leukemia.

When the Chinese government's persecution of Falun Gong began on July 20, 1999, Mr. Hu appealed to the Jiangxi Provincial Government and wrote an article about how Falun Gong had restored his health. Because of this, he was arrested on July 21, 1999, and charged with "inciting the public to disturb the social order." The police ransacked his home and confiscated his cash and savings, two private house certificates of title, and his valuable personal property.

At the time of his detention, Mr. Hu told the police that he was a leukemia patient and could not stop practicing Falun Gong. The cold-blooded police said, "Your threat will not work on us." Because Mr. Hu was not allowed to practice Falun Gong while in detention, his

leukemia relapsed. He began to bleed from his mouth and nose, and developed blood spots all over his body. He lost consciousness twice. On August 9, Mr. Hu lost consciousness once again. The police released him, in critical condition, to the Jiangxi Medical School Hospital. Once out of detention, Mr. Hu resumed Falun Gong practice and again miraculously recovered.

Disregarding the facts, on August 21, 1999, the newspaper *Nanchang Evening* published an article spreading the lie that Mr. Hu's illness was cured at the hospital, not by practicing Falun Gong, and the lie was then used to slander Falun Gong.

Mr. Hu knew better than anyone the consequences of being arrested again. However, he chose to speak the truth. On February 19, 2000, he wrote a letter to the Chinese leadership to tell his true story. In March 2000, he published his letter on the Internet.

On April 21, 2000, the police arrested Mr. Hu. On January 10, 2001, after nine months of detention, the No. 1 Regional Court of Nanchang sentenced Mr. Hu to a seven-year prison term. Given Mr. Hu's situation, this unusually harsh term was the equivalent to sentencing him to death. It was apparent that the authorities determinedly would not allow Mr. Hu, a living miracle of Falun Gong practice, to live and talk. Mr. Hu was not allowed to practice Falun Gong. His leukemia recurred, and on March 22, 2001, he died in the Jiangxi prison hospital.

The Chinese government has fabricated, among numerous other lies, a claim that Falun Gong practice caused 1400 followers to die. The fact is, the Chinese government has killed thousands of healthy Falun Gong practitioners, including practitioners like Mr. Hu who obtained health through Falun Gong practice. Who is good; who is evil? We hope Mr. Hu's own testimony, a testimony given with his life, will help people to see the truth.

\* \* \* \* \*

## *Judge Hu Qingyun's Letter to Chinese Leaders*

Dear Respectable President, Premier, and other leaders,

I was an officer of the High People's Court of Jiangxi Province, and a former Communist Party member. I worked in the area of law and regulation for sixteen years. I have always been loyal and appreciative of the Party and the government, because it was under the Party's correct policy that I was able to become a university student after being an ordinary worker from a small rural city and later was able to work as a government official. What I had not foreseen was that because of my leukemia, I began to practice Falun Gong, was thus pushed to the opposite side of the Party and government, and was further incarcerated. I love the Party and the government, and loathe the past mistakes in the history of our Party that brought disasters to the Party, the nation, and the people. Out of my responsibility to the Party, to the government, to the people, and to history, I report to you the current situation and related facts, and hope that your leadership can make the correct decision based on the facts.

On August 21, 1999, *Nanchang Evening* published a headline article claiming that I was cured by the hospital, that I was hospitalized six times, and that to treat my disease the government had spent 300,000 Yuan. The newspaper further claimed that I was instructed by a Falun Gong assistance center to write an article to attribute my recovery from leukemia to Falun Gong, and used this to slander Falun Gong.

The truth is that before I practiced Falun Gong, I suffered from many sicknesses, including gastroenteritis, faucitis, rhinitis, spinal cord hyperplasia, insufficient supply of blood to my brain, and regenerative barrier anemia. In 1997, I developed an acute leukemia. During treatment, I was also infected with hepatitis B and C and pulmonary tuberculosis. I was hospitalized and treated in the Jiangxi Medical School Hospital, the Jiangxi Provincial Hospital, the Shanghai Ruijin Hospital, and the Shanghai Medical School Hospital, a total of five major hospitals and by some of the most famous doctors. In the end, in November 1997, the doctors concluded that I had at most three months to live. In February 1998, the doctors from the Jiangxi Medical School informed my family that I had at most three days left and told them to make funeral arrangements.

It was at the last moment of my life that I obtained a copy of *Zhuan Falun* and began to practice Falun Gong. A miracle happened: my life was prolonged. Over the next month, I gradually stopped chemotherapy, blood transfusions, medication, and all other treatments. Two months later, my health was visibly improved. In June 1998, upon my insistence, the

hospital allowed me to go home, but told me to come back for more chemotherapy in a month. I continued to practice Falun Gong, but never went back to the hospital. The newspaper article deliberately changed the dates of my hospitalization to make up the story that I was hospitalized after I practiced Falun Gong. It is an outright lie, and an extremely irresponsible act to the Party, the government, the people, and the future.

During the several months I was in the hospital, my medical expenses were as high as 320,000 Yuan. With so much money, the medical scientists and doctors could not save or prolong my life. However, through my practice of Falun Gong, I was able to live. This is a fact that nobody can possibly wipe out. All the doctors who have treated me clearly know the facts.

My practice of Falun Gong ended my sufferance of various illnesses, freed my family from constant worries, and saved the government large amounts of medical expenses. However, for such a good thing that has benefited everybody, Falun Gong is persecuted. How will the future look upon this?

In August 1999, Nanchang TV stations, Jiangxi Provincial TV station, and *Nanchang Evening* reported that I was once again hospitalized. A reporter interviewed a doctor who had never met me before and did not know anything about my treatment history. This doctor said, "It was our hospital that cured Hu Qingyun. It has nothing to do with Falun Gong." I later asked this doctor why he made up such a lie. He told me that anybody would say the same thing under that situation, and he even asked me not to take it too seriously. Making and propagating such a lie, just for the purpose of denying the fact that Falun Gong has saved my life—is that act responsible to the people and to science?

The truth is: On July 21, 1999, the police detained me with a charge of "inciting the public to disturb the social order." At the time of arrest, I told the police that I was a leukemia patient, and that I must continue to practice Falun Gong or I would die. The police leader simply replied, "Your threat will not work on us," and incarcerated me with common criminals. Leukemia patients are very fragile, with no functional immune system. They should avoid drinking cold water, eating cold food, and being exposed to low temperatures or wind. I was exposed to all those, and I was not allowed to practice the Falun Gong exercises. In a few days, the leukemia recurred. I began to bleed all over my body. I lost consciousness twice. By the twentieth day, I fainted once more. It was because of this situation that I was sent for emergency treatment to the Jiangxi Medical School Hospital.

I knew from my previous experience that medication would not be able to help me, and all I needed was to practice Falun Gong. I thanked the doctors but rejected their suggestions of medication. I did not take one tablet of medicine, did not receive a single injection, and only rested in the hospital for fifteen days before going home.

That was the truth. From February 1998 to July 21, 1999, when I practiced Falun Gong, my life was prolonged and my health was getting better. When my right to practice was taken away, my leukemia recurred. After I was released from the jail on August 9, 1999, I resumed my normal practice of Falun Gong, and I recovered once again. For seven months after that,

my health was getting better and better.

Besides the various lies that have been fabricated about me, I have been persecuted in other ways as well. In October 1999, the authorities accused me of “illegal trade.” The fact is that I only lent some money to a bookstore. I did not participate in any business activity of that bookstore, and did not even collect any interest on my loan to the store. How can that be “illegal trade?” A policeman tried to force the owner to sign testimony that said: “I ran the business for Hu Qingyun, and turned in the profit to Hu. Hu then submitted the money to Falun Gong.” When the owner refused, the policeman cursed and intimidated her.

In December 1999, the tax agent came to me and said I owed 60,000 Yuan of tax for the bookstore. I made it clear that I had no business relationship with that bookstore except for loaning it some funds. In addition, I have no money left. The police had taken away all my money and property on July 21, 1999, when they ransacked my house.

In December 1999, the authorities expelled me from the Communist Party, and are in the process of terminating me from my work. The official reason was that I had appealed to the provincial government on July 21, 1999, and wrote an article on how Falun Gong practice helped me recover from leukemia. The fact is that I had obtained permission to appeal and to publicize my article. When I informed the higher authorities, I was specifically told: “Appealing to the provincial government is your right, but appealing to Beijing will require additional permission,” and “You can write the article; you can also publicize it. You have that freedom.”

The purpose of this letter is to invite you to learn the truth about the persecution I was subjected to. Please imagine how a person, a leukemia patient, could endure such persecution and detention in jail... Because I practiced Falun Gong I had the ability to endure that much tribulation and persecution. As a person who was sentenced by the hospitals to “death” several times, there is nothing that I cannot let go of. I am not interested in politics and I will never do anything against the Party and the government. I just don’t want to be used by politics to defame Falun Gong...

Finally, I would like to say a few words from the bottom of my heart—the truth. Falun Gong practitioners benefit from their practice and cultivation. They understand how to be people of high moral standards. They don’t believe in preaching or “mind control”... Is it possible to ask them or force them to give up their practice?

Hu Qingyun  
February 19, 2000



Now that Chen Gang is living with his family in the United States, he freely discusses how he succumbed to brainwashing when he was tortured in a labor camp in China.

# Darkness and Light

*By Chen Gang*

I testify, with my sufferance, blood, and tears, and denounce the assault and trampling of humanity, morality, and hope committed by the Jiang regime in its persecution of Falun Gong.

## My Life

I was born in Beijing and grew up in a relatively affluent family. My parents were well-known musicians in China. I found a good job right after I graduated from university in 1994, working in a foreign company with an office in Beijing. Life was easy for me, and I always viewed myself as someone who knows how to be content with what he has. I kept myself in the “mainstream,” not committing overt crimes, but at the same time I would not pass up opportunities to make money by deceit, including making money through bribery. It was a social norm and a reality in China. I was not noble enough to avoid it.

Perhaps due to my parents’ influence, I also had an interest in things that are above worldly concerns, and longed for greater wisdom. That was why I tried qigong and Tai Chi when I was young, and later became interested in Buddhism. In April 1995, I happened to come upon the book *China Falun Gong*. I was amazed to find that all my questions about qigong and Buddhism were answered in this book. From this book I also learned how to truly improve myself, and I gained a clear understanding of the meaning of life.

When I followed the principle of Truth-Benevolence-Forbearance in living my life, I found myself and the environment around me becoming more peaceful. I learned to take material interest lightly, and to just work diligently; but I also found that my productivity increased quickly. My family also became harmonious and quarrels disappeared. Whenever there was a conflict, my wife and I would both think about our own shortcomings, and we would become happier. Looking back, the time between 1995 and 1999 was the happiest time of my life.

## Physical and Psychological Persecution

In July 1999, the persecution of Falun Gong began. All newspapers, TV stations, radio stations, and other media broadcasted—day and night—the government’s lies against Falun

Gong. Everyone was ordered to “show the correct attitude” towards the government’s position. Those who disagreed with the government were fired from work, detained, forced to go through brainwashing, or subjected to more severe persecution. The extent and severity of the government’s ferocity even surpassed that of the Cultural Revolution.

My family was no exception. My home was ransacked twice, my phone was tapped, and I was under police surveillance for a long period of time. In November 1999, I went to the State Council Bureau of Appeal in Beijing to ask the government to stop the persecution of Falun Gong. As a result, I was arbitrarily detained for thirty days. In June 2000, just because I refused to renounce Falun Gong, I was sentenced to one year of forced labor at Beijing Tuanhe Forced Labor Camp. The term was later arbitrarily extended to eighteen months. During that time I suffered unimaginable pain and almost lost my life.

The sole objective of the persecution was to eradicate Falun Gong, to force all Falun Gong practitioners to renounce their belief. Jiang Zemin and his “610 Office” system call this “transformation.” A “transformation” involves the forcing of Falun Gong practitioners to write pledges to renounce Falun Gong, or even to curse Falun Gong and its founder. The “610 Office” sets a “transformation” quota for each labor camp to judge the camp’s “achievement.” Moreover, the “610 Office” has come up with various means of physical and mental torture to ensure their efficiency in “transformation.” These were compiled into booklets and distributed to all labor camps. The tactics described in those booklets are extensive and detailed. The labor camps use different approaches on different people. To reach their quotas, they force practitioners to write pledges using every possible means, even though they know that what has been written is not genuine and has been done against the practitioners’ will. The physical and mental damage caused by the “transformation” process was of no concern to the labor camps.

For example, for those who are timid, the police use threats, terror, and violence to shock them. As soon as someone shows signs of wavering, they immediately come in with promises of sentence reductions and other “rewards” to induce a change. To those people who are not very clear on the Falun Gong principles, the police disseminate lies and deceptive slander to make them believe that practicing Falun Gong is against the Party, the government, and the nation, so as to force them to choose between practicing and their country. To those who miss their families, the police will bring in their family members to help pressure them, and blame Falun Gong for breaking up their family. To those who fear hardships, the police force them to do the most backbreaking and filthy work. All in all, whatever one’s weakness, whatever causes one the greatest suffering, the police will use it to shake his will. To that end, one common tactic is to reduce the living conditions of the labor camps to an unbearable state, and at the same time to subject the practitioners to constant physical and psychological insult, make them live under sub-human conditions so as to weaken their dignity, exhaust their physical and mental strength in the long term, and then look for an opportunity to destroy their will.

If all else fails, they use the “transformed” people to confuse the steadfast practitio-

ners. The police have in their hands different kinds of “transformed” people, and will use them on different practitioners to lead them astray.

If all of these fail, the police remove their masks and reveal their true faces; they resort to violence, to the most basic form of transformation: forcing practitioners to choose between their physical death and mental demise.

Why is it that the police spare no effort engaging in such inhumane conduct? First, they are also victims of the lies and hate propaganda of the Chinese government. Second, the “610 Office” connects the promotion, salaries, and bonuses of labor camp policemen to their “rate of transformation,” encouraging them to diligently carry out the persecution. For example, in labor camps, a police officer gets 1,000 Yuan for each practitioner he has “transformed.” If he fails to “transform” practitioners assigned to him or if a “transformed” practitioner repudiates an earlier pledge, he will be fined 1,500 Yuan.

As a result, labor camps have been turned into places where falsehood, wickedness, and brutality run rampant. A lot of people find it hard to understand how so many Falun Gong practitioners, who used to be so steadfast, can be “transformed” in the labor camps. Why is it that even some rather well educated practitioners, with much life experience and knowledge, can be ridiculously “re-educated” and “moved” by the police? In reality, it is because the extreme physical and mental torture committed in labor camps are beyond human limit.

In the labor camp, because I refused to renounce Falun Gong, I was allowed less than four hours of sleep per night. Sometimes they deprived me of sleep for as long as fifteen days. Even so, they would still force me to do hard labor during the day or physically torture me for long periods of time. Seeing that I would not give in, they asked “transformed” people to persuade me with all kinds of warped arguments. Once, in order to force me to renounce my belief, they tortured me with high-voltage electric batons for a long time, scorching a large area of the skin on my head and body. Simply because I refused to recite books slandering Falun Gong, the police sent me to the “intensive training team,” where I suffered harsh mistreatment. I started a hunger strike to protest the persecution. As punishment, the police force-fed me. They inserted a tube through my nose and deliberately pulled and twisted the tube to create extreme nausea and pain. After they force-fed me corn porridge,



Chen Gang and his family are interviewed after his arrival in the United States. From the left are his wife and his mother.

the tube was covered with blood.

In February 2001, the police instigated over a dozen “transformed” people to beat me without mercy. Among them there was even a fellow practitioner I knew before I was sent to the labor camp. I was covered with wounds and my face became disfigured. Then they sealed my mouth with tape, tied my legs together, and tied my arms behind my back. They bent my body forward and tied my head and my legs together tightly. My back was in such great agony that I felt I was being suffocated, that my life was hanging by a thread. When I could not endure the extreme pain any longer, I collapsed mentally and gave in against my will. For the following two weeks, I was not able to walk. Another practitioner who suffered the same torture, Mr. Lu Changjun, was disabled and can never stand up again.

I will never be able to forget the agony. I was covered with wounds, my back was injured, and I lay in a bed like a dead fish, unable to move. The only thing I heard was the agonizing screams from other Falun Gong practitioners who were being tortured. Tears streamed down my face. I thought even hell could not be worse! What hurt most, however, was from inside. Since the persecution began, I had lost my excellent job and my loving family had been torn apart. I was sent to the labor camp and deprived of all dignity and rights. I was suppressed and insulted and lived a painful life worse than that of a slave. Even in such misery, the police still would not leave me alone and kept up the torture until they destroyed every bit of my dignity, my innocence, and my belief. They forced me to become someone I despise, they sullied my character and soul, and they trampled my hope for grace and wisdom. They forced me into a state of regret, shame, and self-disappointment. They were like devils that tortured and taunted me: “You deserve to live in hell! With no hope of ever getting out!”

How much I missed my family at that time! Yet I dared not think about them. I knew why my parents named me “Gang” – indomitable. It was during the Cultural Revolution when they were persecuted. It was the voice from the bottom of their hearts: a person must live with indomitable dignity. However, I had disappointed them. I dared not to think of my most respected Teacher. I had vowed to follow and practice Truth-Benevolence-Forbearance, but I went against my conscience and gave in. How will I live to face my Teacher? I dared not think about how to face my colleagues, friends, and neighbors, and how to face anyone I knew. I didn’t want to let them know that I was a coward, a treacherous, weak-kneed person. I broke down. I was gobbled up by anxiety, helplessness, and depression, and I almost lost the desire to live. Within a short period of time, I became old and feeble, to the point that when my wife came to visit me, she saw that my hair had turned gray, as if I had grown a dozen years older in a couple of months.

Fortunately, even when my spirit was at its lowest, I was clear about one thing in my mind: that is, Falun Gong never tells us to do anything bad, and Truth-Benevolence-Forbearance is good. I saw clearly how those who completely betrayed Falun Gong lost themselves. To make it obvious that they had completely “transformed,” they beat or swore at people all the time and became worse than hooligans. In exchange for a bite of food or to get a word of praise from the labor camp police, they would easily discard dignity, integrity, and moral-

ity. What they displayed was the very nature of this persecution: turning good people into violent hooligans and ruffians! Watching this, I thought to myself: Isn't it clear who is a cult? Just from how the Communist Party uses violence to destroy and control people's minds, isn't it the most evil and destructive cult? I said to myself: "I am different from them. I still want to be a good person and follow Truth-Benevolence-Forbearance." With this thought, I struggled in darkness with my wounded body and mind. Perhaps the police knew I was not completely transformed; they found excuses to extend my term for six more months.

Some people could not get rid of their self-loathing, but did not dare to find their way back to what they knew was right. Under great anxiety and internal pressure, some eventually went insane. I saw with my own eyes six such cases, including my own good friend, Mr. Zhu Zhiliang. He was an accomplished engineer. However, after he was "transformed," he became schizophrenic. By the time he was released, he could not even recognize his wife or parents.

## **Hard-to-Heal Wounds in the Heart**

Even after I was released from the labor camp, the local police and officials still followed me and tapped my home phone. I was ordered to report to the street residential committee regularly. Also, the police would suddenly come to my home to see what I was doing and would search for Falun Gong books and materials. I knew that if the police found that I was still practicing Falun Gong, they would send me back to the labor camp, so I read the books and did the exercises secretly. In my heart I knew this was not righteous. Falun Gong cultivation is aboveboard and peaceful, but I was hiding nervously. This became a psychological barrier to my recovery.

The nightmarish experience in the labor camp often appeared in my mind. Sometimes a trivial matter would cause flashbacks of those horrible scenes. All this made me continue to relive the depression, fear, regret, helplessness, and anxiety that I had experienced in the labor camp. Sometimes I even had sudden heart palpitations, dizziness, and fatigue. I used to be very healthy, and never had trouble sleeping. After the labor camp, I suffered from insomnia, with all kinds of thoughts running through my mind. My mind and body could not be strong and I felt depressed for a long time. The curses and lies that I used to hear every minute in the labor camp would appear in my mind for no reason. In a word, the long-term brainwashing that I suffered in the labor camp had already become part of my subconscious.

I tried different ways to overcome my depression, to distract myself. I tried almost every kind of entertainment. But after a short period of escape, I always went back to the dark and depressed feeling. Moreover, my feelings of guilt grew heavier and heavier. At the same time, I found that my concern for others and my sense of responsibility to society were leaving me. They were being replaced by more and more intensified hatred and anti-social thoughts. All of this happened because I had lost my self-respect and hope.

I remember one day watching the film *Braveheart*. There was a scene at the end in which William Wallace was tied down by the tyrant. They humiliated him in public and cut open his body. The killer asked him, “Do you have something to say? If you beg for mercy we will let you die easily.” Under extreme pain, he used all his strength to shout to the people, “Freedom!” My tears burst forth at that moment. My heart was violently shaken. The deepest pain and most hidden feelings erupted. I felt heartache. How I wished I could have his fearlessness and character, but I could never recover my noble heart again! I felt I could never find my self-confidence and dignity again! I did not want to sink in humiliation. I did not want to keep degenerating in numbness and helplessness.

However, who could help me to forget all the shame and return me my original self?!

## Fortunate Return

When I was in desperation, it was once again Falun Gong that lifted me up. No matter how much I felt like a damaged lonely boat striking out in the storm, I felt that I still had a pure and harmonious space inside my heart, the perfect harmony and serenity that I had experienced, and the pure land of Truth-Benevolence-Forbearance. It is like a lamp that breaks through the dark night, and persistently guides me. When I calmed myself down to study Falun Gong books, I was able to sort out everything that had happened. Little by little, I was able to get rid of the nightmares and recover from the psychological damage. Slowly I found myself, recovered my confidence and sense of direction, and was able to regain my internal peace and my compassion for others. I knew that, if it were not for Falun Gong, I would never be able to come back from the self-loathing, hatred, and psychological injuries that I had sustained in the labor camp.

## Ending Remarks

The crimes that Jiang’s regime has committed against the Chinese people are not only their violation of basic rights of Falun Gong practitioners, not only their destruction of China’s morality, not only the demolition of the rule of law, but, worst of all, the destruction of conscience, justice, and hope for a better future that had been part of Chinese culture for thousands of years. That is the most evil part of the persecution. Unfortunately, many Chinese people have been deceived by the Chinese government’s propaganda, and even support the persecution. It is for this reason that I feel a responsibility to expose the evil persecution with my own experience. I also vow to devote my life to fighting the darkness and to bringing the evildoers to justice. I believe the future of humanity will be bright.



Chen Gang with his family in their home in Philadelphia, USA. From the left: his sister, father, wife, Chen Gang, and his mother.



Ms. Li Jinping was a 37-year-old employee of the Weifang Animal Husbandry Bureau, Weifang City, Shandong Province. She was arrested for visiting a Falun Gong practitioner's home. The police stripped her, chained her to an "iron chair," and shocked her genitals continuously for several hours. She died the next morning.

# A Last Visit

On June 4, 2001, Ms. Li Jinping was visiting a fellow practitioner in Majia Village of Shouguang City in the Weifang region when the Shouguang police came and arrested all the practitioners without any warrant. The practitioners did not want to cooperate with this illegal arrest. The police became violent, tearing the practitioners' clothes apart and beating them in front of people who were watching. Then, the police handcuffed them, sent them to the Sunji police station, and left them standing outside for a long time to be burned under the hot sun. The police then interrogated and beat all of them. In the evening, without any legal procedure, the police detained the practitioners in the Shouguang Detention Center.

On the afternoon of June 6, 2001, Ms. Li, along with the other detained Falun Gong practitioners, requested unconditional release. In response, the police dragged them into the hallway and chained them to iron chairs. They slapped their faces, twisted their arms behind their backs, grabbed their hair and pulled their heads back, hit them all over their bodies with rubber-coated steel clubs, and shocked them with electric batons. Five or six policemen tortured each practitioner. The torture lasted for four hours.

After drinking alcohol, the policemen began another round of torture. This time they tortured only Ms. Li. They stripped her of all of her clothing so they could inflict more pain by beating her unprotected skin. After beating her, the policemen chained her to an "Iron Chair." Later on in the evening, the director of the detention center, Team Leader Wang, and other guards took turns shocking her genitals with electric batons. Her whole body was shaking, and turned dark purple and black. She suffered unbearable pain, and lost consciousness several times. Each time, the guards revived her with cold water so they could shock her again. They roared and threatened to gang-rape her. They continued to shock her even after she began spitting up blood. This torture lasted for several hours. Ms. Li was left chained to the iron chair, and kept vomiting all night.

By early the next morning, June 7, 2001, Ms. Li had lost consciousness and no pulse could be detected. Other practitioners asked to give her some water, but the policemen responded that she would not die and that they would continue the electric shocks in the morning. At last, they accepted that she was near death, and plainclothes policemen took her to the People's Hospital at Shouguang City, where she died that same day.



Ms. Chen Zixiu was a 59-year-old villager. On February 17, 2000, she was arrested for appealing to the government for the right to practice Falun Gong. At the Transformation Center, she was badly beaten. Her screams of anguish could be heard all night throughout the building. The guards shouted at Ms. Chen repeatedly to renounce Falun Gong. Each time, Ms. Chen firmly refused. On February 20, 2000, the officials again demanded that she renounce her faith. Barely conscious after repeated jolts from a cattle prod, Ms. Chen stubbornly shook her head and said: “Practicing Falun Gong is a right.” On February 21, 2000, she succumbed to the torture and passed away.

# “Practicing Falun Gong Is a Right”

On April 20, 2000, the *Wall Street Journal* published a report by Ian Johnson on the brutal torture and killing of Ms. Chen Zixiu by the Chinese authorities. The report shocked the world. At that time, the persecution of Falun Gong had gone on in China for seven months, and Falun Gong practitioners in China had risked all to publicize the severe and extensive torture and killing of fellow practitioners by the Chinese government. Due to the Chinese government's blockage of information, categorical denial of violations, and financial string-pulling, the plight of Falun Gong practitioners was largely ignored, at best downplayed, by the international society, including the international media. The detailed report by Ian Johnson lent support to what Falun Gong practitioners had been publicizing, and once again highlighted the Chinese government's severe human rights violations.

Mr. Johnson went on to write other reports on the subject. The impact of Mr. Johnson's work was evidenced by the awarding of 2001 Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting to “his revealing stories about victims of the Chinese government's often brutal suppression of the Falun Gong.”

Predictably, the Chinese government denied ever holding Ms. Chen in custody and claimed that she had died of a heart attack. There was one problem, however. Ms. Zhang Xueling, Chen Zixiu's daughter, and other family members could not let Ms. Chen's death go at that. She had seen with her own eyes how her mother's body was bruised and battered, and learned from eyewitnesses how her mother had been tortured and killed. When she started to look into the authorities' apparent lies, she herself was detained by the police for fifteen days on charges of “distorting facts and disturbing social order.” The rude awakening completely changed Ms. Zhang, who had initially sided with the government when the persecution began. From April 1999, Ms. Zhang pressed on to seek justice for her mother, in the same way as practitioners seeking justice for Falun Gong. In the process, Ms. Zhang discovered for herself that Falun Gong was the truth that she had been looking for, and that the government's persecution was completely based on lies.

The authorities detained Ms. Zhang in November 2000 and again on April 6, 2001. On April 24, 2001, Ms. Zhang was sentenced to three years of forced labor in the Wangchun Labor Camp.

Ironically, that was one week after Mr. Johnson won the Pulitzer Prize for reporting the Chinese government's brutal suppression of Falun Gong, which the Chinese government vehemently denies.

The authorities did not stop there, however. Ms. Zhang Yufang, sister-in-law of Ms. Chen Zixiu, and her husband, Mr. Li Hengnan, had helped their niece Ms. Zhang Xueling when she sought justice for her mother. On October 14, 2004, the police broke into the Li family’s home and forcibly took the couple into a brainwashing class. No current news about them is available.

Prior to that, on April 24, 2004, police kidnapped Mr. Li’s son, Mr. Li Jiangang, in broad daylight and sent him to a labor camp. No current news about him is available.

The tragic death of Ms. Chen Zixiu and the plight of her family members show the scoundrel nature of the Chinese dictatorship at its most striking—categorical denial of violations while continuing to commit them. Think about it: Ms. Chen’s death is arguably the most visible case of the Chinese government’s violent persecution of Falun Gong; if the Chinese authorities are so unscrupulous and unbridled in persecuting Ms. Chen’s family, what scoundrel act are they not capable of committing?

Due to space limitations, we can select only a few excerpts from related articles to tell you part of what Ms. Chen and her family have been suffering.

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1. The Wall Street Journal, April 20, 2000, Ian Johnson, “Practicing Falun Gong Was a Right, Ms. Chen Said, up to Her Last Day”
  2. The Wall Street Journal, May 8, 2000, Ian Johnson, “China Tells U.N. It Did No Wrong in Death of Falun Gong Member”
  3. Asia Wall Street Journal, April 23, 2000, Matt Forney, “China Detains Daughter Of Dead Falun Gong Follower”
  4. The Wall Street Journal, October 2, 2000, Ian Johnson, “A Grieving Daughter Traces a Tortuous Path Seeking Justice in China”
  5. The Wall Street Journal, May 10, 2001, Charles Hutzler, “Daughter of Falun Gong Member Is Sent Without Trial to Work Camp”

## *Practicing Falun Gong Was a Right, Ms. Chen Said, to Her Last Day*

*By Ian Johnson*

04/20/2000 The Wall Street Journal

(Excerpts)

WEIFANG, China -- The day before Chen Zixiu died, her captors again demanded that she renounce her faith in Falun Gong. Barely conscious after repeated jolts from a cattle prod, the 58-year-old stubbornly shook her head.

Enraged, the local officials ordered Ms. Chen to run barefoot in the snow. Two days of torture had left her legs bruised and her short black hair matted with pus and blood, said cellmates and other prisoners who witnessed the incident. She crawled outside, vomited and collapsed. She never regained consciousness, and died on Feb. 21.

[...]

The story of Ms. Chen's last days is reconstructed from interviews with family, friends and prisoners, as well as two accounts written by cellmates and smuggled out of jail in recent weeks. Originals of these accounts were examined and shown to the authors' friends and relatives, who verified the documents as having been written by their loved ones.

Allegations of mistreatment also are backed by more than two dozen separate interviews with Falun Gong adherents in other cities, who independently said they too were beaten with clubs and electric batons, chained to bars and made to disavow their faith.

Local officials rejected efforts to interview them for this story, while Beijing's official position on all allegations of prison abuse is that no Falun Gong practitioner has been mistreated in custody. It says 35,000 adherents came to Beijing but were sent back safely, with only three dying accidentally when they tried to escape. International human-rights groups say it is likely that at least seven more deaths like Ms. Chen's occurred through mistreatment in prison.

"All she had to do was say she renounced Falun Gong and they would have let her go," said Zhang Xueling, Ms. Chen's 32-year-old daughter. "But she refused."

[...]



Ms. Chen Zixiu

“My mother was never anyone who believed in superstitious things,” said Ms. Zhang, who doesn’t practice Falun Gong herself. “Frankly, she had a bad temper because she felt she was getting old and had sacrificed so much to raise us alone. When she joined Falun Gong her temper improved a lot and she became a better person. We really supported her.”

[...]

For Ms. Chen, China’s decision to ban Falun Gong last July came out of the blue. She hadn’t noticed the articles and television shows that had attacked the group, and she paid little attention a year ago when members surrounded the Communist Party’s leadership compound in Beijing. The day the government ban was announced “was the bitterest of her life,” said her daughter, Ms. Zhang. “She couldn’t accept that they were criticizing Falun Gong and calling it an evil cult.”

Although barely literate and never before interested in politics, Ms. Chen resisted the ban. She invited group members to practice at her home and refused to deny her affiliation with the group or her love for Mr. Li, whom she respectfully called “Master Li.”

Then, last November, several top organizers of Falun Gong were given long prison sentences. Shocked, Ms. Chen joined thousands of fellow practitioners by traveling to Beijing with the vague idea of protesting against the government. Since the ban in July, many had gone to Tiananmen Square and sat cross-legged with their arms stretched in an arc over their heads -- the classic starting pose for Falun Gong exercises.

Ms. Chen never made it that far. On Dec. 4, the day after she arrived in Beijing, she was walking through the Temple of Heaven Park when a plain-clothes security agent asked if she was a member. She answered truthfully and was arrested, her daughter said.

[...]

As punishment, officials from the Chengguan Street Committee (street committees are the lowest level in China’s system of government) confined Ms. Chen to their offices, just 200 yards from her home. She stayed there for two weeks, in a form of “administrative detention” that the state can impose almost indefinitely. Ms. Zhang had to pay another \$45 for her mother’s room and board.

[...]

On Feb. 16, the local district chief came to see Ms. Chen and told her that Beijing wanted to make sure no other Falun Gong adherents went to Beijing, especially since China’s annual session of parliament was due to begin in a few days. He asked Ms. Chen to promise she wouldn’t leave home.

“My mother told them very clearly that she wouldn’t guarantee that she wouldn’t go anywhere. She said she had the right to go where she pleased,” Ms. Zhang said. The officials left in a huff.

Two days later, Ms. Zhang came home to find half a dozen officials in her living room. They said her mother had been spotted outside by a special squad of informants who roamed

the neighborhood looking for Falun Gong participants who dared to leave home.

Ms. Chen was taken into custody and never seen by her daughter again. She was held for a day in the Chengguan Street Committee offices, but then during the night she managed to escape -- exactly how isn't clear, officials told Ms. Zhang. Ms. Chen was arrested the next day, Feb. 17, heading for the train station, apparently hoping to go to Beijing to plead her case before the Petitions and Appeals Office, a last resort for people who feel they have been wronged.

This time, officials from the local district Communist Party office sent Ms. Chen to a small, unofficial prison run by the street committee, described to practitioners as the Falun Gong Education Study Class.

[...]

While Ms. Chen was transferred to the detention center, officials called Ms. Zhang and said her mother would be released if she would pay a \$241 fine. Ms. Zhang was fed up with the government's "fines" and, she said, her mother's insistence on standing up for her rights. She told the officials that their fines were illegal and that she would complain to the local procurator's office if they didn't release her mother. She rejected another call on Feb. 18 and again threatened legal action, though she didn't follow through.

[...]

Ms. Chen's ordeal began that night. Wrote an adherent who was in the next room of the squat building: "We heard her screaming. Our hearts were tortured and our spirits almost collapsed." Officials from the Chengguan Street Committee used plastic truncheons on her calves, feet and lower back, as well as a cattle prod on her head and neck, according to witnesses. They shouted at her repeatedly to give up Falun Gong and to curse Mr. Li, according to her cellmates. Each time, Ms. Chen refused.

The next day, the 19th, Ms. Zhang got another call. Bring the money, she was told. Ms. Zhang hesitated. Her mother came on the line. Her voice, usually so strong and confident, was soft and pained. She pleaded with her daughter to bring the money. The caller came back on the phone. Bring the money, she said.

Ms. Zhang got a sick feeling and rushed over with the money and some clothes. But the building was surrounded by agents who wouldn't let her see her mother. Suspicious that this was a ruse to get more money from her -- and that her mother wasn't really in the building at all -- she returned home. An hour later, a practitioner came to see Ms. Zhang. Falun Gong adherents were being beaten in the center, she was told.

[...]

That night, Ms. Chen was taken back into the room. After again refusing to give up Falun Gong, she was beaten and jolted with the stun stick, according to two prisoners who heard the incident and one who caught glimpses of it through a door. Her cellmates heard her curse the officials, saying the central government would punish them once they were exposed. But

in an answer that Falun Gong adherents say they heard repeatedly in different parts of the country, the Weifang officials told Ms. Chen that they had been told by the central government that “no measures are too excessive” to wipe out Falun Gong. The beatings continued and would stop only when Ms. Chen changed her thinking, according to two prisoners who say they overheard the incident.

Two hours after she went in, Ms. Chen was pushed back into her cell on the second story of the main building, an unheated room with only a sheet of steel for a bed. Her three cellmates tended to her wounds, but she fell into a delirium. One of the cellmates remembers her moaning “mommy, mommy.”

The next morning, the 20th, she was ordered out to jog. “I saw from the window that she crawled out with difficulty,” wrote a cellmate in a letter smuggled out by her husband. Ms. Chen collapsed and was dragged back into the cell.

“I was a medical major. When I saw her dying, I suggested moving her into another [heated] room,” the cellmate wrote in her letter. Instead, local government officials gave her “sanqi,” herbal pills for light internal bleeding.” But she couldn’t swallow and spat them out.” Cellmates implored the officials to send Ms. Chen to a hospital, but the officials -- who often criticize Falun Gong practitioners for forgoing modern medical treatment in favor of a superstitious belief in their exercises -- refused, her cellmates said. Eventually they brought in a doctor, who pronounced her healthy.

But, wrote the cellmate: “She wasn’t conscious and didn’t talk, and only spat dark-colored sticky liquid. We guessed it was blood. Only the next morning did they confirm that she’s dying.” An employee of the local Public Security Bureau, Liu Guangming, “tried her pulse and his face froze.” Ms. Chen was dead.

That evening, officials went over to Ms. Zhang’s house and said her mother was ill, according to Ms. Zhang and her brother. The two piled into a car and were driven to a hotel about a mile from the detention center. The hotel was surrounded by police. The local party secretary told them Ms. Chen had died of a heart attack, but they wouldn’t allow them to see her body. After hours of arguing, the officials finally said they could see the body, but only the next day, and insisted they spend the night in the heavily guarded hotel. The siblings refused and finally were allowed to go home.

On the 22nd, Ms. Zhang and her brother were taken to the local hospital, which was also ringed by police. Their mother, they recalled, was laid out on a table in traditional mourning garb: a simple blue cotton tunic over pants. In a bag tossed in the corner of the room, Ms. Zhang said she spotted her mother’s torn and bloodied clothes, the underwear badly soiled. Her calves were black. Six-inch welts streaked along her back. Her teeth were broken. Her ear was swollen and blue. Ms. Zhang fainted, and her brother, weeping, caught her.

That day, the hospital issued a report on Ms. Chen. It said the cause of death was natural. The hospital declines to comment on the matter. Ms. Zhang said she challenged officials about the clothing she had seen, but they told her her mother had become incontinent after

the heart attack and that was why her clothes were soiled.

Ms. Zhang and her brother tried filing a lawsuit, but no lawyer would accept the case. Meantime, her mother's body lay in refrigeration, until the threatened litigation was resolved.

Then, on March 17, Ms. Zhang received a letter from the hospital saying the body would be cremated that day. Ms. Zhang called the hospital to try to prevent it, but she said officials didn't give her a clear answer and said they would have to call her back. They didn't. Ms. Zhang never saw her mother's body again.

\* \* \* \* \*

## *Why Did You Wield the Clubs in Your Hands?*

*An Open Letter to Her Mother's Murderers, from the Daughter of Chen Zixiu*

Mr. Liu and Ms. Deng:

I am Chen Zixiu's daughter. I am sure you both remember Chen Zixiu, the nearly sixty-year-old lady who died under your ferocious clubs just after the Chinese New Year. Ever since my mother's death, I have wanted to see you and have a heart-to-heart conversation with you. Concerned that you might misunderstand my motives, I chose to write to you first. As I am writing, my thoughts go to my mother, and tears cover my face.



Ms. Chen Zixiu's clothing was cut open, revealing blood stains and stains from urine and fecal matter due to incontinence.

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My mother just celebrated her 58th birthday on January 3, 2000. She was your elder. She was a very healthy person and probably would have lived for at least another twenty years. Just like me, both of you are children of your parents and parents of your children. Therefore you must know the agony we

suffered when we lost a member of our family, and how much anger we had towards her murderers. I was detained by the police on April 17, but you two are at large, even rewarded by the government. In those days, I thought of revenge for my mother in an equal or even a more cruel way. I know that you and the forces that supported you have absolutely no feelings and respect for justice. However, I overcame myself, not only because I am kindhearted, but also because I have something else to tell you.

Beasts prey to survive. That is the law of the jungle. Human beings are different. We have morality, and we are bound by laws. Because of human morality and ethics, our society will keep developing towards a better future. Families will have love, people will help each other out, youth will respect and take care of their elders, good-hearted people will be respected, and evil criminals will be punished.

But what do you and your backers do? You punish the kindhearted and encourage the evil! You ruin morality and trample laws! You are beasts in human clothing! Where are you trying to push human society?

Ms. Deng, do you still remember my mother's compassionate smile? Do you still remember her cries of pain when you savagely beat her? Ms. Deng, I want to tell you: she was a mother, a senior citizen, a kindhearted person, and a person who had been through a great deal of misery, yet was still optimistic. She was a person deserving respect from all of us. Yet she died under your evil hands; she was murdered by a government that is supposed to have a legal system; and she was killed by torture so heinous that no one would have believed it could happen in this 21st century and in this civilized world.

Mom was beautiful. Her pictures used to be in display windows of photo studios. We were proud of having such a beautiful mother. Mom was warm and kind. Although we were poor, she always offered to help people she did not even know. At dinnertime, if somebody knocked at our door and asked about renting an apartment, she would leave her meal on the table and take the person all over the village to help him find one. Mom was healthy and strong. For the truth she believed in, she gave her life. I know that my quest for justice for her may very well be fruitless, but I still choose to believe in justice, because my mother's sacrifice has inspired me to conquer anger and hatred.

Mom had been through many hardships. Her marriage lasted for only fourteen years because my father had liver cancer when she was thirty-seven years old. Without telling my grandmother, my older brother, or me, she took my father to lots of different places, searching for treatment. She took care of my father day and night until he passed away. Three months later, she lost her own mother. That year, mom was thirty-eight years old, my older brother was thirteen, and I was only eleven. Nobody could help her, and nobody could console her. She had to bring up two young children all by herself.

As a widow with two young kids, my mother had to face bullies from different sides. The house we live in was built using bricks that mother and I picked up from deserted garages and construction sites. Sometimes a storm would ruin half of what we built, and the fragility of a family without an adult man would make my mother cry out in the rain. Life was hard,



Ms. Chen Zixiu with her grandchildren. Today, the children would still receive their grandma's hugs if this persecution had not taken her life.

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and my brother argued and yelled at her because he was too young to understand the hardship. He even left home and did not see mom for two years. During festivals or holidays when other families were together, only I knew how deeply mom suffered in her heart. Only when we grew up did my brother and I understand how much mother went through, and that there was no way that we could repay her. Now we have lost her forever; how are we supposed to face all this?

I want to tell you that what we do is to wake up people's goodwill. I do not know whether you still have any sense of humanity. I do not know whether you regret what you did, whether you have any sense of guilt, or whether you want to repent. I do not know whether you believe that there will be a day when murderers will be punished, when history will give the final judgment, and when the truth will reveal itself to the people. Just like you, I once had sided with and been misled by the government's propaganda, and I had misconceptions about Falun Gong. I ridiculed my mom and tried to “correct” her. However, my mother's death woke me up.

Who is right and who is wrong? Who is kind and who is wicked? I have many regrets. If we all woke up earlier, would this tragedy be less atrocious? Witnessing my mother's and other practitioners' sacrifices, shouldn't we do soul-searching and think it over? Where in the world can you find an “evil cult” practitioner who never fights back when beaten and never swears when abused? Are they not capable of retaliation? Are there any such kindhearted “cult” practitioners in the world? Not even an average person would bear such brutal persecution without complaint. What “evil” can you say about them? What did they do wrong? Just because they have committed their lives to become the most peace-loving people they can be, and have the conviction and courage to openly acknowledge that commitment?

You are actually puppets in the hands of others, and serve only as a tool of evil. Servility is one of the main reasons for the miseries of our country, and it continually worsens the existing problems. Servility makes corrupted officers feel secure and makes them forget their responsibilities to the people. Those people with no moral restraint in their hearts are always complaining about what they don't have and they encourage the corruption. Every one of them is full of desires for material wealth. And they all have plenty of “good” reasons for

their selfishness. They can even give noble reasons for their evil actions. They consider good and kindhearted people to be idiots, and they make their lives miserable.

It is my mother's death, it is her noble character, and it is the moral power of people like my mother that leads me into the ranks of Falun Gong practitioners. Because I cultivate Falun Gong, I understand that my mother would not hate you, and I will not hate you. However, I want to sincerely advise you and all those who are assisting the evil:

Stop before it is too late! Put down the clubs in your hands! For your own future, for society, and for humanity, stop your wicked crimes!

Sincerely,

Zhang Xueling

August 9, 2000

\* \* \* \* \*

## *I Want to Trust the Government, But What Can I Trust It For?*

### *A Letter of Appeal to the Leaders of the Chinese Central Government*

Dear Respected Central Leadership:

I'm Zhang Xueling, 31 years old. I'm a villager in the Xujia Village, Beiguan Town, Weicheng District, Weifang City in Shandong Province. On February 21 of this year, my mother, Ms. Chen Zixiu, a 58-year-old Falun Gong practitioner, was beaten and tortured to death within three days at the secret “forced transformation” site in Weicheng District. Here I would like to describe the whole course of the incident (about which I have already written two articles) and state my own retrospection and thinking of the past half year. I wish that the government would know the truth as well as the genuine feelings and situations of our common people; if they did, I would not regret being detained again, or dying like my mother.

## The Aftermath of My Mother's Death

I had written two articles at the end of February and mailed them to the administration bodies of the office of State Council, the office of the Central Government, the Chinese Central Television Station, and other news media. I provided the sources and true accounts of the incidents to them, as well as to some residents in the local area. In early March the police told me that my article was posted on the Internet. Just because of these two articles, the police summoned me four times for a total of 107 hours. On April 17, the police subjected me to “administrative detention” for fifteen days. Their charge was “distorting the facts and disturbing social order.” Even now, I still don’t know how I distorted the facts or what facts I distorted? What are the facts supposed to be? After being released, I have been constantly appealing to the police, and legislative and administrative bureaus because I want to believe in the law and the government.



Beiguan Street Office, Weicheng District:

Despite rescue efforts, Villager Chen Zixiu of your district died of a sudden heart attack in our hospital at 9:30 a.m. on February 21, 2000. Her body has been held in our hospital for over thirty hours. It has already shown body spots and started to degenerate. Our hospital can no longer keep the body properly. Please quickly notify her family members to transfer the body to the undertaker's.

Weifang Municipal Hospital,  
February 22, 2000

## Forced Cremation

On March 11, the police verbally informed me of the forensic analysis of my mother's corpse. I requested the forensic reports, but was denied. The forensic analysis stated that acute severe pulmonary emphysema could have led to her death. My mom's lungs were quite healthy, and before she left home she had no such symptoms at all. She was beaten and tortured to death, which is undeniable. However, I could not get any written explanation or conclusion from the police.

On March 16, nearly twenty governmental officials informed my brother and me that we must go to the cremation field at 9:00 a.m. the next morning. We immediately expressed our opposition. At the same time, we questioned all of them: What disease caused her death, what had my mother gone through in those three days, and what was the relationship between the torture and her death? I knew who the murderers were. I knew that they were still at large. At 9:00 a.m. on March 17, we arrived at the cremation field. The cremation field was heavily guarded by 200 policemen and twenty police vehicles. One of my relatives and I again presented the family's opposition and submitted a written request for the storage of the corpse and the right to handle it by ourselves. At noon, the chief of the legal section in

the District police station, accompanied by the leaders of the administrative office, gave us the final notice: “Agree or not, the cremation will be carried out at noon; someone will be responsible for it.” However, when we requested the certificate of cremation later on, nobody was “responsible” for handling our case.

## The Replies from the Different Levels of Government Offices

I trusted that the authorities would give me an answer after their investigation of this case, so I started to request the forensic reports. Here are the various responses:

The District Police Department: The forensic reports were finished a long time ago, but we cannot give them to you. What we verbally informed you previously was the result. If you don’t agree, you can apply to the higher authorities for a reexamination.

The City Police Department: If you disagree with the forensic reports from the District Police Department, you have to submit the certificate of the entrustment from the District Office and the materials from the initial forensic examination.

The District Police Department: During the last forensic anatomy, there were officials from the City Police Department. So there was no need to submit materials. If you don’t believe them, you may ask them.

I also visited the investigation bureau and the court. Their responses were:

City Middle-level People’s Court: Criminal cases cannot be started and criminals cannot be indicted by individuals. They should be brought for public prosecution.

City Investigation Bureau: We do not accept any cases related to Falun Gong, not even related homicide cases.

The High-level Province’s Investigation Bureau: You had better hurry to sue the murderer!

The Province’s Administrative Office and Government Office: Don’t you know what kind of organization Falun Gong is? Why didn’t they accept your case? Don’t you know?

The Province’s Police Department: Your mom died from a heart attack. Didn’t you agree with that yourself? Why do you come here to make trouble! Go away! Go away! Go away!



Blood and fecal matter on Ms. Chen Zixiu’s underclothes.

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The Offices of State Councils and Central Government: Go appeal to the State Police Department.

The Highest Procurator Office: Go appeal to the State Police Department.

The National Women’s Association: You’ve got to stop appealing around. Please go home quickly. There are some national policies that we cannot explain and there is no way to explain. There is nothing that we can do for you.

The State Police Department: I wrote a letter to the Weicheng District’s Police Department on June 19.

The District’s Police Department: No written decision as of July 21.

The District’s Police Department: The decision that was made to sustain the administrative detention applied.

The District’s Court: Have received your complaint. We will not establish a court case for your administrative lawsuit. We cannot give you the reasons and the written decision on why we didn’t establish the case. You can talk directly to our higher offices.

The District’s Representative Office of the People’s Congress: The District People’s Court did not establish a court case, but they should give you something; however, they felt that the decision from the District’s Police Department was quite appropriate. You’d better go to the Middle-level Court.



Ms. Chen Zixiu’s urine-and blood-stained clothes left in the corner of the hospital after her death.

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The Middle-level Court (response from telephone consultation): Why did the District Court say that? You should have the legal evidence to point out that what they did was wrong. Have you found the legal evidence? Then the phone was abruptly hung up.

The City Administrative Office and Government Office: We could not deal with this case. We don’t handle this kind of case. You are really young and capable!

The Highest People’s Court: Without a trial from the local people’s court, you should not appeal here. If the court still does not accept the case, you should go to the State Police Department again.

The Office of the National People’s Congress: Without a ruling from the Court, we will not accept your case.

The second visit to the State Police Department: A new officer received me. He first drafted a letter to the City Police Department; he patiently listened to me while I explained it all to him. He said: “People should

not be beaten to death even if they practice Falun Gong!” He was shocked: “The police even detained you?” ... He wanted to say something but, on second thought, he held it. He finally said: “Trust the law.” Only at that moment did I have the feeling of being consoled. But who knows what kind of leaders our local judicial department relies on.

The State Judicial Department (the response from a telephone consultation, concerning the death of my mother): You may ask the State Police Department regarding whether this case is completely closed or is set aside. The cause of death must be explained clearly. I asked: “Is it due to the issue of Falun Gong that we encountered this consequence? They answered: It should not be.

However, three days later, when I went to the office of the State Judicial Department in person, I got a different reply: You’d better stop the appeal and obey the order from the administration.

According to a fellow villager from Shandong Province who appealed to the State Police Department at the same time, there was one Falun Gong practitioner who came here to appeal. He was beaten up right after he claimed to practice Falun Gong.

The Judicial Department of the State Councils: This matter is quite complicated. You’d better go to the Supervisory Department of the State Committee of Discipline Examination.

The Supervisory Department of the State Committee of Discipline Examination: Go to the State Police Department.

Through my process of appealing, I saw and met the large assembly of appealing groups. According to the policeman who was in charge of receiving appeals from Falun Gong practitioners at the gate, among the one hundred people who appealed, there would be no more than ten cases that got resolved. There was so much disappointment, anger, and hopelessness.

## **My View of Falun Gong Before the “April 25” Incident**

I went to elementary school at the time when the Culture Revolution ended. It was a time of hope, and like many of my contemporary youth, I loved my country dearly and had many beautiful dreams. I was confident in our country and the era in which we lived. I believed that our hard work would make our country more wonderful. Although there were many unhealthy tendencies in society, I always trusted that the government would resolve them.

In 1996, some of my relatives started practicing Falun Gong. I regarded this as a way for them to keep fit and while away their time. Gradually I noticed that they often mentioned the principles taught in the book. I considered myself to be a thorough materialist and tried very hard to reason with them. To better refute them, I forced myself to read *Zhuan Falun*. As I read the book, I found many of my doubts and even my life-long questions answered.

I tried to resist, often reminding myself not to believe such un-materialistic things. However, from that day on, the moralistic teaching of the book echoed in my head: I should not tell lies, and neither should I do bad deeds. Although I still had doubts, I was no longer so resentful of Falun Gong anymore. Later on, my mother started practicing Falun Gong too. Witnessing the many positive changes that happened to my mother, I began to support her. In February 1999, for my own benefit, I also began to practice the exercises. That was less than two months before the “April 25 Peaceful Petition.”



Practitioners standing outside of the State Council Bureau of Appeal during the April 25 appeal. Most are reading while quietly waiting for the government’s decision.

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I also had the opportunity to attend experience-sharing gatherings held spontaneously by the practitioners. The harmonious and peaceful feeling that I felt among them was something that I had never experienced before. They were from all walks of life; rich or poor, old or young, elite or ordinary. Yet I felt that they were all noble. The only words I could think of to describe groups like them were “pure land.” I felt my spirit was in a heaven of peace. I never knew that people could be so harmonious with each other. This was also the most harmonious period of time that my mother and I had had in the past thirty years.

## After Mother Started Her Cultivation Practice

My mother started practicing in the autumn of 1997. She was very healthy, so she did not come to Falun Gong for health reasons. She never believed in anything spiritual. She did not believe in fortune telling, either. After my father passed away, loneliness and daily pressures made her temper worse and worse, and she smoked heavily. The real reason of her practicing cultivation was to not be annoyed by her children easily, to ease her short temper, and to find something to spend time on.

Soon after she began practicing, my mother regained her menstrual cycle. She also quit smoking. Every day she volunteered to clean the sidewalk and the streets around our house. She became much better tempered. She talked to us about her experiences of cultivation every day. Seeing how my mother’s life was revitalized, I was happy for her, and to support her, I cleared out a room in our apartment and set it up as a practice site.

One of our neighbors, Grandpa Liang, had suffered from all kinds of illnesses and was too sick even to walk. With the help of others, he came to the practice site. Amazingly, he

was able to walk with ease after only a short period of practicing, and he no longer suffered from any illness. His white hair and eyebrows gradually turned black. People in our area are not highly educated. Many of them started cultivation practice not because of their interest in the principles of Falun Gong, but because of what they saw -- all kinds of miracles, which could not be easily explained, happening to Falun Gong practitioners. And then, the principles of Falun Gong would explain everything clearly.

### **After April 25, 1999, I Sided with the Government. But I Did Not Expect Things Would End Up Like This**

I didn't know the reason behind the “April 25 Peaceful Petition,” but I stopped practicing Falun Gong. I was very much convinced by the government's propaganda between April 25 and July 22, and I tried to convince my mother and others to give up the practice.

After July 22, I turned in mother's Falun Gong books and signed the pledge to renounce Falun Gong for her. I found, however, that what I did brought tremendous agony to my mother. No matter how difficult her life had been in the past, I had never seen her suffer so much, to the point as though she were about to collapse. At the same time, I started to question the propaganda on TV; nowhere in *Zhuan Falun* was the subject of the earth exploding discussed, nor did it prohibit people from taking medicine. Moreover, none of the practitioners I knew committed suicide, let alone killed other people.

Later, many practitioners were arrested and humiliated publicly. Many practitioners' families were also under close surveillance. Mother was often summoned to attend ‘re-education’ sessions. Passengers on long-distance buses had to go through interrogation many times and sometimes had to curse Teacher Li to be allowed to pass. Even my five-year-old child also learned not to mention anything about Grandma practicing Falun Gong. I would not force my mother to do anything, but I could make a guarantee to the government that my mother would not go to Beijing to appeal, because she didn't have much income or education, and she would have easily lost her way.

On December 4, I received a notice from the authorities asking for money. It said that my mother was detained because she had gone to Beijing to appeal, and we had to pay the fine. I took away all my mother's money. The local authorities took turns to come to my home and intimidate us with the possible consequences to my family. I felt disgusted by their manner. I opposed mother's appeal, but I didn't like how the government handled this issue. Maybe because I had always believed in the principles of Falun Gong, maybe because I was moved by the unselfishness and fearlessness of some practitioners, maybe because I believed that a peaceful appeal is every citizen's right granted by the constitution, I decided not to interfere with what my mother wanted to do. She should have her freedom. She should be respected. She had not done anything wrong.

However, shortly after that, my mother was beaten to death. I myself have since experienced so many shocking things.

## I Started to Think Back and Reconsider Things

Mother had not done anything wrong but was murdered. It is definitely not Falun Gong that killed her. However, what was the government’s propaganda telling us? I started to believe that it was the government who was deceiving us. I took a fresh look at the “July 20” and “April 25” incidents and realized that the enormous grief of our nation lies in the apathetic souls of our people. Cultivators are truly magnificent. They refuse to be enslaved in thoughts and do not hesitate to risk their lives for the truth. How important it is to have beliefs! I felt the tremendous power in Teacher Li’s teaching.

When the authorities sent me to the detention centers, I began to study *Zhuan Falun* again. This time, I saw the great principles unfolding in front of my eyes. Practitioners are indomitable. Besides slandering and fabrications, I haven’t seen any real evidence against Falun Gong provided by the government. I started practicing again and it felt wonderful to be a practitioner. All the slander and persecution from the government appears pale and powerless in comparison.

To let the people and the government know the truth, we are ready to give up everything, even our lives.

Practitioners have no political agenda. My mother never even voted in elections. We are not against the government. If we have done anything wrong, anyone can point it out to us. No matter what happens, we are not against the government. However, we cannot just ignore and let those criminals have their way to abuse Falun Gong practitioners. It is the duty of every citizen to defend the dignity of the law and humanity.

Moreover, many local government officials are forced to commit crimes to persecute Falun Gong practitioners. When some officials were forced to search practitioners’ houses and confiscate their property, they kept saying to practitioners’ family members: “What we’re doing is incorrect. We’re wrong. We’re unreasonable. You are all good people. We don’t like confiscating your property.”

I believe a decision to end the persecution will be welcomed by these officials. Why not discover the truth and make a correct decision? We hope the leadership in the central government stops the suffering on this issue.

I would still like to trust in the Chinese government, but it must be the Chinese government after it has corrected its mistakes. We are waiting for it with hope in our hearts.

Respectfully,

Zhang Xueling

August 22, 2000

\* \* \* \* \*

## Ms. Chen’s Sister-in-law and Family Persecuted

On the morning of October 14, 2004, officers from the Weifang City Police Department and the “610 Office” broke into the home of Mr. Li Hengnan and Ms. Zhang Yufang. They ransacked the house and forcibly took Mr. Li and Ms. Zhang to a brainwashing center. Witnesses said the police were very brutal in manhandling the old couple.

Ms. Zhang, 56, is the sister-in-law of Ms. Chen Zixiu. Ms. Chen was tortured to death by the authorities for refusing to renounce Falun Gong. Her tragic death was reported by Ian Johnson of the Wall Street Journal and became an illustrative case of the brutal persecution of Falun Gong by the Chinese government. Ms. Zhang’s husband, Mr. Li, 61, is a retired section chief from the Statistics Bureau of Weifang City, Shandong Province.

Acquaintances of the couple speak highly of them as being kindhearted, upright, and always ready to help others. Mr. Li used to have a severe cervical vertebra problem, which led to pressure of nerves to his left side of the body, and as a result, he suffered muscular atrophy in his left arm. Ms. Zhang had severe scapulargia and nervous headache. The couple tried all kinds of medical treatment, but to no avail. After they began to practice Falun Gong in 1995, their ailments disappeared, and they experienced for the first time what total health was like. At the same time, they followed the principle of Truth-Benevolence-Forbearance and became even kinder and more generous.

Their son, Mr. Li Jiangang, used to be the shame of the family. Being associated with thugs and gangsters, Jiangang always courted disasters. The family often had to bail him out from jail and pay heavy fines. After Jiangang began to practice Falun Gong in January 1999, however, he completely changed into a different person.

Since the persecution of Falun Gong started on July 20, 1999, the whole family has suffered all kinds of persecution because they have persisted in their belief and in seeking justice for Falun Gong. Li Hengnan and Zhang Yufang went to Beijing to appeal for Falun Gong several times. As a result, they were detained and fined, and their house was ransacked many times.

After Ms. Chen Zixiu was beaten to death in February 2000, the Li couple helped their niece—Ms. Chen’s daughter, Ms. Zhang Xueling—to seek a justice. They went together with Xueling and her five-year-old son to appeal to the authorities at various levels, and provided much of the financial support to Xueling. Tragically, Xueling was charged with “disturbing social order” and was sentenced to three years of forced labor on April 24, 2001.

On the night of April 24, 2004, the Li couple suffered another persecution from the authorities. The secret police of Weifang City kidnapped Jiangang just days before his wedding on May 13. The secret police then broke into the house of Jiangang’s fiancée, Ms. Kong Qian. Ms. Kong and her mother were able to escape at last minute, but the secret police

confiscated everything they had prepared for the wedding. When the old couple went to the authorities to determine the whereabouts of their son, the authorities threatened to arrest them if they pressed on further.

At this time, we know only that Mr. Li and Ms. Zhang are still detained in the Kuaiwen District brainwashing class. No further news has been heard about them.

Mr. Li Jiangang was sentenced to three years of forced labor in the Changle Labor Camp. Because he refused to renounce Falun Gong, he has suffered severe beating, electric baton shock, sleep deprivation, and other tortures.

\* \* \* \* \*

## *Give Me Back My Happy Family*

*Please Help Rescue My Fiancé, Li Jiangang*

*By Kong Qian*

My name is Kong Qian. I am 26 years old. I am a resident of Weifang City, Shandong Province. My fiancé, Mr. Li Jiangang and I had fixed our wedding day for May 13, 2004, and our families were happily preparing for the wedding. However, at 1:30 a.m., my mother and I were woken up by a loud sound at our door, and the police had already broken into our home. At the last moment, we escaped.

A few days later, I learned that national security agents had chased Jiangang's car and intercepted him on the same night around 11:00 p.m. He was kidnapped and detained at the Kuiwen District Detention Center. I also learned that the police took all the money that our parents had given us for our wedding, as well as Jiangang's van and two motorcycles. The only reason for his arrest is that he practices Falun Gong, follows the principle of Truthfulness-Compassion-Tolerance and strives to be a good person. Now, more than two weeks have passed since our planned wedding day. Our families have tried to get him released but the officials at the detention center will not let him go. Jiangang is still suffering from the persecution.

I had a happy family before. My parents were both police officers. My mother, Li Xiyun, used to suffer thirteen different diseases including heart disease, anemia, leukocytopenia, spinal hyperplasia, neurasthenia, etc. In 1993 she had a hysterectomy. Since my mother started to practice Falun Gong in 1996, her diseases were all gone.

However, after the persecution of Falun Gong, the authorities repeatedly forced my mother to give up practicing Falun Gong, and temporarily suspended my father from work for six months and ordered him to watch my mother. My mother and I have gone to Beijing twice to appeal for an end to the persecution of Falun Gong. For this, the authorities ransacked my home four times. The last time, they broke a window to get into the house and tried to take me away. My father stopped them.

However my father could no longer bear the pressure and divorced my mother with great sadness. Our happy family was destroyed by Jiang’s regime.

Five days before Chinese New Year in 2001, the authorities tried to kidnap my mother to the notorious brainwashing class in Weifang Industry Cadre School. To force us to give in, the authorities nailed our front door with a log, and sent 57 people to watch the back door. Chinese New Year came and there was not much food in the house. One kind neighbor brought us two plates of dumplings, but the guards chased her away. All the other families were united to celebrate the Chinese New Year, but we were locked up. That day, I cried. I had experienced dreariness and loneliness for the first time in my life.

After we were under house arrest for 17 days, the authorities called me and said, “Everything is OK now and you are free to come and go.” I believed him and went out to visit my father. However, when I stepped out of my father’s house, they abducted me. They then broke into our house and took away my mother. We were forced into the brainwashing class for over a month. However, after we were released they still harassed us regularly. To avoid further persecution, we left our home and became homeless.

Just at this time, I met Li Jiangang. We often studied Falun Gong books together and shared our experiences. We all do things according to the Falun Gong principle of Truthfulness-Compassion-Tolerance. Jiangang is an honest and kind person with a good sense of humor. He always considers others and cares about people around him unselfishly.

It is hard to image that Jiangang used to be a troubled young man and had caused a lot of heartache for his parents before he started practicing Falun Gong. He was never a good pupil in school. In youth, he was a ruffian, fought, drank, smoked and gambled all the time. At age 23, his brother-in-law wanted to help him to get out of trouble and let him manage a restaurant, but he lost 80,000 Yuan the first year and had a lot of debts. Nobody dared to ask him to repay the loans, however, because of his dreadful reputation.

When Jiangang was 26-years old, he read the book “Zhuan Falun,” and it changed his life. He quit fighting, drinking, smoking and gambling. He put in his full shift at work and then came home to read the books and do the exercises. Later, he paid back all of his debts. All creditors were surprised. Some said: “I didn’t expect to get the money back when I loaned it to you.” Some did not dare to accept the money at the beginning fearing subsequent retaliations. Jiangang explained to them, “I now practice Falun Gong and I am a totally different person. Teacher Li teaches me to be a good person based on the principle of Truthfulness-Compassion-Tolerance. I am here to sincerely pay back what I owe.” There were many stories like that, and those who know him all said that Falun Gong is really good.

Jiangang became an honest and kind person, and always helped others. When some people treated him badly, he always tolerated them and forgave them. Seeing his change, his family felt really happy.

After the persecution of Falun Gong started on July 20, 1999, Jiangang could not stand the evil rumors and slander of Falun Gong and made up his mind to go to Beijing to appeal. He went to Beijing many times, and each time, he was arrested, fined and beaten. Within a year, the police had detained him ten times, and they extorted 12,000 Yuan from him.

Under the severe persecution, he was forced to become homeless. During this time, some of his relatives suffered inhumane treatment as well. His aunt-in-law, Chen Zixiu, was beaten to death on February 21, 2000, because she refused to renounce Falun Gong. His cousin Zhang Xueling was sentenced to three-years of forced labor for exposing her mother's death. Jiangang's parents went to Beijing many times to appeal and had been detained several times. They were homeless for a long time. None of this persecution shook Jiangang's belief in Falun Gong because of his personal experiences, and he knew that being a good person based on Truthfulness-Compassion-Tolerance is definitely no crime. Falun Gong is a righteous cultivation. He was fortunate to find the most righteous way in the world and became an honest and responsible person from a troubled young man; how could anyone make him give up the truth and go back to the wrong way?

Not too long ago, Jiangang and I became engaged and we decided to have our wedding on May 13, the World Falun Gong day. I felt the warmth of a happy family once again. However, Jiang's regime broke up my family again.

During the days after Jiangang's arrest, his parents went to Weifang National Security Bureau to ask why they had kidnapped their son and looted the money, vans, motorcycles and other personal properties that we had prepared for the marriage. The scoundrels even had the nerve to ask for evidence or witnesses of their looting.

When his parents tried to track down his son's whereabouts and came to Kuiwen District Police Station, the police threatened to arrest them if they would press on.

What kind of world is this? Just because Li Jiangang practices Falun Gong and changed from a troubled young man to a good person that everyone praised, Jiang's regime wants to incriminate him. When his parents demanded their son back, they were even threatened of being arrested. Isn't this reversing black and white and putting good and evil upside down?

Jiangang has now been detained for 33 days in the Kuiwen District Detention Center. I heard that he went on a hunger strike to protest the illegal detention, and that he was force-fed. His current situation is unknown. All his family members and I are worried about his condition.

May 31, 2004



On February 18, 2003, the Intermediate People's Court in Jilin Province sentenced Ms. Deng Shiyong to seven years in prison for practicing Falun Gong. During the show trial, Ms. Deng wrote over the "Court Verdict": "Restore my teacher's reputation, immediately pronounce that I am innocent, and release me at once." She sent an appeal brief to the Chinese Court and was tortured to death only four months after being sent to the Jilin Province women's prison.

## “I Am Innocent”

Ms. Deng Shiyong was a practitioner from the Longtan District of Jilin City in Jilin Province. Before practicing Falun Gong, Ms. Deng suffered liver sclerosis, a slipped disk, a spinal injury, heart disease, Ménière’s disease, neurasthenia, and other illnesses. In 1996, she began practicing Falun Gong, and in just three months, she regained her health and vibrancy. Those who knew her remember her kindness, warmth, and courage.

On July 20, 1999, the Chinese government launched a brutal persecution against Falun Gong practitioners. One day in February 2000, because she studied Falun Gong books and shared her experiences of Falun Gong cultivation at a fellow practitioner’s home, the police arrested Ms. Deng. She was sentenced to one year of forced labor at the Heizuzi Women’s Labor Camp, which is notorious for its heinous torture of Falun Gong practitioners. The guards tried various torture methods to force Ms. Deng to renounce Falun Gong, but she never caved in. To stop her from doing Falun Gong exercises, the guards instigated the inmates to beat her and bang her head against a bed frame. However, as soon as the inmates stopped, she resumed her exercises. The inmates then dragged her to the bathroom, beat her savagely with rubber-coated steel rods, and told her that if she stopped doing the exercise, she would be let out of the bathroom. Ms. Deng then did the exercises in the bathroom. One inmate took a board and hit Ms. Deng on her face, but still could not break her will.

The guards deprived Ms. Deng of sleep for many nights in a row, and still forced her to do hard labor for eighteen hours during the day. They often shocked Ms. Deng with electric batons for extended periods of time. Her neck was covered with large blisters caused by the baton shocks. Once, the guards even tied Ms. Deng to a “death board,” a cruel torture device used only on death row criminals. Her limbs were stretched and locked to the four corners of a cold metal board. Since she could not move any part of her body, a painful muscular atrophy developed after a few days. Seven days on a death board can lead to death, but the guards left Ms. Deng on the death board for more than twelve days. Still, they could not coerce Ms. Deng to give in.

Ms. Deng not only firmly continued to practice Falun Gong, but also explained the nature of the practice to others so that they could understand that the persecution was wrong. In retaliation, the labor camp authorities punished her more severely. At the end of her original one-year term, they arbitrarily extended her sentence. When Ms. Deng went on a hunger strike to protest her prolonged detention, she was tortured and force-fed to the point that she vomited blood. In the end, the labor camp failed to “transform” Ms. Deng and released her after arbitrarily extending her sentence for an additional nine months and eight days.

After her release, Ms. Deng devoted herself to clarifying the truth to people. She re-

mained compassionate, modest, and willing to bear the burden of hard work, and she always thought of others. Both practitioners and non-practitioners who met her highly admired her conduct. She always had a smile on her face and strictly conducted herself according to the standard of a Falun Gong practitioner.

Ms. Deng was arrested again on September 15, 2002, when she was distributing truth clarification fliers. She was detained at the Yongji County Detention Center. On February 18, 2003, in a show trial, the Intermediate People’s Court in Jilin Province sentenced her to seven years in prison. During the show trial, Ms. Deng wrote over the “Court Verdict”: “Restore my teacher’s reputation, immediately pronounce that I am innocent, and release me at once.” Her righteous act startled the “court” and the show trial was aborted.

In March 2003, she was incarcerated in the Jilin Province Women’s Prison. The prison guards ordered eight inmates to torture her every day to force her to renounce Falun Gong, but she never did. Because of the torture, she became very weak and could hardly eat. The guards used this as an excuse to force-feed her. The torturous force-feeding caused severe physical damage; she became weaker and weaker, and vomited frequently. Her weight dropped to only 25-30 kg.

In May 2003, Ms. Deng’s relatives came to visit her, but the prison refused them. On the morning of July 18, 2003, however, the prison guards made multiple phone calls to her family asking them to visit. When her family arrived, they found her in a coma and close to death. They took her to a hospital for emergency treatment. The doctor informed them that her vital organs had suffered severe injuries and were not functioning; her gallbladder was destroyed, her cranial nerve had suffered from fibrosis, and her cerebellum had withered and calcified. The hospital was not able to save her. The following afternoon, Ms. Deng passed away, at age 42.

## *Deng Shiyong's Appeal Brief to the Chinese Court*

To the People in Charge of the Jilin City Intermediate People's Court and People's Procuratorate Court:

My name is Deng Shiyong. I am a Falun Gong practitioner. I was arrested on October 16, 2002, while distributing flyers to clarify the facts about the persecution of Falun Gong, and was sentenced to seven years in prison by the Yongji County People's Court. I refuse to accept, and hereby appeal against, this unlawful sentence. I only try to be a good person following the principle of "Truth-Benevolence-Forbearance." I have done nothing wrong, and I am not guilty of any crime.

### **Why I Distribute Flyers and Use Other Methods to Clarify the Facts**

I began to practice Falun Gong in 1996. At the time, I was seriously ill. I was suffering from liver sclerosis, a slipped disk, spinal hyperplasia, and serious heart problems. For over three years I could not even take care of myself. I could not lift up my head because of my spinal injury; I could not sit up because of the slipped disk; and my liver sclerosis had progressed to an advanced stage. To make things worse, I also suffered from Ménière's disease. As a result, I was in a tremendous pain every single minute, and couldn't sleep for days at a time. Eating or drinking water became very difficult. I do not know how much my family spent on my treatment, but nothing helped. The hospital eventually concluded that my diseases were terminal. My mind almost reached a breaking point after being forced to deal with both the physical and mental suffering for so long. My family became very disharmonious. My husband and I argued and fought with each other all the time.

Just when I felt I had reached the end of my road, a friend introduced me to Falun Gong. After only three months of practice, all my illnesses disappeared. When I went back to the hospital for a checkup, every test result was normal, and my doctors were all amazed at the miraculous recovery of my health. From then on I strived to follow the principle of Truth-Benevolence-Forbearance even more diligently. I became more open-minded and kindhearted, and my family became harmonious. Through the countless benefits I obtained through Falun Gong, I came to understand that one's real purpose in life is to return to one's true, original self.

Yet such a wonderful practice that teaches people to become the best they can be was

banned by the authorities on July 20, 1999. Such a highly virtuous teaching that brings countless benefits to society, but not a single harm, was branded a “cult.” To incite hatred so as to goad society into assisting with its persecution against Falun Gong, the authorities fabricated lies to slander Falun Gong. They staged the “self-immolation” incident; they blamed incidents of mental patients who killed their families or themselves to be the result of Falun Gong practice. The lies have become more and more sensational, and have deceived many people and poisoned the minds of countless kindhearted citizens.

We Falun Gong practitioners are innocent. Facing extreme injustice, we have exemplified great benevolence and forbearance. Our Teacher told us to clarify the truth, to help people to know the truth about Falun Gong, to know the truth of the persecution, to see through the authorities’ lies, and to eliminate their misgivings and hatred towards Falun Gong. With all the media monopolized by the authorities, we have no place to voice the truth, so we use flyers and other methods to clarify the facts to the precious Chinese people.

Think about it everyone. If the Chinese government had not persecuted Falun Gong and fabricated lies to poison people about Falun Gong, why would we need to clarify the facts to them? If it were not for this persecution, we would be at our homes taking care of our families and children. Wouldn’t that be good? We take the risk of being arrested, beaten, and having our families broken apart, to clarify the facts to the public, including you, to help them awaken from the lies. You also have families; you also have parents, siblings, spouses and children. Compared to you, what kind of life have we been leading? I sincerely hope that our benevolent action can wake you up, can help you see what is right and what is wrong. So I am telling you here: There is nothing wrong with being a good person and speaking the truth. It is definitely not a crime!

## **Falun Gong Is a Virtuous Teaching, Not an Evil Cult**

What is evil? Evil is against righteousness; it teaches people to do bad things, and leads people astray. We practitioners are good people following the principle of Truth-Benevolence-Forbearance; we do not fight back when we are hit and do not argue back when we are cursed; we consider others first in every situation. Where and what evilness can anyone find in that? Can human good and evil be arbitrated by the authorities? Isn’t that the same as turning things upside down just because a wicked person is in power?

Unfortunately, good people are now being arrested, detained, sent to forced labor camps, sent to prisons and tortured to death while those people who have committed real crimes such as embezzlement and corruption are allowed to go unpunished. Political power is placed higher than the law. People have become very discontented. So many people have been laid off and are unable to support their families. Yet Jiang Zemin had the audacity to say that right now is the period of time when China’s “human rights are at their best?” It is so ridiculous!

All these were because of Jiang's jealousy. He resented the fact that the number of people practicing Falun Gong exceeded the membership of the Chinese Communist Party. Isn't it the more good people there are the better? If Jiang has no ulterior motive, why is he so afraid of good people? The truth cannot be masked forever. History will show we practitioners are innocent.

## **The Spread of Falun Gong to More Than 60 Countries in the World**

Our Teacher began to teach Falun Dafa in 1992. Think about it; why did none of those sensational incidents the government used to incriminate Falun Gong, such as the “self-immolation” incident and those suicide cases, happen before July 20, 1999? Falun Gong is now practiced in more than 60 countries. Why has none of those incidents happened outside of China? Isn't it obvious that those sensational stories are pure fabrications? The government claimed that our Teacher spreads the practice to make money. But our Teacher's books are freely downloadable on the Internet in their entirety. People in more than 60 countries are practicing Falun Gong. Governments in various countries have issued more than 1,000 proclamations for our Teacher and Falun Dafa.

## **Punish the Real Criminals, Clear the Name of Falun Gong, and Uphold Justice**

Our Constitution guarantees the right of every citizen to hold his own personal beliefs as well as to address his grievances to the State Appeals Bureau. But we Falun Gong practitioners have been stripped of all these rights. In February 2002, I was illegally detained by the local police station for going to a fellow practitioner's home to study. I was charged with “disrupting the public order.” Because I refused to give up practicing Falun Gong, I was sentenced to one year in a forced labor camp. While being detained at the Heizui Forced Labor Camp in the city of Changchun I experienced inhumane treatment and cruel torture both physically and mentally. The police there hit me with electric batons on numerous occasions. When I held a hunger strike in protest, they force-fed me so violently that I vomited blood on three occasions. I was tied to a bed with my four limbs spread open and cuffed in that position for more than ten days straight. I wasn't allowed to sleep for days and nights as they attempted to “transform” me by force. I once asked the police and the inmates, “What do you want ‘transform’ us good people into?”

Here I'd like to ask a question to all you judges and prosecutors. Your power was given by the people. Your duty is to protect the innocent and punish the guilty, and to protect

kindhearted citizens. Millions upon millions of Falun Gong practitioners have courageously put aside their own safety to step forward and clarify the facts to the people. Witnessing such acts of immense benevolence, people of conscience and a sense of justice are giving us support and help. Why do you have to assist the evil? When you sentence Falun Gong practitioners to prison, aren't you collaborating with Jiang to commit crimes?

I hope you prosecutors and judges can make correct choices for yourselves. Don't lose hope for the eternity of your lives for the sake of just this small bit of immediate personal gain. Some people who work in the legal departments of the government and other organizations, as well as other kindhearted people, have started to help and protect Falun Gong practitioners. Remember the heavenly principle of “there are consequences for both good and bad deeds.” Remember that Falun Gong is good.

Here I formally demand that you clear the name of my Teacher, clear the name of Falun Gong, clear the name of Falun Gong practitioners, pronounce my innocence, and let me go home immediately. At the same time, I ask you to bring to trial Jiang Zemin, who has brought serious damage to the Chinese people and to people all over the world, and punish him for his crimes so that the righteousness and solemnity of the law in this world will be upheld.

Deng Shiyang  
January, 2003



Truth clarification messages, posters, and banners that Falun Gong practitioners in China have risked their lives to post.

Top left: A Falun Gong poster at the entrance to the Shengyang City Dadong District People's Procuratorate office.

Top right: Writing on the wall along railroad tracks. It reads: "Media, stop fabricating lies about Falun Dafa," "Falun Dafa is innocent," and "Truth-Benevolence-Forbearance is good."

Bottom left: People in a small village reading a Falun Gong poster.

Bottom right: Falun Gong banners in a park.



Liu Chengjun, 32 years old, was tortured to death for tapping into China's cable television networks to broadcast videos telling the public the truth about the persecution of Falun Gong. The broadcast was the first in the history of the Communist Party's tight control of the media.

# The Lightning that Struck the Darkness

## *A Truth-Bearer's Courage and Sacrifice*

On March 5, 2002, at around 8 p.m., eight channels of the local cable TV system in the city of Changchun simultaneously broadcast documentary films showing the spread of Falun Gong around the world, the Chinese government's violent persecution of Falun Gong, and the Chinese government's staged self-immolation in Tiananmen Square. The broadcast lasted more than fifty minutes. The shockwave spread quickly and far beyond Changchun. By the next day, people in other regions had begun to whisper to each other: "The self-immolation is a hoax!"

Embarrassed and enraged, Jiang Zemin set a time limit for Changchun police to "break the case" and ordered them to "kill without pardon" those practitioners who had participated in the "March 5 broadcast." In the following weeks, over 5,000 Falun Gong practitioners were arrested in Changchun, and at least a dozen were killed during the police interrogations. The police narrowed the list down to eighteen, targeting Mr. Liu Chengjun as a main organizer.

During the night of March 24, the police sealed off a residential area near Changchun. They identified Mr. Liu's cousin, and beat him savagely to force him to reveal Mr. Liu's whereabouts. He pointed to a large stack of corn stalks, and the police set the stack on fire, not considering the adjacent houses or the hundreds of onlookers around. The intense fire burned dozens of nearby trees. As the fire died down, the police did not find anyone, and proceeded to beat Mr. Liu's cousin more, eventually forcing him to identify the pile of twigs where Mr. Liu was hiding. The police set it on fire to force him out. As the wood burned away, the police saw that Mr. Liu remained indomitable in the fire. Afraid that they would be unable to get more information, the police pulled him out. At this point, he was badly burned, with little clothing left. The heartless police shackled him and beat him savagely with clubs. One policeman fired two shots into Mr. Liu's leg, yelling, "See if you can run now!" Another officer yelled, "Beat him to death!" All of this occurred with hundreds of locals watching.

No one knows what Mr. Liu suffered in the next week at the hands of police. On April 1, 2002, the government-controlled *China News Net* published a report on how the police had broken the case of the "March 5 broadcast." It was apparent from the photos that Mr. Liu was so weakened that he could not even sit up straight.

Mr. Liu's family was denied visitation or any information about him for the next six



Photos of Falun Gong practitioners arrested for participating the “March 5 Changchun broadcast” posted by government-controlled *China News Net* on April 1, 2002. Clockwise from top left: Liu Chengjun, Zhou Runjun, Liang Zhenxing, and Lei Ming . It was apparent from the photos that Mr. Liu was so weakened that he could not sit up straight.

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months, until September 18, 2002, when his father was notified to attend the “sentencing” of Falun Gong practitioners who had participated in the “March 5 broadcast.” Families of these practitioners all witnessed how the “court” administered “justice.” Even during the “court proceedings,” the police repeatedly took practitioners behind closed doors to torture them and force them to plead “guilty” to the authorities’ charges. The “judge” simply ignored the agonizing screams, and pretended nothing was happening. The scene was so horrifying that even a policeman fainted. Yet the evil terror failed to suppress practitioners’ righteousness. Time after time, after they were taken out of the torture chambers, they continued to defend Falun Gong and their righteous action of letting the public know of the truth.

Mr. Liu was particularly targeted, and was so wounded that the police had to carry him in and out of the courtroom. However, his spirit could not be bent, and he continued to present facts that exposed the authorities’ false charges and fabrications against him and Falun Gong. The “court” placed one policeman behind Mr. Liu, in addition to the two who held his arms, to choke him whenever he was asked a question so as to create an impression that he had no answer. The courageous Mr. Liu found an opportunity to tell the audience, “He

chokes me and does not allow me to speak.”

Mr. Liu was sentenced to nineteen years in jail during the show trial. Sadly, he did not serve out his term. By October 20, 2003, he was in critical condition. Only through two permitted visits did his family know glimpse of the torture he had suffered. He was once tied to a torture device called a “tiger bench” for fifty-two days; he had been tied to a “death board”; the police instigated inmates to beat him every day; and both of his legs were crippled.

He was already in a coma on October 21, 2003, when his sister, just released from a forced labor camp the day before, came to see him. When he came out of the coma and saw his sister crying, he recited a poem by Mr. Li Hongzhi:

“A Great Enlightened Being does not fear hardship  
Having forged an adamant will  
And with no attachment to living or dying  
He walks his path of Fa-rectification openly and nobly”

He then pointed to an inmate and said, “This man... took care of me... cleaned me... After I die, you must... be kind to him...” This was Liu Chengjun; even near the end of his own life, he was still thinking of others.

On October 28, 2003, the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and the Special Rapporteur on the Question of Torture sent a joint urgent appeal to the Chinese government concerning Mr. Liu Chengjun.

Despite the international pressure and Mr. Liu’s critical condition, the authorities rejected his family’s repeated requests for medical parole, and refused to grant them any more visits. At 10 p.m. on December 25, 2003, Mr. Liu’s family was told to go see him, but was given directions to a wrong hospital. That night, Mr. Liu passed away without a chance to say anything to his family. His body was covered with bruises and wounds, and his whole back was darkened. To conceal their brutality, the police forcibly cremated Mr. Liu’s body the next day, despite his family’s strong objection.

The liars and perpetrators of the brutal persecution took Mr. Liu Chengjun’s life. However, like the first thunder in the spring, the light of truth of the “March 5 Changchun broadcast” has forever struck the darkness. Many more broadcasts of truth have since blossomed all over China, carrying on Chengjun’s courage; thousands of Chengjuns have taken up the torch, continuing his heroism.

What kind of person was Chengjun? How was he able to step forward for the daring broadcast? Here we share with you excerpts from articles by Chengjun, his family, and fellow Falun Gong practitioners.

\* \* \* \* \*

# *Walking Out of the Labor Camp with Righteous Belief*

*By Liu Chengjun*

I am a Falun Gong practitioner. I have been incarcerated for nearly two years. On July 16, 2001, I was able to walk out of the Fenjin Forced Labor Camp. Here are some of my experiences of being persecuted as a Falun Gong practitioner.

\* \* \*

On July 23, 1999, I went to Beijing to appeal to the government and tell them the truth about Falun Gong. I was arrested three times while I was there. The first two times I was able to escape; the third time I was escorted back to my hometown and unlawfully detained for fifteen days. On September 28, 1999, I was arrested again. Thirty-eight days later I was sentenced to one year of forced labor without a trial and sent to the Fenjin Forced Labor Camp in Changchun City.

Police guards in the detention center and labor camp constantly carried on anti-Falun Gong brainwashing and tried to force Falun Gong practitioners to write pledges to renounce Falun Gong. I told them, "Appealing to the government is a citizen's basic right bestowed by the Chinese constitution. Yet the police take it as disrupting the social order and use this excuse to imprison large numbers of Falun Gong practitioners in forced labor camps. It is you law-enforcement officials who are breaking the law." The guards replied that there were special rules for Falun Gong practitioners. I said, "Falun Gong practitioners are members of the general public and are Chinese citizens. Why can't they have the same rights as other citizens? Those who really break the law on the Falun Gong issue are the so-called law enforcers at various levels of the government and the ultimate manipulator of the regime." I had numerous conversations with the guards during my one year of imprisonment. I often told them how great Falun Gong is, and how the state-controlled media have lied about Falun Gong.

In mid-July 2000, the police sent Falun Gong practitioners in several labor camps in Changchun City to Fenjin Forced Labor Camp for intensive brainwashing. In order to force Falun Gong practitioners to renounce Falun Gong, the guards inflicted even more furious persecution and torture.

Once the guards tried to force us to shout anti-Falun Gong slogans, which I refused. The guards came over and cursed me badly; a guard also punched and kicked me, saying, "How dare you not shout?" I replied, "I won't say those words. Had I agreed to say these words, I would have been released long ago and I would not even be imprisoned to begin with." We

stood there staring at each other; I could feel the righteousness filling my body. The guard turned around and said, “Who else refuses to shout the slogan?” Three practitioners stepped forward and stood next to me. Later the four of us were forced to stand for a long time as punishment while the others were allowed to sleep. I was also locked up in a small cell for seven days. Afterwards I was forced to sit on a board every day, from 5 a.m. to 3 a.m. I had to sit straight with my legs crossed. A single move would bring about furious beatings. More practitioners were punished this way as time went by. Every time they added another person, the physical pressure on everybody increased. When seven practitioners sat on the six-foot-long board continuously without a single movement or posture change allowed, it was approaching the limit of our endurance.

\* \* \*

In August 2000, the police locked steadfast practitioners in a room forcing them to sit on the board. It was about 95°F and both the door and windows were locked. The cell was like a bathroom, with water dripping down the door and window due to the heat. Sweat soaked our clothes and we had difficulty breathing. The guard watching us could not stand the heat and only stood in the hallway. As a result, lots of lice grew on our bodies and crawled all over us. Many of us also had scabies. Nevertheless, none of the twenty-eight practitioners gave in.

The guards also tortured us mentally. They tried to force us to read slanderous books, which we refused. They then ordered inmates to read and forced us to listen. One practitioner who refused to listen was handcuffed and shocked with three electric batons, two on his neck and one inside his mouth. His entire face was swollen after the shock. Later his face was covered by hard thick scabs and was beyond recognition.

From August 2000 to May 1, 2001, I was not allowed to see my family. My winter clothes were kindly provided by other inmates.

Falun Gong practitioners started to realize that we could not just passively endure the persecution. Later, the guards restricted our toilet usage to twice a day, which we successfully opposed collectively. From this, we realized our strength in being of one mind and gained more confidence. We gradually started to refuse and resist the persecution.

\* \* \*

On October 7, 2000, while sitting on the board, one practitioner moved a little, and the guard watching us beat him until his mouth bled. I could no longer sit and watch so I urged the guard to stop. He dragged me down from the board and threatened to beat me. Then the director of the labor camp stepped in. I spoke out, “Director, I want to tell you that the guards beat Falun Gong practitioners...” Before I could finish, he pointed to my nose and shouted, “Shut up! Sit down on the board!” I did not back down, and said, “I am telling you something yet you told me to shut up. I won’t shut up or sit down.” The other eleven

practitioners all stood up. The director shouted, “Drag him out! Drag him out!” The guards dragged me down to a small cell on the first floor. Later I heard that to protest the guards’ mistreatment of me, my fellow practitioners started a group hunger strike and refused to sit on the board.

During that period of time some practitioners had written pledges against their will, and their pledges were posted on the walls in the hallway. After learning that I was locked up in a small cell, they realized that what they had done was wrong. Some secretly took down their pledges, but there were still many posted on the wall. One morning, with a wave of his arm, practitioner Shao Weixin removed all the posted pledges. He was beaten and sent to the small cell. I asked him about the situation outside; he told me that the practitioners were all on a hunger strike. Those practitioners who had succumbed to the torture and renounced Falun Gong had all voided their pledges.

The evil was shocked, and used punitive force-feeding to torture the practitioners on a hunger strike. Shao Weixin had been on a hunger strike for nine days, and he looked very thin and tired. Watching him suffer, I could not hold my tears. Falun Gong practitioners are mostly well situated in society. Of the twenty-eight practitioners I mentioned above, there were over a dozen university graduates and three with Master’s degrees. They all had important jobs in society. Nevertheless, just because they practice Falun Gong with determination, those good people were suffering inhumane torture.

On the tenth day of being locked up in a small cell, the labor camp held an anti-Falun Gong conference. Many officials from various government levels attended the conference. Over one hundred guards holding electric batons and handcuffs encircled the Falun Gong practitioners. The atmosphere was very tense. I saw a slanderous slogan hanging on the podium, and determined that I was going to stop the evil conference from happening. Just as I was thinking how I could have more practitioners join me, Shao Weixin stood up and said, “I am not going to attend this conference.” Since he was so thin and his voice not very loud, I stood up and called out loudly, “I am not going to attend either!” The conference site became chaotic; the guards rushed towards us, they hit my face with handcuffs, and they punched, kicked, and shocked me with electric batons. Eventually I was cuffed and dragged outside. They then kicked my neck and shocked and poked my sensitive points with several electric batons and caused bleeding. I screamed agonizing screams as loudly as I could to tell practitioners in the conference that their fellow practitioner was being persecuted and please all stand up and step forward. The torture did not stop until my body was in uncontrollable convulsions. They also beat Shao Weixin. He did not utter a single sound during the torture. Wang Hui, another practitioner, courageously stepped out of the conference room during our beating. The three of us were separately locked in small cells. We were all hung up off the floor.

Eight guards came in and stripped off my clothes. They knocked me down to the floor and shocked me with several electric batons simultaneously. They shouted, “See if you practice! See if you practice!” I replied, “It’s such a great way of cultivation, how can I give it

up?” My voice was shaky due to the electric shock. Hearing this, the guards intensified the shocks as if they were out of their minds. Later I was unable to speak. After this torture, my heart would often palpitate irregularly. The other two practitioners were also shocked with electric batons to such an extent that they were beyond recognition.

At 8 a.m. the next morning, when the guards came to work, they found that Wang Hui and I were doing the meditation in the small cell. Enraged, more guards were summoned in and we were ruthlessly shocked with electric batons again, followed by being hung up in the small cell for two days and one night, with no food or drink. I was locked up in the small cell for over twenty days and tortured. My fingers were so badly injured that I could not grasp things. Nonetheless, the guards forced me to do heavy labor, and when I refused they beat me so badly that my face was covered with blood. They also shocked me with two electric batons, and as a result my heart palpitated again for many days.

\* \* \*

My initial forced labor term was one year, from September 28, 1999, to September 27, 2000. During this period of time, my term was extended again and again. The first time it was extended by three months, the second time by another three months. The labor camp still did not release me after the extended time was finished. I talked to the division chief, the section chief, and the bureau chief many times about it. The reply was that it was the order of higher authorities not to release me. I tried to reason with them and let them know that this was against the law. Knowing that they were in the wrong, they all tried to avoid me after that.

On July 16, 2001, I finally was able to walk out of the Fenjin Forced Labor Camp. That was family visiting day. At 9:30 a.m., two inmates escorted me to the reception room. I walked ahead of them. When I reached the reception room, I did not stop and continued to walk towards the gate of the labor camp. The passageways linking the front building to the back building were about 150 meters long. With my strong righteous thoughts, I was able to walk through the labyrinth-like passageways. I then passed seven iron gates and eventually I walked out of the labor camp.

In order to shirk responsibility, the labor camp delivered to my parents a “Notice of Release from Labor Reeducation” and told my parents not to tell others that I had escaped from the labor camp myself. Right now the local police are searching intensively to recapture me.

After I came out, I learned what had happened after I was isolated from other practitioners in October 2000. Practitioner Zhang Yuanming, one of the twenty-eight practitioners mentioned above, was tortured to death. The labor camp has tried hard to hide that fact.

August 7, 2001

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From top right: Liu Chengjun, younger sister Liu Lu, older sister Liu Lin, sister-in-law Shan Hua, and brother Liu Chenglin. From bottom right: Father and mother with their grandchildren.

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## *Remembering My Younger Brother, Liu Chengjun*

*By Liu Chengjun's sister, Ms. Liu Lin*

I remember back in 1997, when many Falun Gong practitioners studied one to three lectures of *Zhuan Falun* each day, Chengjun would finish the whole book each day. No matter how late he came back from work, he would study *Zhuan Falun* after he returned home, sometimes staying up the entire night. Many times I was inspired by him and tried to study with him, but fell asleep after midnight. He was always able to finish the entire book before going to bed. I had to admit with regret that I was not as good a cultivator as he was. He once told me, “The ancient Chinese people would tie their long hair to the roof beam or prick their thighs to stay awake to study. We are now studying the Great Law of the universe—why can’t we be as diligent? Are we Falun Gong practitioners less diligent than the ancient Chinese people?”

No matter how late he went to bed, Chengjun was never late for morning group practice. In the winter, a lot of elderly folks came to my mother's home, which has a spacious living room, to do the Falun Gong exercises. But my brother Chengjun would always brave the cold weather and go to the outdoor practice site. Chengjun was truly striving forward diligently in his cultivation of Falun Gong.

Because Chengjun studied the principles of Falun Gong diligently, he was able to conduct himself well. He once shared a story with me. His mother-in-law often wronged him, and sometimes even hit him. Once he felt that he could no longer endure her abuse, and was about to give in to anger. Just at that moment, he thought, "I am a Falun Gong practitioner. How can I lose my temper like ordinary people? Teacher has told us, 'When it's difficult to endure, you can endure it. When it's impossible to do, you can do it.'" He then sat down next to his mother-in-law and calmly said, "Mom, it's perfectly all right that you curse me and hit me to let off steam, but do not be so worked up that you may hurt yourself." His mother-in-law could not help but burst out laughing and stopped cursing him, but Chengjun burst into tears after returning to his room: "Teacher, I remembered your teachings." There were many similar situations where he conducted himself well, thus making solid advances on his path of cultivation according to the requirements of Falun Gong teachings.

On July 20, 1999, we went to the Jilin Provincial government in Changchun City, hoping to explain the truth about Falun Gong to the government officials, but we were met with the policemen's beatings and detention. Over a dozen policemen surrounded Chengjun and beat him, but he remained absolutely still like a mountain in the sitting meditation posture. Finally a dozen policemen carried him to a police car and detained him in the Changchun Police Academy. We escaped the same night and went off to Beijing, hoping the central government would hear us out, but the five of us were arrested and illegally detained for fifteen days.

In September 1999, Chengjun went to Beijing for the second time. For this, he was sentenced to one year in the Fenjin Forced Labor Camp. He suffered all kinds of torture in the labor camp. The authorities illegally extended his detention period to twenty-two months to force him to renounce Falun Gong, but Chengjun never caved in. He eventually escaped with righteous thoughts.

On October 1, 2001, Chengjun went to Beijing for the third time and went to Tiananmen Square alone. He unfurled a "Falun Dafa is wonderful" banner and called out from his heart, "Falun Dafa is wonderful!" He ran three circles around the huge Square while being pursued by a group of policemen, who eventually tackled him and brutally beat him before locking him up. Chengjun refused to give his name or cooperate with the police in any way. He started



Liu Chengjun's son.

a hunger and water strike to protest the illegal detention. The police then stripped off his clothes and handcuffed him naked to a bed in a public security bureau's hospital in Beijing. He could not move at all, but he thought, "I still have my tongue." So he kept clarifying the facts about Falun Gong and revealing the truth about the persecution of Falun Gong to the people around him.

The evil torturers tried many different ways to torture Chengjun. He battled the torture with his life every day. His face, nasal cavity, mouth, and throat were severely injured by the punitive force-feeding. Other areas of his body were even more terribly injured from the torture. Because of the injuries to his mouth and throat, he could not speak anymore, but kept thinking righteous thoughts. On the 22nd day of his hunger strike, Chengjun had become emaciated and was extremely weak, but the police still could not break his will, and could not even get his name. At this point, Chengjun felt he was at the end of his life. He called out to Teacher in his heart, "Teacher! Please rescue your disciple!" Then he heard magpies chirping outside the window. [In Chinese culture, a magpie symbolizes a messenger of good news.] Next, a prison doctor approached him and said, "As long as you drink a little bit of soup, we will release you. Otherwise, you won't even have any strength to walk out." Chengjun gathered up his courage and said, "As long as you release me, I will be able to walk out." He then drank a little soup. The guards clothed him, and released him unconditionally.

He struggled to a nearby train station, but was so weak that he could not continue. He sat down at a mineral water stand. He told the elderly woman at the water stand that he was a Falun Gong practitioner, and how he had had a close brush with death. The elderly woman cried and told him, "My child, you are wonderful. I am also a Falun Gong practitioner!" She then helped Chengjun to get on a train, and bought him food and drink. As the train started to move, they held each other's hands and cried.

On March 5, 2002, Liu Chengjun and other Falun Gong practitioners in Changchun broadcast the truth-clarification video programs on Changchun's cable TV. Their righteous action will be recorded in history forever.

On March 24, 2002, the police arrested Chengjun. After that, he was subjected to numerous cruel tortures. On October 21, 2003, Jilin Prison called and told me that Chengjun was in critical condition and asked us to go see him. I had just been released from the forced labor camp the previous day, but I hurried to Jilin City Central Hospital with my family to see Chengjun. After having suffered from countless atrocities, Chengjun was at death's door and barely breathing. He was as thin as a skeleton. His eyes were sunken. He had blurred vision and could not see things clearly. His heart and kidneys were failing. His throat was severely infected. His body was covered with wounds. He had difficulty speaking and could barely utter any sound. I held his hands and said, "Chengjun, your sister is here to help you. I will apply for a medical parole and take you home." He made an arduous effort to say, "Don't... be... attached... to... anything." I could not stop crying. Seeing me overcome with sadness, Chengjun shook my hands and struggled to open his eyes and said with tremendous difficulty,

“A Great Enlightened Being does not fear hardship  
Having forged an adamantine will  
And with no attachment to living or dying  
He walks his path of Fa-rectification openly and nobly”

Although he had difficulty speaking clearly, we all understood that he was reciting Teacher’s poem “Righteous Thoughts and Righteous Actions.” Next, he pointed at an inmate and said, “This man... took care of me... cleaned me. After I die, you must... be kind to him...” Everyone was deeply touched and burst into tears. The inmate’s eyes were filled with tears, and he said, “It’s nothing. It’s something I should do.” I kept holding Chengjun’s hands while looking at his withered yet determined face. I cried so hard that I could not say anything.

This was my baby brother. He was a great and determined life that Falun Gong has forged. Even at the end of his own life, he was still thinking of others.

Chengjun, we are so proud to have you as our family member and fellow Falun Gong practitioner. Your righteous thoughts and actions have inspired and reinforced our righteous thoughts and righteous actions, and we will do better on the remaining journey to clarify the truth!

\* \* \* \* \*

## *A Great Enlightened Life and His Glorious Path*

*In Memory of Liu Chengjun*

*By Jilin Practitioner Yi Yuan*

After the “March 5 Changchun Broadcast,” I was detained as the result of the large-scale arrest of Falun Gong practitioners by the police. While in custody at the Nong’an Center, I met someone from Changchun. He told me that he had watched the entire “March 5 Changchun Broadcast.” He was with friends at the time when the regular TV signal was switched to the Falun Gong broadcast. He switched to other channels, but the same program was on every channel. He sat down with friends to watch the program and also made phone calls to tell other friends to watch. After it was over they discussed it. Everyone felt that what the Falun Gong program showed was very reasonable. After sharing this with me, he asked me more questions about Falun Gong, and eventually thanked me for telling him the truth. I was moved and told him, “You shouldn’t thank me. You should thank those who broadcasted the program. In order for you to learn the truth, they might pay the price with their lives.” Then I told him Jiang Zemin’s order of “killing without pardon,” and my thoughts went to my good fellow practitioner Liu Chengjun.

The first time I met Chengjun, I noticed a scar on his forehead and asked him about it. He laughed in embarrassment and said it was from a fight. He was over six feet tall, and had a reputation for being a tough guy. Many people had brushed with him or heard about him, and were surprised to see how he changed after he began to practice Falun Gong.

In 1996, I studied Falun Gong books with Liu Chengjun. I remember we once shared our understanding of “forbearance” when he read a section in *Zhuan Falun*: “What is a ‘heart of great forbearance’? As a practitioner, the first thing you should be able to do is to not fight back when you are beaten or sworn at—you must be tolerant.” From the way he read, I could feel that he took it to his heart and was deeply moved.

On July 20, 1999, Liu Chengjun and many other practitioners went to Changchun to appeal to the government about the persecution of Falun Gong and were detained in the Changchun Police Academy. When the police attacked Falun Gong with lies, Chengjun was the first to step forward and said, “Stop slandering my Teacher.” The police immediately surrounded and beat him. In September 1999, he went to Beijing to appeal and was sentenced to one year in the Fenjin Forced Labor Camp. He gave a thorough account of that experience in his article *Walking out of the Labor Camp with Dignity after twenty-two Months of Illegal Detention*.

After Chengjun walked out the labor camp, he went to Songyuan City to head up a “truth-clarifying material” printing site. There was only one old printer that no one was able to fix. Chengjun didn’t know much about printers, but he disassembled it, studied it, and eventually fixed it. That printer really behaved in his hands, for he put his heart in it. There was also a small mimeograph machine. With these two pieces of old equipment, he and another practitioner were able to produce up to 128,000 copies of truth-clarifying flyers in one day. A practitioner from Changchun once asked me, “How many copies do we use now?” I told him we use fewer than before, only about 20,000. He said it was quite a lot compared to several thousand in other places. I told him it had been lot more when Chengjun was here. He smiled with admiration, “He is different.” Chengjun seemed to have special power from his diligent cultivation. His state of cultivation made him capable of solving problems in a shorter time than others.

Once, the police destroyed a printing site in a city and the practitioners there couldn’t get truth-clarifying materials for a long time. Liu Chengjun and another practitioner worked for a whole day and printed out 128,000 copies of flyers, all double-sided. Anyone who has ever done printing in such an environment knows what this number means.

At the end of November, the police broke up our printing site in Songyuan and arrested many practitioners. Despite the great danger, Chengjun coordinated the reestablishment of the printing site. It’s not that he wasn’t afraid, but in his heart, nothing was as important as letting people know the truth and know right from wrong.

One day in December 2001, Chengjun told us that he would be leaving for Changchun. He did not tell me the reason, but somehow I knew.

On March 6, 2002, a practitioner told me about the success of the broadcast the day

before, and I asked about Chengjun, but he didn't say anything. A few days later, Chengjun visited me and told me his sister had been arrested. The police tortured her severely in order to get information about him. He left in a hurry. That was the last time I saw him.

On March 24, 2002, Liu Chengjun was arrested.

On December 26, 2003, I learned from a practitioner that Chengjun had died at 4:30 that morning. I don't remember how I walked out of the room. It was raining; I knew that was heaven crying. I tried hard to hold my tears, but I heard the sobbing from my heart. I told the sad news to every practitioner I met. They all shed tears, but I held mine back. The next morning when I was sitting in meditation, I couldn't hold it any longer and let my tears run down.

The "March 5 Changchun broadcast" was like thunder in the spring, awakening the conscience in millions of hearts. Heroes like Liu Chengjun, with their flesh bodies and diamond-like will, established a glorious monument in history.



The Shenyang City Detention Center, where the author of this article met with thirty-four Falun Gong practitioners.

# Thirty-Four Falun Gong Practitioners I Came to Know

I used to be a person with no spiritual beliefs, but this changed after spending time incarcerated. On April 22, 2001, I was sentenced to eight months in jail for illegally holding someone in my custody, and I was detained in the Shenyang City Detention Center.

While in the detention center, I met Falun Gong practitioners for the first time in my life. They were: Ms. Wang Yaping, Ms. Wu Yuhua, Ms. Wang Juan, and one other. They were all very kind. Under the unbearable conditions, the practitioners truly remained “Truth-Be-nevolence-Forbearance,” and they left me with a deep and lasting impression. A week later, most of them were transferred to Longshan Labor Camp, and only Wang Juan remained.

On May 7, another practitioner, Ms. Bai Xiujuan, was put in our cell. When the head of our cell forcibly stripped off her clothes, we saw bruises and cuts all over her body. That night I talked to her and learned that she had suffered four days of torture before she came to Shenyang City Detention Center. Six policemen, all at once, shocked her with electric batons. They removed her clothes, hung her up by handcuffs, and savagely beat her. They shocked her breasts and vagina with the high-voltage batons and insulted her with shameless and dirty words. I could see that every part of her body was injured by the beatings; even her eye lids were bruised. I was stunned by what I heard and what I saw. I felt sad for those policemen, but I felt sadder for our country. Meanwhile, I admired the strong-willed Falun Gong practitioners. They gave up everything they had for their belief in Falun Gong. For speaking out about the persecution, they courageously risked their lives. I saw the nobility of Falun Gong in Ms. Bai. I believed everything she said. Ms. Bai was the fifth Falun Gong practitioner that I had met while in the detention center.

On May 27, the police sent in three more practitioners: Ms. Yin Liping, Ms. Zou Guirong, and Ms. Zhou Yanbo. They had been on a hunger strike for ten days already. I learned that because they refused to give up Falun Gong, they had been incarcerated and tortured in six different detention centers and labor camps, including the notorious Masanjia Labor Camp and Zhangshi Labor Camp. The guards in labor camps even locked them up with male criminals and let those male criminals abuse them. These policemen were barbarous and inhuman beyond my comprehension. From then I understood these Falun Gong practitioners were different from us. They were able to defend their conviction with their lives; they were willing to sacrifice everything for the truth. Their courage and dedication really touched some of the common prisoners there, and I began to help take care of them.

On June 4, an older woman, Ms. Ma, was sent in. She was also a practitioner. I noticed that all practitioners treated each other like a family, all very sincere and considerate. A few

days later, all four of them were taken away. By June 14, Ms. Yin and Ms. Zou were sent back, with wounds all over their bodies. Ms. Yin was beaten to the point of losing control of her urine, and her waist was severely injured. I saw once more the heinous crimes that the police committed against Falun Gong practitioners.

A few days later, Ms. Zhao Shuhuan, Ms. Li Jiazhen, Ms. Wang Jie, and Ms. Lu Guoqin were put in our cell, and Ms. Zhou Yanbo was also sent back. There were a total of seven practitioners there. On June 22, the guard gathered us common prisoners together, ordered us to monitor and prohibit the practitioners from doing the Falun Gong exercises, and to inform the guards if anyone did them. I sought out Ms. Yin and asked her why they insisted on doing the exercises. Ms. Yin told me, “I have suffered numerous beatings and torture. The guards did not give me any treatment for my wounds, nor even a single tablet of medicine. It was the Falun Gong exercises that helped me recover time after time. Tell me, can I not do the exercises, can I not be a Falun Gong practitioner?” I saw the wondrousness of Falun Gong from their resilient bodies and spirits. Falun Gong indeed is supernatural. I therefore remained acquiescent when they did their exercises.

Other prisoners were not as cooperative. They often assaulted practitioners when they did exercise. Ms. Zou was hit so hard over the head that she lapsed into a coma. The guards did not punish the attackers, but locked the practitioners up in solitary confinement.

Because of her head injury, Ms. Zou was in serious condition and lapsed in and out of consciousness. To escape their responsibilities, the guards tried to trick Ms. Zou into writing, “I died from practicing Falun Gong.” When Ms. Zou refused, four guards beat her viciously. At this point, all seven practitioners protested together with a hunger strike. I once again saw their steely will and cohesiveness. They did not eat any food, nor did they drink water.

Their strike went on for twenty-one days. The guards began to force-feed them. All seven resisted. They resisted the persecution with their lives. From the practitioners’ actions I saw the power and righteousness of Falun Gong. I now hold Falun Gong disciples and their teacher in a most respected place in my heart. In the end, on August 10, they prevailed. The guards had to release them from the detention center. They persevered through the most arduous of circumstances. They truly attained the freedom that ought to belong to them.

Their protest benefited the rest of us also. Our condition and treatment from the guards also improved, at least temporarily.

On August 24 seven other practitioners were sent in, including Ms. Zhou Yumei, Ms. Su Yu, Ms. Huang Xin, Ms. Li Yuan, and others. They all came with severe injuries from the inhumane police torture. The guards again ordered us common prisoners to further abuse the practitioners. However, the practitioners always treated our viciousness with compassion, told us the higher principles of being noble people, and dispelled much of our life-long confusion about the purpose of living. They were the second group of practitioners that I met in jail. Like the previous group, they went on a hunger strike and were released three weeks later.

The third group of practitioners that had I met included Ms. Ren Shuojie, Ms. Wu Yanping, and Ms. Ma Lianxiao. They were sent in on November 14 with wounds all over their bodies. At that time, they had been on a hunger strike for eight days already. Practitioners Ms. Jin Qian, Ms. Zhang Yaping and others joined the hunger strike. They were all released on December 3.

From these three groups of Falun Gong practitioners, I gradually came to see the truth and power of Falun Gong, and I began to practice Falun Gong myself.

On December 23, 2001, another practitioner, Ms. Liu Xiangdang came. I was with her for eight days. In those eight days, she told me many things that I did not understand about Falun Gong, and many higher principles that I had never known.

At that point, I had been in jail for seven months, but I felt I was so lucky, and I felt it was the worthiest seven months in my life. In those seven months, I had known and interacted with thirty-one Falun Gong practitioners. Through these courageous people I understood everything I needed to know. I felt my incarceration was a blessing in disguise, the greatest blessing one could ever get, because I learned the truth and had the fortune to become a Falun Gong practitioner.

Afterwards, I met three more practitioners: Ms. Wen Jun, Ms. Wang Xibin, and Ms. Xu Min. They were transferred from another detention center where they had been detained and tortured for over a year. However, their hearts had not been moved, not even a little bit.

In the last month of my detention, I was transferred to a different location. Before I was transferred, the guards warned me not to mention anything I had experienced there. I knew exactly what they were afraid of: they were afraid that I would tell the truth. From what I had witnessed, Falun Gong practitioners only insist on their right to be good people. Why did the police treat them with such hatred and brutality? I could testify from the actions of Falun Gong practitioners that they are good for any society and are of no harm to anyone. If only half of our citizens could practice Falun Gong, we would not even need the police, because everyone would be on their best behavior, and everyone would consider others first. And then look at you yourselves, aren't you police ashamed of your persecution of Falun Gong practitioners?

Those are the thirty-four Falun Gong practitioners that I met while in Shenyang City Detention Center. Through them, I learned the truth; through them, I began to practice Falun Gong. Through the practice, I experienced the physical and mental benefits of Falun Gong. Nothing will be able to take away my belief in Falun Gong, a belief gained through personal experience and enlightenment.

Proudly,

A Falun Gong practitioner  
who obtained Falun Gong in jail  
February 16, 2002

# “610 Office” Director Chooses His Conscience

Mr. Yang Liwen was a group leader and deputy director of the Beihu District’s Justice Inspection Bureau in Chenzhou City, Hunan Province. In July 1999, he was assigned to be the director of the Chenzhou City “610 Office.”

Any “sensible” person in China at that time would understand what a great opportunity this position offered. The “610 Office” system is Jiang Zemin’s personal power system. With Jiang Zemin’s paramount power, the “610 Office” track is an expressway to higher positions. It is also more lucrative than comparable positions, with better salaries and benefits. It even offers extracurricular opportunities. As the “610 Office” system has been building “Falun Gong education and transformation” bases, the business and financial opportunities are just there for the taking.

If one chooses to cooperate, that is.

Mr. Yang chose to follow his conscience instead of these temptations. Through his interaction with Falun Gong practitioners, through his own experience working within the “610 Office,” it became clear to him who was right and who was wrong. He had the courage to act on his conscience. Given that he had to act clandestinely, we do not know everything he did. However, from what little we do know, not only did he refuse to persecute Falun Gong practitioners, and instead protected them within his purview, but he also wrote letters to the authorities to appeal for an end of the persecution. For these actions, on November 5, 2002, agents of the Ministry of National Security, China’s secret police, arrested him. On November 3, 2003, he was sentenced to one and a half years in prison. No further news has been heard about him since.

We do not know the exact number of people like Mr. Yang, the Schindlerian heroes who have chosen their conscience and protected Falun Gong practitioners, but we do know it is not a small number. Their choice and action should inspire the rest of us to make the right choice.

At this time, we do not have all the letters and articles that Mr. Yang wrote to appeal to the Chinese authorities. We are honored to publish one article he did send overseas.

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## *A Letter from a “610 Office” Director*

I am a staff member in the “610 Office.” My conscience and sense of justice led me to write an article entitled “*The Awakening of a Staff Member in a “610 Office.”*” Once awakened, I now find myself at a crossroads and have to make a choice: that is, should I leave the “610 Office,” a place filled with evil? If I stay, I certainly will not be able to follow and execute the orders from above, since I have my own conscience and sense of justice. But then, what do I do? And where does my duty lie? If I leave, my colleagues would not have anyone to tell them about the truth of Falun Gong. It was I who told them what Falun Gong really is. It was I who passed to them the teachings of Mr. Li Hongzhi. It was I who gave them informational materials from overseas, explaining the truth about Falun Gong and the persecution.

It seems that soon Jiang’s regime will put up one last-ditch struggle, and the “610 Office” system will surely be their main “hatchet team.” The orders from higher levels made it clear that the “610 Office” system will be given even greater extrajudicial powers. The “Falun Gong education and transformation bases” will be built into a system across the country, on a scale second only to the forced labor camp system, and with judicial and administrative power similar to the prison system. A “610 Office” will have the power to detain any Falun Gong practitioner at any time for any reason, or even for no reason at all. The Ministry of Finance of the central government has already been paying staff members of the “610 Office” system at levels equivalent to high-ranking police officers. A deputy director of a “610 Office” also holds the position of deputy director of the Public Security Bureau or deputy director of the Department of Propaganda.

Today is the inauguration day of the People’s Republic of China’s first supreme justices. I want to ask these supreme justices: If there is an appeal from an illegally detained Falun Gong practitioner, will you dare to accept and hear the case? You are supposed to symbolize justice! On the contrary, Falun Gong practitioners, following the teachings of Mr. Li, are still giving others opportunities, even to those working in the “610 Office” system, to know the truth and wake up. How benevolent is that! Most of the staff of “610 Offices” were appointed after 2001. They do not know what Falun Gong truly is. They have not read any Falun Gong books. They simply await notices from above, and carry out their orders without knowing what they are doing. How pitiful they are! Yet I am different. I have been in the “610 Office” since it was created, and I know the whole process and development. My conscience and sense of justice led me to interact and communicate with Falun Gong practitioners, although I am not a practitioner. My sensibility and sincerity also made my colleagues willing to listen to my words, and accept Falun Gong information that I passed on to them.

I am not a Falun Gong practitioner. I am just a Chinese citizen who has a conscience and a sense of righteousness, a civil servant who worries about China’s future, and who wants to

be responsible for the future of our descendants. Our nation is at a crucial juncture, a face-off between Truth-Benevolence-Forbearance and Jiang regime’s lies, evil, and violence; just as an internal government fax stated: “This is a war without the smoke of gunpowder.”

Why does the regime waste so much taxpayers’ money to persecute Falun Gong? Some leaders even claim “Falun Gong must be eradicated even at the expense of ten years of economic growth,” and “If funds become short in handling the Falun Gong issue, just stop a few freeway constructions.” As someone who works in a “610 Office” I know better than anyone that the greatest fear of these dictators is “sunlight,” the exposure of their hidden agenda. What Falun Gong promotes is truth – telling the truth and being a truthful person. The inevitable result, then, is the complete exposure of what is truly going on. How many government officials nowadays speak of truth? How many of them dare to speak the truth? Most of them speak falsehood, insincerity, and hypocrisy day in and day out, wittingly or unwittingly. They live behind facemasks, knowing that the people they live around are wearing facemasks too. Without the most basic honesty and trust, even families are turned into battlegrounds, and friends become back-stabbers. This is what dictators need; a nation with no conscience is easy to rule, is easy to take rights away from, and is easy to rip off. The teaching and practice of being truthful, therefore, will be fatal to dictators. That is why they will do everything to persecute Falun Gong, even at the risk of damaging the future of our nation.

Darkness will not last long, and the light of Truth-Benevolence-Forbearance will soon shine over our motherland. That is why I wrote in my article “*The Awakening of a Staff Member in a “610 Office”*”: “Falun Gong is the pride of Chinese people, the hope of China, and a blessing to the world.” Napoleon once said about China: “There lies a sleeping giant. Let him sleep, for when he wakes he will move the world.” Indeed, Truth-Benevolence-Forbearance is awakening the conscience of China.

To that end, I choose to remain in this dark “610 Office,” to help the courageous Falun Gong practitioners to the best of my ability. I will, with my sincerity and courage, continue to clarify the facts to my colleagues, to wake up their conscience and sense of justice, and to let them see for themselves what they are really doing.

For sure, I will not obey or execute any evil orders. For my undying conscience and sense of justice, for the future of my nation, for humanity, and for the day when Truth-Benevolence-Forbearance will illuminate the world, I will not obey. Even if I am dismissed from my “job,” even if I am arrested and punished for “misconduct,” I will not regret my pledge!

March 21, 2002,  
The Inauguration Day of First Supreme Justices of the People’s Republic of China  
(Name withheld at that time)





In the Longshan Forced Labor Camp, Ms. Gao Rongrong was beaten, punched, kicked, and shocked with three electric baton because she refused to slander Falun Gong. When she proclaimed that, “Falun Gong is good,” she was slapped on the head and lost her hearing. She was cuffed to a heating pipe and shocked with three electric batons continuously for seven hours, burning her face to a crisp.

# Faith or Face

The two photos show the same woman, Ms. Gao Rongrong, before and after she was shocked by two policemen with three electric batons for seven hours.

Seven hours! What kind of contempt for humanity could lead to that kind of viciousness? The two policemen had not even met Ms. Gao before she was sent to the Longshan Labor Camp. Yet the hate-inciting lies and promises of impunity from the Chinese government have driven policemen like those two to degenerate from men to carry out heinous acts that no man is capable of doing.



Ms. Gao Rongrong

Seven hours! It hurts even to think how Ms. Gao endured every excruciating second. If the most barbaric torture could not change her belief, the truth that she believes in must be so very powerful that it is unshakable and unbreakable.

All the perpetrators responsible for the disfigurement are at large right now. However, when Ms. Gao escaped police surveillance on October 15, 2004, the Chinese authorities issued orders to bring her in. Who is the victim? Who are the criminals? Where is justice?

What does it say, then, about our humanity when such crimes are allowed to go on for five years in China while the myth of the Chinese dictatorship moving towards rule of law is continuously propagated and accepted?

Taking great risks, Ms. Gao has written and sent out a letter of appeal. We ask our readers, while reading her testimony, to send a thought for her and for those who are helping her to stop the wicked policemen from ever getting close to them.

\* \* \* \* \*

## *Ms. Gao Rongrong's Testimony*

My name is Gao Rongrong. I was born on February 1, 1968. I worked in the Financial Section of the Luxun College of Fine Art.

By chance, in 1996, I read a book called *Zhuan Falun*. From the book, I understood the true meaning of life. From then on, I followed the principle of Truth-Benevolence-Forbearance to be a good person, a person with a higher moral standard. I also loved to teach the Falun Gong exercises to others. Seeing so many people benefit from Falun Gong cultivation, I felt happy.

Since the Chinese government launched the brutal persecution against Falun Gong, I have suffered continuous persecution. I was repeatedly arrested and jailed, suspended from work, sent to forced labor camps, and severely tortured. I once even gave in to the coercion and had the painful experience of what it was like to live without life's true meaning. After much confusion and struggle, my remaining conscience slowly made me realize that I could never live without Truth-Benevolence-Forbearance. I was determined, at the end of June 2003, to start from the beginning to practice Falun Gong.

Just because of this, I was persecuted again. Since I refused to betray my conscience, the evildoers subjected me to unimaginable torture, and even devastated me by disfiguring my face.

Below is the persecution I have suffered since June 2003. From my case, I hope people see the illegitimacy and evil nature of this persecution.

On June 20, 2003, someone reported me to the authorities of the college. The next morning, I was abducted and sent to the local police station, where they cuffed me to the heating pipe. That evening, I was sent to the Shenyang City Detention Center.

On the morning of June 23, 2003, I tried to tell the people at the detention center the truth of Falun Gong and the facts of the persecution. Four guards dragged me out to the hallway, cuffed my hands behind my back, and shocked me with four electric batons. One guard shocked my mouth while the other violently kicked me until my whole body turned black and blue. They then shackled me to a metal ring on the floor and handcuffed me with very tight handcuffs. The cuffs cut into my wrists and I bled profusely. Inmates in the room were horrified by the sight.

In late June 2003, I went on a hunger strike to protest the illegal detention. The guards forced a tube through my nose into my stomach and force-fed me, temporarily suffocating me. After they pulled out the feeding tube, my head hurt as if it was going to split. I immediately vomited and had diarrhea.

On July 8, 2003, the Heping District Police Station in Shenyang City illegally sentenced me to three years of forced labor. When I was escorted out of the detention center on that same day, I reminded the inmates "Falun Gong is good." A guard slapped my face with a

fly-swatter dozens of times until the swatter broke.

## Torture at Longshan Labor Camp in Shenyang City

### 1. Beating, forced squatting for four days and four nights, brainwashing, and slave labor

On July 8, 2003, I was sent to Longshan Labor Camp in Shenyang City. The guards there resorted to various methods of torture and brainwashing in an attempt to make me give up my belief. The first day I was there, Tang Yubao, the deputy head of Division 2, punched my face twice. My face immediately became swollen and I could not hear anything with one ear for many days.

I was then forced to squat around the clock for four days. The tendons and muscles in my legs and feet hurt terribly for two months afterwards. In that position I was forced to press my chest against my legs for an extended period of time; I felt as if my back and stomach were on fire and my internal organs were injured. Despite my condition, Tang Yubao slapped my face.

I was forced to work for more than a dozen hours a day and my health got worse and worse. My chest, back, neck, and shoulders hurt terribly and my hands and arms were injured from the work. My eyes were very tired and I didn't have the strength to wash my clothes. Around Chinese New Year 2004, I was nauseous and my liver and stomach hurt. My heart palpitated if I walked quickly; I was extremely weak and emaciated. However, Wang Jinghui, head of Division 2 insisted that I was fine and that it was all in my head.

### 2. I was shocked with electric batons for half an hour and my face was fried

On March 22, 2004, the authorities of Longshan Labor Camp held a meeting to slander Falun Gong, and I refused to attend. Tang Yubao pulled me from the upper bunk, grabbed my neck, and hit and kicked me while dragging me to the front of the meeting hall, then three guards pinned me to a chair. One fellow practitioner tried to stop them and Tang Yubao hit her in the eye. As a result the area around her eye turned black and blue.



The front gate of the Longshan Forced Labor Camp. In addition to Ms. Gao Rongrong, a large number of Falun Gong practitioners have suffered barbaric torture in the camp. At least two practitioners, Ms. Wang Hong and Ms. Wang Xiuyuan, were tortured to death behind this gate.

After the meeting, Tang Yubao told two guards, Wang Jichang and Zeng Xiaoping, to take me to the Administration Division. Tang Yubao entered the room, beat me, kicked me, and shocked me with electric batons. Many guards from the Administration Division, Division 1, and Division 2 were present, and they didn't try to stop Tang Yubao. They all left when I asked to see the head of the labor camp.

Tang Yubao cuffed me to a heating pipe and kept shocking my face, head, neck, hands, feet, back, and other parts of my body with electric batons, which caused great pain. He pressed a lighted cigarette against the back of my hand. The scar from that is visible to this day.

Tang Yubao violently elbowed my back and I felt excruciating pain inside my chest. Since then I haven't been able to straighten my back when walking. An X-ray taken later revealed that my spine was bent.

About half an hour later, Tang Yubao left and told Wang Jichang to watch me.

The head of the labor camp, Li Fengshi, came in. He first tried to persuade me to "transform", and after I refused, he clenched his fists and said, "What is dictatorship machinery set up for? What are handcuffs and electric batons used for? I just don't believe we can't fix you, Gao Rongrong, you little..."

When Wang Jichang took me to the dining room, many inmates and practitioners there were frightened. My face was covered with patches of dead black skin from being shocked by the electric baton earlier. The scars on my face were still clearly visible on April 19 when my family came to visit me, so the perpetrators didn't allow them to see me.

3. I was deprived of sleep for more than ten days; I was subjected to brainwashing, physical torture, and beating by inmates

Despite the fact that my body was severely injured, on March 23, Liang Zhen, the deputy head of Division 2, ordered inmate Shi Jing to carry me to the workshop. Two days later, I was sent to Division 1, where I was not allowed to sleep for half a month. The mental and physical tortures further stressed my body and I began to run a prolonged low fever.

On April 26, 2004, in the workshop on the fourth floor, inmate Bi Shuhua hit my chest and back and clutched my neck. Tang Yubao encouraged Bi Shuhua, and said, "That's right! That's how you do it!" Tang Yubao criticized inmate Shi Jing, who didn't beat me: "You are only eating and not working!" "You have to take charge! If they don't obey you, beat their brains out!"

## Seven Hours of Electric Baton Torture Disfigured My Face

In early May 2004, I obtained a copy of Teacher Li's new article, but Bi Shuhua, who was sent to watch me, took it away. In the evening, I was called to the division head's office. Group head Jiang Zhaohua and team leader Wang Jichang asked me from where I had gotten the article. I didn't answer them. Jiang Zhaohua shocked my mouth several times and threatened, "You'll speak up if we go somewhere else." They tortured me for two hours but I still refused to answer them.

Around 10 a.m. on May 7, 2004, I was called to the office of the division head on the second floor. Jiang Zhaohua slapped me and shocked my face and hands with two electric batons. Wang Jichang cuffed me to a heating pipe.

Around at 3 p.m., I was called back to the same office. Tang Yubao asked, "Where did you get the scriptures? I've left you alone for a while; now we'll see if you can survive today!"

They used one pair of handcuffs to cuff my hands behind my back and another pair to cuff my hands to the heating pipe. I could only sit on the floor. They charged the batteries of four electric batons to full capacity. Tang Yubao shocked me with two batons and Jiang Zhaohua sat on a chair and shocked me with one baton.

They asked as they were shocking me, "Where was the article from? We'll let you go if you tell us." I bit my lips. Tang Yubao said, "I'll have to kill you today!" "I'll fix you even if I lose my job! I have more than enough time to take care of you!"

As they were shocking me, Tang Yubao fiercely kicked my thighs and calves and stomped on my feet with the heel of his boots, which left bruises on my body. Jiang Zhaohua left at 4 p.m. and Tang Yubao continued to shock me until past 9 p.m.

I suffered in terror and tremendous pain during those seven hours.

Tang Yubao kept shocking my face, ears, and neck with two electric batons. He shocked the same body part repeatedly for a very long time. My body convulsed and hit against the heating pipe. The scars on my wrists resulting from the handcuffs are still visible even now, and my arms were numb for more than two months afterwards. My eyes were dry and my eyebrows fell off after Tang Yubao shocked my eye sockets, and numerous layers of skin were shed around my ears and mouth.

During this period, Yue Jun, the head of Division 1, came and asked to borrow electric batons from Tang Yubao. Tang said, "No way! I don't even have enough myself!" Teng Jiliang, the guard on duty, found my parents' pictures, put them on the office table, and viciously said, "We'll let your parents watch!" Guard Zeng Xiaoping came in and held a small mirror in front of my face. He said I could only blame myself for the disfiguration.

My face, ears, neck, back, ankles, and other parts of my body were repeatedly shocked

with high-voltage electric batons, and the skin blistered and turned black. My face swelled up by about two inches and was severely deformed. My eyes could open only a crack, and beads of yellow fluid continuously seeped from my face. My hair stuck to my face and ears, and the blisters on my neck were the size of my thumb. I felt like dying when he shocked the wounded parts of my body.

In the evening, Fang Jinkai, the labor camp head on duty, a guard from the Administration Division, and Zhang Xiaoqiu, head of the Hygiene Division, all saw me being tortured and disfigured but none of them tried to stop Tang Yubao. Tang Yubao smugly said: “They have seen me doing this, and I don’t care if I’m doing the wrong thing! I am the perpetrator!”

In the evening, an inmate had a sudden heart attack and Tang Yubao was called to deal with the situation. Only then did he put down the batons. After he left, I asked Teng Jiliang to let me visit the restroom. I saw a fellow practitioner and two inmates at the restroom, and they were stunned. One person asked, “Who is this?” Another said, “Is that Gao Rongrong? That’s horrible!”

When I came out of the restroom, Teng Jiliang took me back to the office.

Standing in the sanguinary office, I kept seeing the terrifying faces of the barbaric guard and hearing the threats “We’ll fix you until you are dead.” I could not imagine what kind of tortures would be waiting for me into the long night. I looked at the door and saw Teng Jiliang on guard, and I knew that Tang Yubao could come through that door any time. I saw electric batons and handcuffs in the room, and only the window behind me was not so menacing. I could not wait for death, and I jumped out of the second-floor window. My left femur fractured; my pelvis fractured in two places, and the bone in my right heel splintered.

That day, five practitioners in Division 2 were beaten and shocked with electric batons. Practitioner Jin Kegui, in her 50s, had it even worse. The perpetrators struck her face after it was burnt with electric batons until her face was completely destroyed. Because the practitioners are not allowed contact with the outside, no one, including their families, knows about their suffering.

## **Longshan Labor Camp Cover up Crimes at the Police Hospital**

1. I was sent to a military hospital at midnight

At around 10 p.m. on May 7, guards at the Longshan Labor Camp carried me out of the labor camp through a side door to avoid other practitioners seeing me while they were returning from slave labor. They sent me to the General Military Hospital of Shenyang City at around midnight.

I was in critical condition, with the diastolic blood pressure at 40. The nurse immediately inserted a catheter into my urethra, started IV infusions, and took pictures of me. The doctor was scared of my charred black face and asked what had happened; I told him it was the result of being shocked with electric batons. The guards from Longshan Labor Camp mumbled, “We should have worn civilian clothing instead of our police uniforms.”

2. I was transferred to a police hospital the next morning; perpetrators from the city judicial bureau came on the next day

At around 2 a.m. on May 8, I was transferred to a police hospital. On May 9, Liu Bo and Shi Yingjun (female), division heads from the Shenyang City Judicial Bureau, came. They refused to tell me when I asked what government agency they were from.

In the days that followed, Liu Bo, Shi Yingjun, Li Fengshi, head of Longshan Labor Camp, Wang Xuetao, head of Administration Division, Li Shengyuan, Wang Jinghui, head of Division 2, and others took turns coming to the hospital.

3. They didn’t notify my family and fabricated records; they forced me to undergo surgery

Li Fengshi, Wang Xuetao, Wang Jinghui, and Li Shengyuan tried to extort a confession from me, with Li Shengyuan being the recorder. They lied and told me they would confront Tang Yubao and notify my family.

I realized they were trying to fabricate a record to cover up for their crime. I described the whole incident while Li Shengyuan took notes on a sheet of paper. When they asked me to sign the document, I saw that they hadn’t written down anything I said, and they especially excluded Tang Yubao’s words and actions when torturing me. I refused to sign it.

I repeatedly requested that they notify my family. They ridiculed and sneered at me. Guard Wang Chunmei said, “How come you didn’t think about notifying your family when you jumped?”

Li Fengshi said, “When you jumped out the window, were you trying to get away, to die, or to catch a bird?”

When I asked Li Fengshi to have pictures taken of my face, he said, “There’s no need for that. Didn’t the doctor see it already?”

They pressured me to undergo surgery and said the best treatment term is fourteen days. I knew they were trying to cover up their crimes so they could continue to persecute me. Wang Jinghui tried to sign my name for me on the consent form for the operation. Only when I told her, “You’ll be violating the law if you sign my name,” did she give up.

4. Catheter blocked; I could not urinate for twenty-one hours

I was in great pain while lying in the hospital bed. The guards from the Longshan Labor Camp didn't allow me any food on the first day and didn't care about my condition.

Once, when Zhao Yingjie, a guard from Division 1, was watching me, she didn't notice it when my IV bottle was empty. On May 11, when Ma Zaiming, a guard from Division 2, was on duty, she tied up my catheter and forgot to untie it, and I could not urinate for twenty-one hours. Blood appeared in my urine following excruciating pain, and I contracted glomerulonephritis.

#### 5. My family learned about my disfigurement by accident

On May 14, my family heard that Falun Gong practitioner Wang Xiuyuan had been tortured to death at Longshan Labor Camp, and they were worried about me. When they went to the labor camp and inquired about me, they didn't know my face had been disfigured the week before.

At the labor camp, Wang Jinghui and Tang Yubao said to my family, "she is injured," but they denied any use of torture and they refused to tell my family where I was being held. Only when my family threatened to sue them did Wang Jinghui lead a group of guards and my family to the police hospital.

My family burst into tears when they saw my wretched state, and they confronted the guards. Wang Jinghui forbade my family to cry. How evil and heartless.

#### 6. Labor Camp authorities spread lies to cover up their crimes

On the day following my transfer to the police hospital, the maid asked what had happened to my face, and guard Wang Hongling said, "She fell." Guard Wang Xuetao told my colleagues the same lie. My family confronted Wang Xuetao and asked why he had lied, and he said, "That's what was written in the official report by the Longshan Labor Camp to Shenyang City Judicial Bureau." When asked who had written the lie, he said, "The whole leadership group decided on it."

### **The Longshan Labor Camp and the Shenyang City Judicial Bureau Further Persecute My Family and Me**

With persistent efforts from my family, I was transferred to the No. 1 Hospital of China Medical University on May 18. I was in poor health during the hospitalization and was on the brink of death.

#### 1. I was weak and had to rely on IV infusions

Because I had been suffering from long-term low fever, my body was very weak. My liver and stomach hurt; I was nauseous and could not eat. I was very thin and was injected with drugs for the heart and nutrition. I often had to rely on an oxygen mask and was monitored on a machine. I was often receiving IV infusions for a whole day. The backs of my hands were covered in needle marks and my blood vessels had hardened, which made it very painful to receive infusions. Because I had glomerulonephritis, my catheter was not removed until one month later.

## 2. Ruthless behavior of the Guards from the Longshan Labor Camp

When I was first sent to No. 1 Hospital of China Medical University, I was often pushed on a stretcher into the examination room to be checked. Patients and their families surrounded me and asked, “What happened to your face?” When my family told them about the electric shocks at the labor camp, the guards from the labor camp brusquely cut them off and threatened to arrest them. Once, in an elevator, someone asked my family about my condition, and when my family told him about the torture, Bi Yinhong from the Administration Division of the labor camp tried to beat my sister.

The guards tried to drive the people away, but they refused to leave. The furious guards screamed, “So what? So we’ve shocked her!” Guards Sun Zhizhong and Wang Chunmei shouted in the hallway, “So, we’ve shocked her with electric batons; that’s the way we’ll kill her!”

One day at noon in late September, Su Zhizhong, a guard in his 30s from Division 3, got drunk and slept on the couch in my ward. He untied his pants and was extremely unsightly. My mother went to female guard Zhao Yingjie, and she called Su Zhizhong outside. Su Zhizhong cursed in the hallway with really foul language and tried to beat my 73-year-old mother. Other guards stopped Su Zhizhong. He pounded on my door until people came out of all the wards on the floor. He cursed and went wild for more than two hours while holding up his own pants.

## 3. Unreasonable restrictions placed on my family

When there were phone calls to the hospital asking to talk to my family members, police from the Longshan Labor Camp never allowed them to answer. Neither did they allow my family members to use mobile phones in the ward. In addition, they scrutinized all the things my family brought in.

They permitted only my mother and two elder sisters to come take care of me, and refused all other relatives’ involvement. After about five months, my mother and two sisters were all physically and mentally exhausted.

The labor camp police took detailed records of my condition, as well as my family’s words and acts. Once, a doctor from the Neurology Department came to do an examination.

Wang Chunmei from the labor camp started to take notes. The doctor just asked my family members a few questions, before noticing Wang's acts, so she asked, "Do you record my words too?" Wang replied, "Yes." The doctor said right away, "I am unable to deal with this patient's case; you may find another doctor." She was repulsed and left.

#### 4. Police from the Longshan Labor Camp intended to destroy the evidence of their crime

The Longshan Labor Camp and the Shenyang Judiciary Bureau often sent people to harass me. They either tried to force me to have the operation or they observed my conditions. They all paid much attention to the injuries on my face, hoping that the evidence of their persecution would disappear as soon as possible.

One day, my family members found that all the X-ray films of my physical examination were gone. While my family members were anxiously searching, policeman Wang Chunmei did not say a word. In fact, the police from the Longshan Labor Camp had hidden those films in their drawer, where my family found them later on.

#### 5. Life in critical condition

In August 2004, under enormous mental torment and physical pain, my life was in danger. Starting on August 9, I had difficulty taking in any food and had started to urinate blood. I was reduced to a skeleton. Later on I could not take food or drink, my eyes could not focus, the eye sockets caved in, and I could not sleep at all. One night, I was particularly agitated and uneasy. I lost consciousness from time to time, and the rest of the time I was in a trance. I felt my life was exhausted and coming to an end. My family was extremely worried, as they feared that I might leave them forever.

The doctor issued several "Critical Condition Notices," urging my family to be prepared. The nurse in charge told my family to watch my chest attentively all night long and immediately report to the doctor if my breathing stopped.

My family told the Shenyang Judiciary Bureau about my condition and requested my release, but they refused.

#### 6. Started to recover

Fortunately, after a close brush with death, I tenaciously survived. One week before I managed to escape from the hospital, I was gradually able to eat something and had stopped the intravenous feeding. I was, however, a bag of bones, weighing less than 70 pounds. I was not able to sit up. My arms would shake if I raised them up and I had to relieve myself in bed. I would be out of breath when talking and was still running a low fever. I was unable to move my severely swollen left leg, which the doctor said was broken.

## **Due to Obstruction from the City's Political and Judiciary Committee and the "610 Office," My Family's Appeal Was Ignored**

After the overseas media exposed how the labor camp had disfigured my face, people with a sense of justice inside and outside China all paid close attention. Nevertheless, the corresponding judicial and legal departments have never issued any words of justice on my case.

1. The Judiciary Bureau covered up for the Longshan Labor Camp; my family appealed to the city Procuratorate and the Procuratorate examined my injuries

My family appealed to the Shenyang City Judiciary Bureau, the responsible higher authority of the Longshan Labor Camp, with the following request: a) examine my injuries; b) investigate criminal Tang Yubao's responsibility and bring him to justice; c) relieve me from the illegal forced labor sentence and compensate me for the losses caused by the injuries.

The Shenyang City Judiciary Bureau made a pretense that they were investigating this; however, in five months they have not made any verifying investigation of me or of my condition.

In view of the fact that the Shenyang City Judiciary Bureau was protecting the Longshan Labor Camp, my family members appealed to the Shenyang City Procuratorate.

On July 1, 2004, four officers from Shenyang City Procuratorate and the Shenyang Suburb Procuratorate came to the hospital to conduct a verifying investigation according to my family members' appeal. They made a written record and took pictures of me.

On July 8, the Shenyang City Procuratorate asked a legal medical expert from Liaoning Province Procuratorate to come examine my injuries and take pictures. Those officers were shocked to see my disfigured face.

2. The city Political and Judiciary Committee and the "610 Office" established a "special case team," which the Procuratorate had no right to question

Supposedly, the injury examination result should have come out within a couple of weeks, and then there should have been a corresponding conclusion of the case; however, as time went by, nothing happened. When my family inquired, the responsible person at the Shenyang City Procuratorate said that the Shenyang City CCP Committee and the Political and Judiciary Committee has organized a "special case team," and the Procuratorate no longer had the right to investigate the case.

Two months later, the Liaoning Province Procuratorate informed my family that my case was now in the hands of the "special case team," and the provincial government no longer held the result of the injury examination. They also told us that it was no use to appeal, as

the case was under the direct administration of the Central Government's "610 Office."

3. Members from the "special case team" constantly visited the ward and officials in charge of the Political and Judiciary Committee tore off the scab from my face

When the city Procuratorate came to investigate on July 1, members of the "special case team," Wang Hui and Liu Ge, also came in to hear the information.

While they were taking notes, I mentioned that that day there were a total of five Falun Gong practitioners being shocked with electric batons. They did not make any note of this. In fact, they showed no interest in the illegal conduct of the police in the Longshan Labor Camp. Instead, they asked me, "Where were the photos taken? [*I.e., the photos published by overseas media showing Ms. Gao's disfigured face*] Who took them? You should trust the Party and not have any psychological burden."

I replied, "No matter who took the photos, it was a legal act. So I don't have any burden. You think too much." He said hastily, "Yes it is legal, but photos are of no use. You are the evidence yourself." Later he said to himself in a low voice, "Weren't there guards? How could the photos have been taken?"

Around 2 p.m. on July 2, Liu Ge and Wang Hui accompanied a middle-aged person with the last name Li from the Political and Judiciary Committee to the hospital ward. Li asked me whether my facial injuries hurt. Then he pressed here and there on the scabs on my face and quickly peeled off one of the scabs. The torn-off piece did not fall off because it stuck to the gauze textile fiber tied to the scab. When my family members stopped them, they quickly left.

4. The appeal was cancelled. The criminals got off scot-free.

My family members continued to appeal to the Provincial government. The head of the Inspection Division of the Liaoning Province Procuratorate appeared to be enthusiastic at the beginning, saying: "We will punish whoever broke the law." He said they would hold a meeting that afternoon, and told us that they had made many copies of the picture of the injuries on my face. They would study it and there would be a result in two months.

The next time we went to ask him, he started to dodge, and we got the afore-mentioned answer: The case was turned over to the "special case team." The results of the examination of the wounds were not available in the provincial government, and there would be no use to appeal because it was handled directly by the "Central 610 Office."

I suffered such severe persecution, yet the relevant law enforcement branches did not have a fair say, and the judicial process was hindered and unable to carry on.

To date, the criminal police officers who directly persecuted me, Tang Yubao, Jiang Zhaohua, Li Fengshi, and Wang Jinghui, have gotten off scot-free. Zhang Xiansheng, deputy

director of the Shenyang City Judiciary Bureau, told my family in August 2004: “So far, we have not discovered that the Longshan Labor Camp committed any wrongdoing to Gao Rongrong.”

\* \* \* \* \*

My bitter experience is only the tip of the iceberg of the facts of thousands of Falun Gong practitioners being persecuted. More persecution facts are still covered up and are not known to the people. Torture and killings happen every second in the evil labor camps, prisons, detention centers, brainwashing centers, and mental hospitals.

From the beginning of the persecution, Jiang’s regime has never treated Falun Gong practitioners lawfully. On the contrary, Falun Gong practitioners are deprived of many legitimate rights that are guaranteed by the constitution and laws. They lost their freedoms of appeal, belief and speech and their human rights. More than one thousand people were tortured to death, and countless others were imprisoned, tortured, and mentally devastated.

This atrocity brought huge damage to Falun Gong practitioners and their families and cannot be expressed by language. The persecution against Truth-Benevolence-Forbearance is the most brutal trampling of humans’ benevolent nature and is a devastation of world justice and legal sanctity. Every human being with a conscience remaining has the responsibility to speak out for the everlasting existence of justice and morality in the world.

I sincerely ask all just organizations and individuals throughout the world to pay attention to the persecution of Falun Gong happening in China, help stop the torture and killing, bring the criminals who persecuted Falun Gong to justice, and restore justice to the world.



# **Torture Methods Used on Falun Gong Practitioners**

The pictures in this section are of torture methods actually used against Falun Gong practitioners in Chinese prisons, labor camps, detention centers, police stations, mental hospitals, and even some secret locations. Although some are reenactments, many of these pictures were taken right after the practitioners escaped from police detention. The faces of some practitioners were masked to protect their safety. Other practitioners insisted that their pictures be shown as they are.

Due to space limitations, only a small selection of the pictures is shown. The practitioners who produced these photos and sent them out of China did so at great risk to themselves. The authorities in China accuse those who expose the facts about the persecution of "revealing state secrets. They are then arrested, tortured using many of the same methods shown here, and even killed.

## 1. Forced to Stand for a Long Time

The practitioner is forced to stand still, facing a wall, all day long. This punishment is often combined with the deprivation of food, water, sleep, and use of the toilet. This abuse usually lasts several days. Convicted prisoners are often instigated to watch over the practitioners. If practitioners cannot hold still they are severely beaten with fists, shocked with electric batons, kicked, or slapped in the face. To prevent them from talking, their mouths are sealed with tape. This torture has a number of variations, including:

**1.1 Half-Standing:** The practitioner is placed between two sets of bunk beds and handcuffed with one hand to the upper bunk of one bed and the other hand to the lower bunk of the other bed. The practitioner is forced to lean over to one side and cannot stand up straight (Figure 1).



Figure 1

**1.2 Standing in the "Army Corps" Posture:** The practitioner is forced to stand under the scorching sun. The feet are planted on the fiery ground, sometimes without shoes or socks. Besides the agony of standing for a long time, the practitioner suffers severe sunburn.



Figure 2

**1.3 Gecko Crawling on the Wall:** The practitioner must stand on one leg while facing the wall and lifting the other leg. The upper body is held against the wall, as are the two arms, which must slant to the side, causing an imbalance of the body. However, the upper body must always be kept straight (Figure 2).



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5

## 2. Forced to Sit for a Long Time

The practitioner is forced to sit still for a long time, often for many days. This punishment is often combined with the deprivation of food, water, sleep, and use of the toilet. This torture can result in poor blood circulation to the lower limbs, necrosis in the buttocks, and nerve damage from the waist down (Figure 6). There are several variations of this torture, including:

**2.1 Body Folding while Sitting:** The practitioner is forced to sit on the floor with both legs straight, and with the hands either holding the toes or tied behind the back. To increase the pain, a guard sits on the practitioner's back (Figures 4 and 5).



Figure 8

**2.2 Board Sitting:** The practitioner is forced to sit on rough wooden boards. In a variation, the practitioner must sit on a small stool (Figure 7).



Figure 6

**2.3 Sitting with Legs Straight:** The practitioner is forced to sit on the floor with both legs straight. Sometimes the perpetrator will stand on the practitioner's knees. This torture will injure the person's knees (Figure 8).



Figure 9



Figure 10

## 3. Forced to Squat for a Long Time

The practitioner is forced to squat and remain still for a long time, often for many days. This punishment is often combined with the deprivation of food, water, sleep, and use of the toilet. This torture can result in poor blood circulation to the lower limbs, muscle spasms, and nerve damage (Figures 9 and 11). There are several variations of this torture, including:

**3.1 Bent Immobile at a Corner of the Wall:** The practitioner is made to squat bent with the head in front of the legs until the head touches the ground, and the upper back is pressed against the wall in a corner (Figure 10).



Figure 7



Figure 11



Figure 12



Figure 16



Figure 17



Figure 18

**3.2 Squatting with Heels up:** The practitioner is forced to squat over nails sticking out of the floor under one's heels, and must keep the heels raised to avoid the nails (Figure 13).

## 4. Riding an Airplane

This was an infamous torture in China during the Cultural Revolution, and is widely used today against Falun Gong practitioners. The practitioner's head is bent down while the hands are pulled up and stretched outwards to both sides of the body (like the wings of an airplane). The practitioner is forced to stay still in this position for a long time. Sometimes glasses filled with water are placed in the practitioner's hands. This punishment is often combined with the deprivation of food, water, sleep, and use of the toilet (Figures 12-15).

**4.1 Backing up an Airplane:** The practitioner must bend over while holding the legs straight. Then, with the feet close together, the arms are lifted as high as possible (Figures 12 and 14).

## 5. Forced to Run for a Long Time

The practitioner is forced to run non-stop for over ten hours, or else suffer a harsh beating.

## 6. Forced to Stay in Extreme Weather

**6.1** The practitioner is forced to stay outside in the biting cold overnight, and must stand in or lie down in the snow or on ice. Countless Falun Gong practitioners have suffered this torture, including the elderly. Some are even stripped naked in the winter and dunked in a water tank before going out into the cold. In a variation of this torture, the practitioner is stripped naked and tied to a bed in winter with all of the windows open. A fan is used under the bed to make it colder (Figures 16 and 19).

**6.2 Sitting in Ice-Cold Water:** In China, the bathroom is seldom heated. The practitioner is tied to a chair in the bathroom. While sitting in the cold, ice-water is poured around him to intensify his suffering (Figure 17).

## 7. Deprivation of Basic Physiological Needs

The police have exploited any and every basic physiological need or sense to torture Falun Gong practitioners. Practitioners have suffered deprivation of sleep, food, water, use of the toilet, sanitary napkins, and shower. They are prevented from changing clothes; prohibited to speak or make eye contact; bombarded with deafening high-pitched sounds, subjected to intense light shone into their eyes; and exposed to high-volume tapes, CDs, or TV programs slandering Falun Gong. Anyone who does not obey is viciously beaten (Figure 19).

## 8. Pouring Boiling or Icy Water Over the Head

This is a common punishment for practitioners to receive in jail. It not only causes physical suffering, but is used to humiliate the practitioner as well. It is considered a "routine" torture (Figure 18).



Figure 13



Figure 14



Figure 15



Figure 19

## 9. Handcuffs and Shackles



Figure 20



Figure 21



Figure 22



Figure 23

To the Chinese police, handcuffs and shackles are not merely devices of mobility restraint; they are also torture equipment. Some of them are very tight and cut into wrists and ankles, some are self-tightening, some have spikes, and so on. Usually, the practitioner remains in such a contorted position and is so immobilized that he must depend on others to help him eat, go to the toilet, and change clothes. As the muscles and tendons are stretched to the limit, sleep is nearly impossible. No matter how tired the practitioner is, after he falls asleep, the pain wakes him up (Figures 20 and 24).

Following are several variations of tortures that use handcuffs and shackles.

**9.1 Handcuffed Behind the Back:** The practitioner handcuffed in this way cannot use the bathroom, eat, or sleep (Figure 21).

**9.2 Hell Cuff:** This is a device intended for murderers or death-row inmates. Pliers-shaped clasps dig into the practitioner's wrists and ankles. A practitioner wearing a "hell cuff" cannot stand, squat, move, or sleep.

**9.3 The Foot Shackle Combined with Handcuffs:** One of a practitioner's hands is handcuffed to the other hand between the legs. The shackle weighs over 20 pounds. The practitioner cannot go to sleep, walk, stand, use the bathroom, or eat a meal, and instead must walk in a half-squatting and bowing position. Sometimes the shackles have heavy metal weights added to them. Police often torture practitioners this way for weeks (Figures 22 and 25).

**9.4 Death Twist:** This torture tool is made from abandoned handcuffs wrapped with cloth so that they are not flexible. The practitioner's hands are locked together and immobilized and soon become completely numb (Figure 26).

**9.5 Suspending Like a Swing:** The practitioner's hands and feet are cuffed. Then the practitioner's cuffed hands are hung from the headboard of a bed and the cuffed feet are hung from the footboard. The practitioner is suspended like a swing while the cuffs cut into the wrists and ankles, making them bleed (Figure 23).

**9.6 Running in Chains:** Several practitioners are handcuffed and shackled together and forced to run non-stop.



Figure 24



Figure 25



Figure 26

## 10. Solitary Confinement

Solitary confinement, widely condemned around the world, is among the cruelest tortures. In China, the police have used forms of torture that go beyond the usual solitary confinement against Falun Gong practitioners. Following are only a few examples:

**10.1 Locked in Small Cell:** A small cell is a room of less than three square meters. It has no window, no bed, no water, and no toilet. The practitioner is locked in a small cell for months, having to eat, sleep, and excrete in the same small area. Since the height of the room is less than 1.5 meters, the practitioner cannot stand straight. To exacerbate the agony, the guards often handcuff the practitioners to the small cell door so that the pain prevents them from being able to sleep.

**10.2 Locked in an Iron Cage:** The height of the cage is less than the practitioner's height. The width and length are calculated so that the person can neither stand straight nor lie down. The practitioner is often handcuffed to the rail and cannot sleep. Many Falun Gong practitioners have been locked up this way for as long as 120 days. They are mentally and physically tortured (Figure 27).



Figure 27



Figure 28



Figure 29



Figure 31



Figure 32



Figure 33



Figure 36

**10.3 Tied to a Death Board:** This variation of solitary confinement was originally conceived for and used on death row criminals. The practitioner is tied to an iron or wooden board for weeks with four limbs stretched out and locked, and cannot move at all. Women are even kept tied to the board while menstruating. The practitioner is tied down at all times, having to be fed by someone else, but sleeping and excreting are all done on the board; for this reason the practitioner is often stripped naked. The practitioner suffers not only from solitary confinement, but also from the excruciating pain of feeling his whole body atrophying. Many practitioners have lost their lives from this torture (Figure 28).

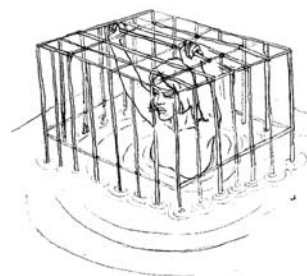


Figure 30

**10.4 Leaning against a Big Board:** This is a variation of the “death board” torture. The practitioner is forced to lie down on a bed made of a wooden board without any padding for many days at a time with feet and hands fixed to the bed (Figure 29).

**10.5 Water Dungeon:** This is a deadly solitary confinement. The practitioner is stripped naked, locked in an iron cage with spikes on all sides, and lowered into a pit of filthy water until the water reaches the practitioner’s neck. The practitioner cannot lean to any side because of the spikes, and cannot squat down because of the water. Many practitioners have suffered this torture and some have died (Figure 30).

## 11. Cuffed and Hung Up

Being hung up by handcuffs, in its most simple form, causes excruciating pain. Chinese police have added many cruel variations to this torture. Most jailed Falun Gong practitioners have suffered this in one form or another. The following are just a few examples:

**11.1 Hung up from Behind:** With both hands tied or cuffed behind the back, the practitioner is hung up by the arms or the handcuffs, with both feet off of the floor, or just touching the floor. Both hands and arms soon lose feeling and go numb from lack of blood circulation. Countless Falun Gong practitioners have suffered from this brutal torture. Some have even been hung up for several days (Figures 31 and 32).

**11.2 Hanging in a Cage:** A practitioner’s hands are twisted behind his back and handcuffed. The police then pull the hands over the head and hang him up in the air until the feet are off the ground (Figure 34).



Figure 34

**11.3 Big Hang:** A practitioner is hung upside-down by the feet. This is a deadly torture, and some Falun Gong practitioners have died from this.

**11.4 Half-Flying:** The practitioner’s hands are shackled to an upper bunk bed. Then one foot is hung up so the other foot barely touches the ground. Practitioners have been forced to endure this painful position for as long as 15 days (Figure 33).



Figure 35

## 12. Tiger Bench

A practitioner is tied on a narrow wooden or iron bench by the thighs and knees, with hands tied behind the back or tied to the foot of the bench. Increasing the number of boards or bricks inserted under his feet creates excruciating pain. The police often use this device to immobilize Falun Gong practitioners to force-feed them (Figure 36).

### 13. Live Hemp Torture

Hemp is a perennial plant. Its stems and leaves are covered with fine hairs and sharp, poisonous thorns. After contact with hemp, the skin immediately becomes inflamed, extremely itchy, and painful. Police use fresh hemp stalks to slap Falun Gong practitioners' faces, or they strip practitioners naked and throw them onto a pile of hemp.



Figure 37



Figure 38



Figure 39



Figure 45

### 14. Electric Batons

This is by far the most common torture used by the police against Falun Gong practitioners. Practitioners have been shocked with as many as a dozen batons at a time, with voltages as high as 30,000 volts, often for several hours. Countless practitioners have suffered flesh burns, some having ears, hands, or feet charred from the electric shocks.

The police shock the most sensitive areas such as the arches of practitioners' feet, the palms, belly, neck, armpit, face, eyes, nipples, and penises. The police have also forced these batons into practitioners' mouths or vaginas to shock them (Figure 37 and 38).

Many Falun Gong practitioners have died from electric baton shocks. The practitioner may be shocked while tied to an iron chair. With the arms stretched as far as possible, the practitioner may be constrained by specially made shackles fastened to the floor (Figure 39) or the practitioner may be shocked with many electric batons simultaneously (Figures 40 and 41).



Figure 40



Figure 41



Figure 42



Figure 43



Figure 44

### 15. Beating the Buttocks

Literally, this torture is called "passing the board." The practitioner is forced to the ground and beaten viciously with a board, club, or baton, dozens or hundreds of times. This often causes the buttocks to become black and blue (Figures 42-44).

### 16. Force-Feeding

This is the number one cause of deaths of Falun Gong practitioners. Almost every Falun Gong practitioner who has gone on a hunger strike in detention has suffered from force-feeding. Even those not on hunger strikes have been tortured by this method (Figures 45-49).

The purpose of police force-feeding is never to nourish, but rather to punish practitioners and to cause so much pain that they will renounce Falun Gong. To that end, the police have used many different means to cause excruciating pain and injury, including:

**16.1 Inserting and Withdrawing the Feeding Tubes Repeatedly:** The police usually insert a tube through the practitioner's nose to force-feed him. Often, even when the tube is already inserted, the police pull it out again and re-insert it. This can be repeated many times. Many practitioners have died from the tube piercing through their lungs.



Figure 46



Figure 47



Figure 50



Figure 51



Figure 52

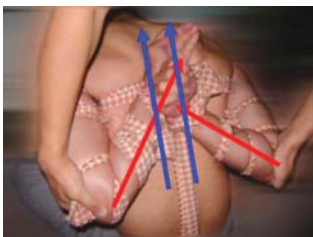


Figure 53

**16.2 Leaving the Feeding Tubes in the Stomach:** This is another way to cause pain. Practitioners tortured this way are usually handcuffed so that they are unable to remove the tube.

**16.3 Knocking out Teeth to Force-Feed:** To force practitioners to open their mouths, the police resort to violent methods, including using pliers and crowbars, knocking out practitioners' teeth, tearing apart their lips, or even boring holes in their cheeks.

**16.4 Force-Feeding Saturated Salt Water:** This causes intense pain in the gut. Many practitioners have died from the resulting dehydration.

**16.5 Force-Feeding Vinegar/Straight Alcohol:** Several Falun Gong practitioners have died from this.

**16.6 Force-Feeding Hot Pepper Oil/Mustard Oil/Boiling Water:** These cause burns and intense pain in the esophagus, stomach, and intestines.

**16.7 Force-Feeding Urine/Feces**



Figure 48



Figure 49

## 17. Bamboo Sticks

The police hammer sharp bamboo sticks into the fingers of the practitioners through the tips of the fingernails. In the process of the hammering, the fingernails are torn off completely. The police first hammer the bamboo stick into one finger. If the practitioner still refuses to yield, the police will hammer bamboo sticks into successive fingers until they mutilate all 10 fingers.

**17.1** In a variation of this torture, called **"Pressing the Fingers with Sticks,"** guards place hard objects (wooden sticks, metal rods, etc.) between the practitioner's fingers; then they twist, press down, or heavily strike the practitioner's hand with a fist while holding the tips of the fingers tight. The fingers are injured instantly, causing extreme pain. Some practitioners' fingers have been permanently injured by this torture. The resulting wounds penetrate to the bone and the practitioner's hands are mutilated into a mass of flesh and blood (Figure 50).

## 18. Burning

The police have used cigars and cigarette lighters to burn fingers, toes, faces, nipples, vaginas, and other parts of practitioners' bodies. While burning them, the police say, "I will stop when you give up Falun Gong." (Figure 51)

## 19. Tying the Ropes

A thin rope is used to tightly encircle the neck and the rope is wrapped around the practitioner's arms. Then the police use all the force they can muster to tighten the rope. The rope becomes tighter and tighter around the body of the practitioner, cutting into the flesh and making it more and more difficult for him to breathe. The pain is so intense that the practitioner sometimes loses control of the bladder.

In many cases the rope was tightened to the point of breaking the practitioner's arm. Sometimes the practitioner is hung from a high place with the rope as well. Sometimes there are spikes on the rope. When the rope is tightly fastened, it cuts into the flesh, which is extremely painful. This torture has been known to cause death if used twice in a row; however, some practitioners have suffered this up to 10 times in a row (Figures 52-55).



Figure 54

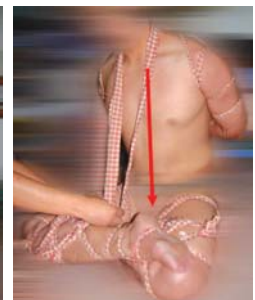


Figure 55

## 20. Suffocation



Figure 56

The police pull a plastic bag over the head of a practitioner. While the practitioner is suffocating and gagging, the police ask, "Will you give up Falun Gong?" Sometimes the police use thick paper soaked in water, a bucket, or a piece of plastic to cover the faces of practitioners to suffocate them. Sometimes they hold them under water to drown them, or spray water directly into the nose or mouth to force them to accept brainwashing (Figures 56-60).



Figure 58



Figure 59



Figure 57

## 21. Stewed Chicken with a Bent Neck

Several guards hold the practitioner's legs flat against the floor and spread slightly apart while the upper body is pressed hard against the lower body, squashing the belly so severely that it protrudes unnaturally from both sides of the body. When the neck and feet are in a straight line, with the face and belly pressed against the floor, the neck and feet are tied together, usually with a bed sheet, and the hands are tied behind the back. The pain is excruciating. The joints may be dislocated, and the practitioner is generally unable to walk normally for months afterwards (Figures 61-68).



Figure 60



Figure 61



Figure 62



Figure 63



Figure 64



Figure 65



Figure 66



Figure 67



Figure 68

## 22. Sexual Torture

In addition to the tortures that the police use on both male and female Falun Gong practitioners, the police use many female-specific tortures against Falun Gong practitioners. These include (Figures 69-72):

- Rape / gang rape
- Forced abortion
- Pinching / pinching off or biting off of nipples
- Sticking needles through the nipples
- Electric baton shock of nipples and vaginas
- Bottle / baton rape
- Stuffing dirty socks into the vagina / anus
- Burning the vagina with a cigar
- Inserting and rotating brushes inside the vagina
- Inserting hot pepper paste into the vagina



Figure 69



Figure 70



Figure 71: Gang Rape

In some labor camps and jails, and sometimes even in public, the police have personally raped or even gang-raped female practitioners. Female practitioners have also been stripped naked and thrown into all-male jail cells. This torture has often inflicted permanent psychological and physical damage on the practitioners in question, and on more than one occasion the practitioners have later died under mysterious circumstances.

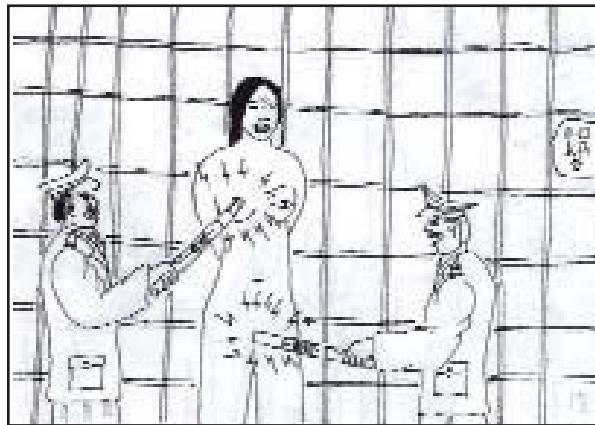


Figure 72: Sexual Abuse

To force practitioners to give up their beliefs, police have sexually violated female practitioners in numerous ways. Officials have used electric batons to shock female practitioners' breasts, and commonly have gone as far as shoving activated electric batons into the women's vaginas. This has caused excruciating pain and often permanent psychological and physical damage.

## 23. Bed Pressing

The practitioner is handcuffed and shackled and forced to sit down on the floor. A bed is then placed over his head and several people climb on the bed, pressing down and jumping on it. This often causes the practitioner to lose control of the bladder and bowels.

## 24. Hot and Spicy Chicken Legs

The practitioner is forced to lie on the ground. The inmates then take turns jumping high up in the air and landing with one foot on the upper legs of the practitioner.

## 25. Forced Stay in a Closed Chamber

The practitioner is locked in a closed room with no window in the summer heat. Sometimes the police even pour hot water on the floor to make the chamber “steamier.”

## 26. Stabbing

Sensitive parts of the body, such as the bottoms of the feet, are stabbed repeatedly (Figure 73).



Figure 73

## 27. Slave Labor

The practitioners are forced to do slave labor, including manual labor, for long hours with very little sleep. If they do not meet their quotas, they are given only half a bun to eat, or nothing at all. Thus, they suffer from constipation and do not have a bowel movement for weeks or even a month at a time.

## 28. Beating with Wooden Bed Boards

The perpetrators force the practitioner to squat and then strike his back with three wooden boards put together until the boards break (Figure 74).



Figure 74

## 29. Limited Toilet Use

Practitioners are allowed to use the toilet infrequently or for only a few minutes at a time. If they exceed the time limit, the guards beat and punish them by forcing them to squat with their buttocks pointing up.



Figure 75



Figure 76



Figure 77



Figure 78

## 30. Inhumane Sleeping Conditions

Often the bed is made of wooden boards. Many practitioners are crowded into the same room, so they must place their bodies next to each other on the boards in order to sleep. Others have to sleep under the beds, sometimes on a cement floor with no blanket. Often practitioners must sleep on damp straw, resulting in scabies all over the body.

## 31. Torture Tools

Here are a few of the torture instruments used in China's mental hospitals, police stations, detention and forced brainwashing centers, prisons, and forced labor camps to inflict excruciating pain on Falun Gong practitioners.

31.1 High-Voltage Electric Baton. (Figures 75 and 76)

31.2 Police Baton. (Figure 77)

31.3 Wire cutters. (Figure 78)

31.4 Spiked Baton. (Figures 79 and 80)

31.5 Torture instruments used in Changle Labor Camp (Figure 81).



Figure 79



Figure 80



Figure 81



The Falun Gong Human Rights Working Group is a volunteer group dedicated to the human rights of Falun Gong practitioners. Our main activities include the collection and compilation of cases of human rights violations against Falun Gong practitioners, and the submission of these cases to the United Nations, governments around the world, and international human rights organizations.

We also seek to increase public awareness by publicizing the Chinese government's violent persecution of Falun Gong practitioners. Our publications include:

The Falun Gong Report 2002

The Falun Gong Report 2003

United Nations Reports on China's Persecution of Falun Gong (2000-2003)

United Nations Reports on China's Persecution of Falun Gong (2004)

The Falun Gong Report - Stories of Conscience

These publications can be downloaded from the website:

<http://www.falunhr.org>

We welcome your suggestions and participation.

The Falun Gong Human Rights Working Group

10299 Scripps Trail #226

San Diego, California 92131

U.S.A.

e-mail: [info@falunhr.org](mailto:info@falunhr.org)







# Stories of Conscience

The Falun Gong Report

“If right and wrong can be compromised, why have right and wrong? If good can cave in to evil, what will values and principles be based on? Conscience, the innate knowing of goodness, is the very essence of humanity. Everything else, even our “inalienable rights,” can be forcibly taken away. The alteration of our conscience, no matter how small, must be consented to from within. Conscience, thus, defines human nature, and the right to conscience is a human being’s most fundamental right.

No crime, therefore, is worse than the crime against conscience. The Chinese government’s persecution of Falun Gong not only violates Falun Gong practitioners’ right to conscience, but is also an assault aimed at the destruction of human nature.”

- The Falun Gong Human Rights Working Group

