

Alienating Its Own Citizens

**A Report on the Chinese Government's Worldwide
Refusal to Renew Its Citizens' Passports**



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The Falun Gong Human Rights Working Group

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Australia

Chinese Consulate in Sydney Denies Passports to Elderly Couple

My name is Ling Chunwang. I am seventy-two years old. My wife's name is Luo Runxiu, and she is sixty-six years old. I used to own an auto repair shop in China in the late 1980s and made a good profit from it, but the shop also gave me a lot of trouble. As I was getting older, I handed over the management of the business to my nephew. However, he made off with all the money, even my savings, and fled, leaving me deep in debt. My health worsened as a result of anger and indignation. In 1996 I developed heart disease. I took a lot of medication but none of it helped. I lived on the third floor, and it would take me half an hour to climb up the stairs; just halfway up I would have to pause and lean against the wall as I breathed heavily and sweat ran down my face. Because of these problems, my wife resented me deeply, unable to tolerate my bad temper, she separated from me.

In mid-1996, our oldest

son invited us to come live with him in Australia. Because of my poor health my wife went ahead of me. In Sydney, she had the good fortune to attend Teacher Li Hongzhi's lecture, and started to learn and practice Falun Gong immediately. She told me how, one day when she was doing the sitting meditation on the balcony, she felt that all the indignation in

her chest was taken away just like a heavy object being lifted. She became so much happier, and her health improved greatly.

Three months later, carrying a load of medication, I flew to Australia. Learning more about Falun Gong, I decided to give it a try. As soon as I started practicing, I easily quit my old habits of



Mr. Ling Chunwang's and Ms. Luo Runxiu's passports

smoking and drinking. I found I was much more energetic than before, and I didn't even have difficulty breathing. After only two months practicing Falun Gong my heart condition was healed.

Towards the end of July 2001, we went to the Chinese Consulate in Sydney to renew our passports. The clerk told us to come back and pick up our passports three days later. But when we went back to the consulate, instead of handing us our passports, a consul took us to a meeting room on the second floor. He asked us if we practiced Falun Gong, and wanted to know why we had taken part in a peaceful appeal in front of the consulate. We told him about the benefits we had received from practicing Falun Gong and told him of the brutal persecution against Falun Gong practitioners in China.

He said, "You have not witnessed it; there's no brutal perse-

cution." We told him that Australian citizen Mrs. Dai Zhenzhen's husband was tortured to death by the Chinese police for practicing Falun Gong. He replied, "Now it's illegal to practice Falun Gong in China. As a Chinese citizen, you have to obey Chinese law. We can only renew your passports after you write a statement saying that you will not practice Falun Gong or protest in front of the consulate any more." We did not accept these conditions. He then confiscated our passports and told us to leave.

For these past three years, without a passport, we have not been able go back China to see our other sons. We tried several times to ask for the renewal of our passports, but every time, the Chinese consul wanted us to write the "statement." They did not return our expired passports until the end of 2003.

In May of this year, the Australian Immigration Bureau

wanted us to have a physical check-up, but we needed valid passports for that, so we went to the Chinese Consulate again to ask for a renewal. They still demanded that we write the "statement." Every time we go to the consulate we have to ask our son or daughter-in-law to take one day off from work and drive us there, which has created a lot of inconvenience for them.

Such incidents are not isolated. The Chinese government has deprived Chinese citizens of their passport rights in at least twenty countries simply because they practice Falun Gong, a wonderful practice that improves mental and physical health. We appeal to the United Nations and all governments to help us solve this problem and help stop the brutal persecution against Falun Gong practitioners in China.

Chinese Consulate in Sydney Refused to Renew a Falun Gong Practitioner's Passport

On February 1, 2001, Ms. Ye went to the Chinese Consulate in Sydney to renew her passport. After realizing she was a Falun Gong Practitioner, the officer told her that her case must be reported back to China. On March 19, 2001, Consul Ju called her and informed her that she should write a statement

renouncing the practice of Falun Gong; otherwise her passport renewal would be rejected. She was told that the request came from the Chinese Government. Ms. Ye refused to accept their unreasonable request, and left with her old passport.

The Chinese Consulate in Sydney: “You Sit Silently in Front of the Chinese Consulate.”

My name is Zhang Yu, and I live in Sydney. In January of 1998, I began to practice Falun Gong. After I read *Zhuan Falun* [the principle book of Falun Gong], I understood the reasons why we suffer, and why we have pain and tribulations. It is all because of our greed and selfishness. As I cultivated myself according to the principles Truthfulness, Compassion and Tolerance, within only three months, I found that I no longer suffered any diseases. I lived a happier life.

On June 17, 2001, my Chinese passport was to expire, so on May 25, 2001, I went to the Chinese Consulate in Sydney to renew my passport. The officer at the consulate looked at my passport and gave me a receipt. I looked at it and found that after “Date to collect passport,” it said, “wait notice.” I asked “Why?” He refused to answer. I found Mr. Ju, the consul on duty, and asked him the same question. He told me in an unfriendly manner, “You sit silently in front of the Chinese Consulate.” Then he refused to talk any further with me. He meant that I appeal for Falun Gong in front of the Chinese Consulate.

A few weeks later, Consul Ju called me and asked if I was a Falun Gong practitioner. I

answered, “Yes.” He told me that he had received orders from higher authority that all Falun Gong practitioners have to write a guarantee statement that they will not appeal outside the Chinese consulate.” I refused to write such a guarantee.

A few days later, I met with Consul Ju in a meeting room on the second floor of the consulate. In one hand he held the guarantee form and in the other my passport. He stated very clearly that without signing a guarantee I wouldn’t get my passport renewed. On September 2001, Consul Ju returned my passport to me. By then my passport had expired.



Ms. Zhang Yu

Forced to Apply For Refugee Status in Sydney



Mr. Li Yishi's and his wife's passports.

My name is Li Yishi and I am fifty-nine years old. In 1990 I was diagnosed with diabetes; my blood sugar level was 24.7. I received hospital treatment for almost four years but saw no positive results. The doctors said that there was no cure for my condition and that I was dying. Merely two to three days after I practiced Falun Dafa, I felt that all my energy meridians had opened up. I was greatly inspired. After having endured a long-term illness, I never felt better in my entire life.

My wife's passport and my passport were to expire on August 22, 2004. On the morning of

August 16, we arrived at the Chinese Consulate accompanied by our son. An official there checked our passports and denied our applications.

Practicing Falun Gong and being a Chinese citizen are our fundamental rights. No one should be able to take them away. Because of the persecution by Jiang Zemin's regime, we were forced to apply for refugee status. We appeal to the Chinese Consulate in Sydney—don't help the evildoers and don't commit more crimes.

Chinese Consulate Forces Chinese Citizen to Seek Asylum in Australia

My name is Zhao Xiulian. I am sixty-eight years old and was born in China. I came to Australia to visit my son on November 7, 1997. At that time, my health was poor. I had high blood pressure, heart disease, nerve problems, and rheumatism. I started practicing Falun Gong in January 1998. My health improved dramatically shortly thereafter.

On February 4, 2004, I went to the Chinese Consulate in Sydney to apply for a passport renewal, but consulate officials turned down my application. The reason given was that I practice Falun Gong. Deputy Consul Chen told me, "Practicing Falun Gong and conducting appeals to the Chinese Consulate are actions against the Party and the government. Don't dream about going back to China. Go apply for asylum." For thirty-three years I worked very hard for China, and now I can't go back to my

homeland and have been forced to seek asylum. I have done nothing wrong. Where is justice?

I don't believe that conducting appeals at the Chinese Consulate is against the Party and Chinese government. As a Chinese citizen, I see our nation being hijacked by a dictator to persecute innocent citizens. Isn't it my responsibility to speak out against such atrocities? Every practitioner knows that Falun Gong is good, and that the persecution is based on lies. Why can't we appeal to our government and convey the truth? A vast number of innocent Chinese have been deceived by the propaganda. The same thing occurred during the Great Cultural Revolution.

The persecution promotes lies, evil, and violence, and countless people have been forced to act against their consciences. Jiang Zemin and his followers have put people's careers and personal interests at stake. In China, anyone who doesn't echo Jiang's propaganda can be tortured and even killed. While abroad, my name was found on a blacklist, and my passport renewal was turned down only because I practice Falun Gong. If everyone is forced to lie, and everyone casts a blind eye to injustice and even murder, how dangerous it will be for our Chinese people. The persecution

is eliminating the compassion of the Chinese people. Seeing this, I can't stay silent. For the sake of the generations to come, I must speak out.

I hereby call upon all kind-hearted people around the world to help us secure the right to possess a Chinese passport and to help us end the ongoing brutal persecution of Falun Gong practitioners.



Ms. Zhao Xiulian's canceled passport



Ms. Zhao Xiulian's passport

The Chinese Consulate in Sydney Denies My Nationality

My name is Huang Jiazhen. I graduated from the World Economy Department of China Science Institute in China and went to work in Australia in 1997. I live in Sydney and work as a preschool educator. I have practiced Falun Gong since 1996 and have experienced tremendous health benefits, both physically and mentally. I came to realize that the ultimate purpose of one's life is to return to one's true self. From then on, I have been strict with myself, taking fame and gain light-heartedly and being considerate of others. The preschool I operate has become successful, adored by children, trusted by parents, and admired by the employees. I realize that the success comes from living according to the principles of Falun Gong—Truthfulness, Compassion, and Tolerance.

On July 17, 2002, I went to the Chinese Consulate to apply for an extension of my passport. I submitted the application along with other materials and an application fee of \$20. I was issued a voucher number (No.150387) to pick up my passport on July 22. After I submitted my application, however, Consul Yang called me at about 3:00 p.m. the same day and said that he needed to confirm some information. He asked me, "When did you come



Ms. Huang Jiazhen.

to Australia? Do you practice Falun Gong? Are you one of the main coordinators?"

I told him that although there are no ranks or titles of any kind in Falun Gong, I do volunteer my time and have assumed responsibility for the Darling Harbor practice site. He then asked, "Is your home phone number such and such?" I was surprised and asked him, "How did you get the phone number of my Darling Harbor residence?" He asked another question without replying to me, "Who is now in charge of the practice site since you moved? Tell me her name and phone number. It is alright if you just give the English name." He gave up when I pointed out that his questions had nothing to do with my passport extension.

On July 22, 2002, I called Consul Yang to inquire about my passport. He replied, "We have never encountered such a case before and need time to consider it. You'll have to wait until I in-

form you by phone."

On August 6, 2002, at 11:30 a.m., I went with a fellow practitioner to pick up my passport. When I presented the pickup voucher at the window, the female staff person could not find my passport and asked, "Did anyone contact you?" I told her, "Consul Yang called me." She then picked up the phone to contact someone and said to us after hanging up, "At 2.30 p.m., Consul Ho would like to talk with you."

Another practitioner and I met with Consul Ho in a conference room on the second floor. Consul Ho came straight to the point and said, "You practice Falun Gong, right? It says that you practice every day and have been practicing for a long time. Is that right?" I replied, "Yes, I practice Falun Gong." Ho continued, "Now, I would still like to have a chat with you. If you make a statement to 'repent' for practicing and promise to stop practicing Falun Gong in the future, then we can..." (He mentioned vaguely that my passport would be extended if I did what he said). "If, however, you stand firm as before, then, there isn't any more to say."

I said that I would not sign any guarantee to denounce Falun Gong and told him that

the practice has spread to over sixty countries. People can freely practice Falun Gong in Australia; it is permitted by the Australian government. Ho said, “You are a Chinese citizen. By the Chinese constitution, the People’s Congress has passed a resolution on Falun Gong and defined it as [slandering word omitted]. It is no longer a normal or sociable, or even a religious activity in China.” The fellow practitioner pointed out to Ho, “In fact, Falun Gong was slandered before it was so defined by legislation.”

Ho wanted to end the conversation when he realized he couldn’t persuade me to renounce Falun Gong. I requested that they return my passport if no extension was possible. Ho said, “The passport will not be returned to you as we have now confiscated it.” I asked him why. Ho replied, “The passport belongs to China. It is not one’s

personal property, which is explicitly written in the back.” We requested to see the passport, but were denied. Ho flipped to the last page of the passport and read out loud, “The citizens who have resided overseas are required to ... report the lost passport to the local police or the Chinese diplomatic organization overseas such as a consulate.” I explained that I did not lose my passport and requested Consul Ho to provide relevant Chinese legislation to confiscate passports. Ho insisted that based on a “prevailing international law,” a country has the right to confiscate property that belongs to that country.

I was not an Australian citizen nor did I choose to relinquish my Chinese nationality merely because I refused to renounce my belief in Falun Gong, my rights, and freedom of belief. The passport I had brought to the consulate was a valid one. The consul

returned it to me on September 17, 2002. By then, my passport had long passed the expiration date and was no longer valid. Jiang’s regime had deprived me of the right to be a Chinese citizen and nullified my nationality.

In the past two years, I have not been able to travel outside of Australia. Editors of the local Australian newspaper and my mayor have written letters to the Chinese Consulate to appeal for the respect of human rights, but the Chinese Consulate has ignored them as well.

Chinese Consulate Deprives Us of Our Citizenship

My name is Zhao Lijiao. I'm female, forty-two years old, and a Chinese citizen. I'm employed at a paper manufacturing company. We have lived in Australia for nine years and have been granted permanent resident status.

On December 31, 2001, my twelve-year-old daughter Yan Manying and I went to the Chinese Consulate in Melbourne to apply for our passport renewal. Two hours later, when we returned to pick up our passports, we were asked to meet with Consul Guo. He first asked me if I belonged to any organization. I told him that I am not a member of any organization. Then he asked, "Do you practice Falun Gong?" I replied, "Yes." He asked, "Have you ever sat before the consulate to protest?" I said, "Yes. I have practiced Falun Gong since 1998. I practice the exercises every morning at the

park near my house. I also teach people the exercises for free. People living nearby all know me and know that Falun Gong is good. As for the appeals outside the Consulate, we are asking for the end of the inhuman persecution initiated by Jiang Zemin against kind-hearted Falun Gong practitioners. Under the Chinese Constitution, a Chinese citizen has freedom of belief, speech, and assembly. Practicing Falun Gong and appealing outside the Consulate is part of my right as a citizen."

I then asked the consul, "Will a person be blacklisted and refused one's passport renewal because of practicing Falun Gong? Which article of the Chinese law stipulates that?" The consul tried to defend himself. He didn't say that I had violated the law. He only said that "his superiors" wanted to further investigate my background.

He wanted me to go back home and wait for their decision.

In March 2002, I received the first phone call from Consul Guo. During the telephone conversation, the consul

asked me to provide "a written guarantee that I was not against the Chinese government." I asked him, "What does 'not against the Chinese government' mean?" He said, "For example, not appealing outside the consulate." I told him that I wouldn't write any such guarantee. First, I am granted freedom of belief under the Chinese Constitution. There is nothing wrong with practicing Falun Gong, living by the principles of Truthfulness, Benevolence, Forbearance and being a good person. Secondly, possessing a passport is the most basic right that a Chinese citizen should enjoy. Such a right is granted under the Chinese constitution.

In April 2002, the Chinese Consulate sent our expired passports back to us. We found that a corner of our passports was cut off and "Cancelled" was stamped on the inside. When I showed my daughter the passport, she wept. At that moment both of us felt deeply hurt. Afterwards, I called the consul and asked him why they had cancelled our passports. He said because our passports had expired. I then asked why they didn't issue us a new one. He said he needed to ask for instruction from his superiors. He could not make such a decision. Then he gave us a suggestion and said, "Since you are back in Sydney, it might be better if you would apply at the Consulate in Sydney."



Ms. Zhao Lijiao's passport

On May 9, 2002, my daughter and I went to the Chinese Consulate in Sydney. We met with a consul named Yang. He listened to my short account and said viciously, "Do you know why your passports were cancelled? Go back to whoever cancelled your passport!" He returned our application form and old passports.

Several days later, I sent this fax to the consul in Melbourne: "We are certain that the Chinese Consulate doesn't want to issue the passports. Which law did we violate? How pitiful it is that you don't even spare my twelve-year-old daughter who is still under age. Could it be said that she has done something wrong, too?"

The consul called us immediately. He seemed quite sympathetic concerning my daughter. He said he would again ask for instructions from his superiors, but he could not respond before two months. Then he suggested, "Since you will become permanent residents of Australia, I recommend you wait for your Australian passport." It was quite clear that he wanted to persuade my daughter and me to give up our Chinese citizenship since we no longer qualified for a Chinese passport.

Before Christmas of 2002, my daughter insisted on visiting her grandparents in China. The consul had said that he would give me a reply within two months; however half a year had passed, and there was no answer.

I sent a fax to him again, but this time I received no reply. For the past three years, the Chinese Consulate has refused to issue us passports. Our application for new passports has been lingering in never-never land.

As Chinese citizens living abroad, the Chinese passport is the only valid proof of our citizenship. Without passports, we are stripped of our nationality, which causes great inconvenience in our lives, study, and work. Many times we could not produce a valid passport as required by certain departments of the Australian government. My daughter and I cannot go abroad, nor can we return to China and visit my aged parents.

In March 2004, my daughter was invited to participate in an exchange program between Japanese and Australian schools. My daughter was very saddened and cried again when she realized that she couldn't go to Japan because she did not have a passport. At school, my daughter is excellent in her studies and in her behavior. Her grades in Japanese are outstanding. She always had hoped to participate in an exchange program with Japan. Who would have thought that because her mother practices Falun Gong, an innocent twelve-year-old child would suffer the same persecution? Both of us have been deprived of our civil rights and the right to a passport.



Ms. Zhao Lijiao's daughter Yan Manying's passport

Austria

Wang Yong Forced to Become an Austrian Citizen

Wang Yong, 32, is a Chinese national who earned his Masters Degree in Economic Information Engineering from a university in Vienna. He is currently living in Vienna with his wife, an Austrian national, and their two-month-old son and has permanent residence status.

His Chinese passport was due to expire on September 10, 2004, so Yong submitted his passport extension application to the Chinese Embassy in Vienna on June 30, 2004. On July 7, when he went to the Chinese Embassy to collect his passport, he was told that the Embassy had to wait for the decision from the authorities in China. After making several additional inquiries, Mr. Wang was finally informed on July 21 that his passport could not be extended because he practices Falun Gong and actively participated in peaceful appeals to call for an end to the persecution of Falun Gong. Mr. Wang asked the Chinese Embassy to give him a written explanation

for the refusal, but his request was rejected.

It is the first time that a passport extension application by a Chinese Falun Gong practitioner living in Austria has been refused just because he practices Falun Gong. Mr. Wang's Austrian wife and their two-month-old son could see that the persecution of Falun Gong had extended overseas.

On July 28, 2004, the human rights organization "Society for Threatened People" wrote a letter to the Chinese Embassy in Vienna. In it they stated, "It is a fact that Mr. Wang Yong practices Falun Gong, but he should have freedom of belief and freedom of speech. And it should never be a reason for depriving him of his freedom to travel."

Mr. Wang said, "What is ironic is that in my conversations with Chinese Embassy personnel, they denied the



Photo of Wang Yong with his wife and son at their Vienna home.

cruel persecution of Falun Gong practitioners in China. But they do not realize that what they are doing, as they refuse to extend my passport, is already beyond their normal working procedures and itself is a form of persecution.”

Outside China, refusal of a passport extension has been widely employed to persecute overseas Falun Gong practitioners, making it more difficult for them to live overseas and to force them to return to China. This kind of incident even happens in Austria at present. The refusal of Mr. Wang’s passport extension means he’ll become a person without a nationality. As a Chinese citizen without proper identification he’ll be unable to travel freely as other Chinese citizens can.

Some Austrian citizens have also experienced the persecution of Falun Gong first hand. For instance, two years ago, two Austrian citizens living in Salzburg were denied their application for a tourist visa to China, because the Chinese Embassy was

informed that they practiced Falun Gong. The staff at the travel agency that dealt with their visa and tickets was very confused, because they had never before heard of the Chinese Embassy refusing an Austrian citizens’ visa application.

Belgium

Chinese Embassy in Belgium Refuses to Renew Passport of Acclaimed Computer Scientist

My name is Yang Lixin. I obtained a Master's degree in Engineering Technology with great distinction in 1996, and a Ph.D. with the highest distinction in July 2004 at the Free University of Brussels (VUB), where I'm now working as a Post-Doctorate researcher in the Department of Electronics and Information Processing (ETRO). I am a Chinese citizen.

On August 10, 2004, I went to the Chinese Consulate in Brussels to renew my Chinese passport. I was told to bring four passport photos and a copy of my Belgian residence card. Mr. Li from the Chinese Consulate received me, and asked me to fill out the application form. After I gave him my passport, four photos, a copy of the Belgian residence card and application form, he told me to wait for two weeks and that he would call me when it was ready.

On August 23, 2004, in the

afternoon, just one day before the end of the two-week period, I received a call from Mr. Li. He said to me that my passport could not be renewed; they were waiting for approval from China, and he asked me to pick up my old passport. On August 24, 2004, I went to the Chinese Consulate again and asked them to explain the reason, but they refused to give any explanation.

When I asked them to provide a notice (or certificate) to show that my passport renewal was in process, they also refused. When I asked what explanation I should give if I were asked to present my valid passport, I got no answer. No document or legal regulation was presented. It became very clear that they did not want to leave any evidence of their criminal actions, using this tricky way to put me in a very difficult situation.

I stated that they had no right to deprive me of my Chi-

nese citizenship just because of my personal belief; I had provided all required documents, and it was their duty to renew my passport. However, there was no reply. Since then, no information has been provided. My university wrote a letter to the Chinese Consulate to urge them to renew my passport, but there was also no reply to that.



Dr. Yang's application for passport renewal was denied by the Chinese Embassy in Belgium

Chinese Embassy in Belgium Refused to Renew My Passport, Just Because I am a Falun Gong Practitioner

My name is Shi Yuhong. In March 2001, I went to the Chinese embassy in Brussels to renew my passport. First, the responsible officer announced that he would renew it right away. But later, after having asked for permission from his supervisor, he said that he couldn't renew it immediately and that I had to wait.

I called the embassy several times for news about the renewal of my passport and each time I was asked to wait.

Finally, I went to the embassy to ask for an answer and was received by the chief officer. She threatened me to stop all the activities aiming at letting more people know about the persecution

of Falun Gong practitioners in China and said that she wouldn't renew my passport unless I renounced practicing Falun Gong.

The Chinese Embassy in Belgium is still holding my passport.

Since March 2001, I have thus had no valid Chinese passport just because I practice Falun Gong.

Canada

Chinese Embassy Refused to Renew My Chinese Passport, Labeling Me “A Political Dissident”

My name is Xiong Jun. I am a Chinese Falun Gong practitioner married to a Canadian man and residing in Toronto, Canada. The Chinese Consulate in Toronto put me on its list of “political dissidents” because I practice Falun Gong. I discovered this fact in September 2002 when I tried to renew my Chinese passport. The consulate took the opportunity to threaten me. They told me that they would renew my passport only if I would renounce Falun Gong. When I firmly refused to give in to their demand, they deprived me of my right as a Chinese citizen to have a valid Chinese passport. Since then, I have been a Chinese citizen residing outside China but without a valid Chinese passport.

Around 11:30 a.m. on September 13, 2002, I arrived at the Chinese Consulate in Toronto and applied for an extension of my passport. The staff at the consulate gave me a receipt and asked me to return after 3 p.m. to

pick up my renewed passport.

Around noon that day, I received a phone call. The caller did not say anything, but I heard him speaking to someone else, “She probably went out to practice Falun Gong again.” Then the caller hung up the phone. I recognized the voice of the caller as the man at the Consulate who had given me the receipt.

Two minutes later, the same man called me again. This time he spoke to me, “There is no need for you to come to the consulate this afternoon because your passport is not ready yet. We have encountered technical difficulties with our machine. We will call you when we have completed your application.” I asked him, “When do you expect to finish my application?” “It’s difficult to say. Just wait for our call.”

Two weeks later, I went to the consulate accompanied by my immigration attorney. The receptionist at the consulate re-



The Chinese Consulate in Toronto refused to renew Ms. Xiong Jun's passport.

fused to speak English. Clearly she did not want to speak to my attorney. My attorney asked the receptionist in English (paraphrasing): “Exactly what type of problem are you experiencing? How much longer do we need to wait to get a renewed passport? Why are you delaying the renewal of her passport application?” The receptionist refused to acknowledge the attorney and told me in Chinese, “You should not bring an attorney here. You should resolve this problem on your own. You must wait. You must wait for news from China.”

Over the next several weeks, my immigration attorney repeatedly called and faxed his inquiries to the consulate, but the consulate did not give him any kind of acknowledgement. On October 9, 2002, my immigration attorney and I went to the consulate again, but the staff at the consulate again refused to speak to my attorney. Finally on November 5, 2002, a Chinese official in the consulate asked my immigration attorney to call the Consulate and make an appointment for a

meeting.

After I arrived at the Chinese Consulate on November 5, a male and a female staff person received me. The very first thing they asked me was, “Do you still practice Falun Gong?” My answer was of course affirmative. Next they announced, “Okay. We have already received an official notice from the Chinese government. The fact that you practice Falun Gong makes you a dissident of the Chinese government. Falun Gong is a (slandorous words omitted) that rebels against the Chinese government and slanders China’s reputation. We will not renew the passport of a dissident.”

I started to tell them facts about Falun Gong, but they refused to listen and shut themselves off completely from the truth. The man said, “There is no use saying anything to me. As long as you practice Falun Gong, we will not renew your passport because it is against Chinese law to practice Falun Gong.” He added, “This is all I have to say to you. The Chinese government

has given all Chinese embassies and consulates worldwide a specific order: Do not renew the passports of those who practice Falun Gong.”

I asked the man, “Since you have accused me of violating the Chinese law by practicing Falun Gong, I would like to know exactly which Chinese law I have violated. Since you said it is specified that a Chinese citizen must not practice Falun Gong, please show me a copy of the Chinese laws and point out to me which law you are referring to. Besides, you said you have received an official notice from the Chinese government concerning my passport renewal application. An official notice must have come in the form of a letter or a legal document, stating clearly the reason of the rejection. As an applicant for a renewed Chinese passport, I am entitled to receive a copy of the official notice. Where is the official notice?” They refused to produce the alleged “official notice” and refused to answer my questions.

The Chinese Consulate in Toronto Rejected My Passport Renewal Application

My name is Xu Dong. I am a Chinese citizen and a permanent Canadian resident, living in the City of Kitchener in Ontario, Canada. I am also a practitioner of Falun Gong. On December 27, 2002, I went to the Chinese Consulate in Toronto to renew my passport.

When I submitted the renewal form, the clerk in the consulate told me to come back and pick it up in a week. Because of the distance between the two cities and the transport inconvenience, I asked a fellow practitioner living in Toronto to pick it up for me at the appropriate time. When the practitioner went to the consulate for me, however,

the officer in the consulate mistakenly thought he was me and interviewed him inside. After they learned he wasn't the applicant, the Chinese Consulate in Toronto requested to interview me in person.

On the morning of January 7, 2003, I arrived at the consulate. Two middle-aged officials met with me. Their first questions were, "Are you a Falun Gong practitioner? Do you still practice Falun Gong?"

I answered, "Yes."

Then I asked them, "How do you know I am a Falun Gong practitioner?"

They did not answer me directly and said that the network was very advanced nowadays.

They then said, "[According to our observation] we seldom see you practicing the exercises or handing out information in front of the consulate."

I said to them, "That's right. That's because I don't live in Toronto."

They said, "Your practicing the exercises and distributing information in front of the consulate are damaging China's image."

I said, "We wouldn't have come to practice the exercises and clarify the truth in front of



Mr. Xu Dong's passport was at first renewed, but when the Chinese Consulate found out he was a Falun Gong practitioner, they stamped "CANCELED" on it.

the consulate if there were no persecution of Falun Gong."

Throughout the conversation I remained peaceful and calm, but my attitude was firm.

The two officials did not say anything further to me. They just told me, "We cannot renew your passport, because this is the policy. It is not permitted to renew passports for Falun Gong practitioners."

The whole interview process took over twenty minutes. They returned my old passport afterwards. When I checked it I found that they had originally put a renewal stamp on my passport, extending it to 2008, but perhaps later on when they found my name on the Falun Gong practitioners' blacklist, they over-stamped "Canceled" on top of it.

After I returned, I sent a



The Chinese Consulate in Toronto refused to renewal Mr. Xu Dong's passport.

letter via certified mail to the Chinese Consulate in Toronto twice, to ask for a written explanation about their refusal to renew my passport, but I did not get any reply. Concurrently, I sought help from my parliamentary member's office. They have sent faxes to the Chinese Consulate twice, inquiring

about the reason for the refusal of my passport renewal and didn't get any reply, either.

So far, my passport has not been renewed.

Taiwan Central News Agency: The Passport of Canadian Chinese Cancelled Because of Practicing Falun Gong

The Chinese Communist Party government's persecution of Falun Gong seems to be escalating. Even overseas Falun Gong practitioners may be harmed. Mr. Shou Heping, a chemical merchant in Montreal is an example.

Over two months ago, Mr. Shou submitted an application to renew his passport. Today, he found that his passport was returned to him nullified. The reason was simply that he refused to write a pledge to denounce Falun Gong. This ruined his plan to go to Europe for a business trip.

Mr. Shou came to Ottawa from Montreal on February 26, 2001 and applied to the Chinese

Embassy to extend his passport. He had thought the application would be completed around 11 a.m., but his application was delayed without reason. His passport will expire on May 21, 2001.

After he inquired several times, Mr. Xu, an official in the Chinese Embassy asked him, "Are you a Falun Gong practitioner?" Mr. Shou answered frankly, "Yes." Mr. Xu asked him to write a pledge to give up practicing Falun Gong. Mr. Shou answered that Falun Gong is a legally registered group. It is impossible to ask him to denounce it.

He talked to the Embassy several times and tried to find

Ambassador Mei Ping and General Consul Huang Ping. None of them would consider his case. Today he traveled two hundred kilometers from Montreal to the Chinese Embassy in Ottawa just for a canceled passport.

Mr. Shou Heping, 40 years old, originally lived in China's Jiangsu Province but has now become a person without a nationality. He wants to appeal to Canada's Foreign Affairs Ministry for help. It is hoped that his original business plan will not be in jeopardy merely because he practices Falun Gong.

Toronto Chinese Consulate Refused to Issue New Passport to Falun Gong Practitioner

My name is Lin Shenli. On December 22, 1999, my wife, Li Jinyu, and I went to Beijing to appeal to the government to stop the persecution of Falun Gong. We were arrested and detained for 17 days. My wife, who is a Canadian citizen, was deported after 48 hours of detention.

On January 24, 2000, because I signed my name to an appeal letter asking the government stop the persecution of Falun Gong, policemen from the Yangpu Police Station arrested me and sentenced me to 1½ years of forced labor. In the labor camp, I was forced to sit on a stool one foot high and one foot long, which measured a half inch in width. For two years I was forced to sit on this stool each day, resulting in unbearable pain because my buttocks developed

sores that festered very badly. The police also forced me to watch brainwashing videos and do hard labor for more than 12 hours a day. They also instigated inmates to beat me. Just before the forced labor term imposed upon me was to end, they extended my term by an additional 6 months without any reason. With the help of my wife and the Canadian government, I was able to go to Canada after I was released.

In early September 2003, I lost my passport while traveling. On December 16, 2003, I went to the Chinese Consulate in Toronto to apply for a new passport. Because she realized that I was a Falun Gong practitioner, the consulate officer didn't give me a receipt for my application as she would normally do. I went to the consulate on two occasions;

however, the Chinese Consulate never mentioned whether they were processing a new passport for me nor did they give me a receipt for the application. During my last visit, the officer refused my inquiry about my passport. I told her that to withhold my passport just because I was a Falun Gong practitioner was not a good reason. Later, they called the police and alleged that I was causing trouble in the consulate. After I informed the policeman about the facts of the matter, he said I was legally entitled to get my passport. On January 27, 2004, the consulate personnel called me to tell me I could pick up my passport.



Mr. Lin Shenli

I Lost My Chinese Citizenship Because I Believe in Truth, Compassion and Tolerance

My name is Guan Weidong. I live in Montreal, Canada. On July 20, 2000, I asked the staff at the Chinese Embassy in Ottawa to renew my passport, as it was about to expire. A staff member at the Visa Office accepted my application, passport and Canadian \$32. She said that I would receive my passport renewal within a week. I was not given a receipt.

Two weeks later, I still had not received my passport. I called the embassy many times, but without success. I faxed my requests and received no response. On August 23, 2000, I went to the embassy and asked about my passport renewal. After I gave my name to the Visa Office staff, I was asked to wait, as a supervisor

wanted to talk to me.

After a while, an embassy officer named Zeng Jixin met with me. I asked him why I had not yet received my passport extension. I told him that it had been over a month. He told me, "The reason for the delay is that you practice Falun Gong. The current policy prohibits you from being granted a passport extension. If you renounce Falun Gong, reflect upon your mistake and write a statement renouncing the practice of Falun Gong, the Chinese government may relent and you may get your passport renewed."

I replied, "Falun Gong teaches people to be good. Practitioners live by the principles 'Truthfulness, Compassion and Tolerance.' True practitioners of Falun Gong are honest, truthful, and tolerant. We think of others first, attempt to be selfless, do not strike back when hit and do not talk back when scolded. No matter how others treat us, we always treat others with respect, and will not complain or resent anyone. True practitioners have high ethical and moral standards. Falun Gong is such a good practice and only benefits society. What do you want me to renounce? Moreover, appealing to the government is every citizen's right. Tell me please, what law did I break? What mistake do you

want me to admit? Why do the people in power forbid Chinese people from being good people and adhering to 'Truthfulness, Compassion and Tolerance?'"

Zeng Jixin had nothing to say to me at that moment. Finally he came up with the following, "We have to follow whatever the Chinese government tells us to. We do not have the authority to give you a passport extension if you refuse to comply with the Chinese government requirements."

Just like this, I was stripped of my right to be a Chinese citizen. For six months, I was without citizenship. In April of 2001, the Canadian government granted me Canadian citizenship. They understood my plight and acted to help me.

However, the Chinese government did not stop persecuting me. In May of 2001, my manager took a business trip to China and I was supposed to accompany him as a translator. I was looking forward to this, as I would have been able to visit my elderly mother whom I hadn't seen for many years. (My father died during the Cultural Revolution.) My manager even visited the Chinese Embassy to apply for a visa for me, but the application was also denied because I practice Falun Gong.



The Chinese Embassy in Canada refused to renew Mr. Guan Weidong's passport.

Denmark

Zhu Xuezhi's Passport Renewal Was Rejected

In July 1999, when the Chinese government started the persecution of Falun Gong, Mr. Zhu Xuezhi owned quite a few successful companies in his hometown of Tianjin, China. In 2000, he initiated a joint venture, exporting Danish technology products to China. He also served as a consultant for it. He and his wife traveled to Copenhagen, Denmark on a work permit to run the business. In 2002, all of Mr. Zhu's businesses in China were seized and closed down by the China National Security Bureau because he practiced Falun Gong. Without any legal documentation the authorities entered his premises and confiscated his business licenses and all documents relating to his accounts. All of his employees were dismissed and questioned about whether they practiced Falun Gong. At the same time they were ordered to report any telephone calls from Mr. Zhu.

When his daughter was born in Denmark in 2002, the Chi-

nese Embassy in Denmark refused to issue a Chinese passport in her name.

On May 5, 2003, Mr. Zhu went to the Chinese Embassy in Denmark to apply for the renewal of his passport. He filled out an application and submitted all of the documents required, and he was given a receipt with a note reading "Wait for notification by phone." After 20 days had gone by, Mr. Zhu still had not received a phone call from the Chinese Embassy, so he went there to ask for the result. The clerk said: "We cannot grant your renewal" and then returned his old passport and application form. When Mr. Zhu asked him the reason for the refusal, he said that it was because Mr. Zhu practices Falun Gong and it is China's policy not to process passport applications that are filed by Falun Gong practitioners. The clerk then asked Mr. Zhu to make a decision, telling him if he would give up practicing Falun Gong, or promise to stop, the embassy might consider

granting his passport renewal. However, Mr. Zhu declined to make such a promise.

Without a valid passport, Mr. Zhu has had difficulty extending his work permit in Denmark and has not been able to apply for a visa to travel to other countries.



Mr. Zhu Xuezhi

France

The Chinese Embassy in France Refuses to Renew My Passport

My name is Wang Hong. I live in Paris, France. My Chinese passport expired on March 3, 2004, so at 2:30 p.m. that same day I went to the Consular Department of the Chinese Embassy to have my passport renewed. A lady at the passport counter accepted my application form along with two photos, my expired passport, some duplicate copies and a permanent residence document. She told me to claim my new passport on March 17. I told her that I was going abroad soon, and hoped to get my new passport as soon as possible. At my request, she issued an urgent receipt for me to claim a new passport.

On the morning of March 8, I received a phone call from Mr. Yuan of the Consular Department, informing me to go there and have a talk with the people in his department. I replied that I could go there right away, but he asked me to go there that afternoon and to contact Secretary

Liu upon arrival. I arrived at the Embassy about 3:00 p.m., and Secretary Liu interviewed me in a reception room. The following is the main text of the interview:

Liu: “Ms. Wang Hong, today, on behalf of the Consulate I’d like to talk with you regarding the renewal of your passport. Your passport has expired and there are no blank pages available for an extension, so it must be replaced by a new one. But we need to refer your application to the authorities in China for further review. Since we are pending approval from the competent authorities, you needn’t come here tomorrow.”

Ms. Wang: “May I ask if this review process is applied to all applicants?”

Liu: "No."

Ms. Wang: “Then, what are the reasons for sending my case for further review?”

Secretary Liu kept silent.

Ms. Wang: “Is it because I practice Falun Gong?”

Liu: "Yes."

Ms. Wang: “What is the basis for reviewing my application?”

Liu: “As you are aware, our country has a policy on Falun Gong. Of course, it is based on our national policy.”

中华人民共和国外交部请各国军政机关持照人员予以通行的便利和必要的协助。

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China requests all civil and military authorities of foreign countries to allow the bearer of this passport to pass freely and afford assistance in case of need.

第6900号 年03月
Date of issue Year of issue

24 MAR 1984 PARIS

中华人民共和国驻法国大使馆

P CHN 14 6290560

姓名 Name in full 王 红
WANG HONG

性别 Sex 女 F
出生日期 Date of birth 1984.11.20
20 NOV 1984

职业 Profession 学生 STUDENT

婚姻状况 Married status 未婚 Unmarried

出生地点 Place of birth 北京 BEIJING

有效期限 Date of expiry 2004.03.03

身份证件种类 Identity card No.

POCHNWANG<HONG><<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<
14629D5609CHN64112QBPD403036192DFRAAK<<<<<<<BZ

Ms. Wang Hong is denied passport renewal

Ms. Wang: “The formulation of the national policy to crack down on Falun Gong is against the constitution, so the persecution of Falun Gong practitioners pursuant to this policy is illegal. My passport has expired, but I can only wait for two options: the first is that they issue a new passport to me, but I don’t know when. However, during the period before getting the passport, I wonder what document can identify my nationality? The other is that they won’t issue a passport to me. In that case, what message does my country wish to convey to me through this practice? Does it want to warn me that I am not entitled to be a Chinese citizen because I practice Falun Gong? Does it mean that due to practicing Falun Gong, a Chinese citizen in a foreign country must either be deprived of the right of free movement or return to China to suffer persecution? To my understanding, only citizens can give up their nationality, and government agencies are not entitled to deprive citizens with a passport of that right.”

Secretary Liu replied, “Well, if you like, you may take back your passport first. We have no other choice but to wait for the outcome of the review in China. As I mentioned in the beginning, the reason for me to tell you this on behalf of the Consulate is to avoid your coming here without getting any answer tomorrow. I have come to know what you mentioned, and have understood your position, Okay?”

The following day, I went to the Consulate with my receipt, and was received by Secretary Liu again. I asked him, “If I take back my passport and give you back the receipt, can you give me proof to certify that I have been here to apply for my passport renewal? In addition, if the Consulate is unable to renew my passport, can you let me know the reason in writing?”

He replied, “Nowadays, the processing procedures are different from the past. Every step is processed by computer, and no one at any level is entitled to issue proof in writing at will.”

I said, “When I first came here to lodge my application, Ms. Yuan at that counter didn’t ask me any questions. Right after I handed her my application form along with my photos, she gave me this receipt. She wrote urgent on the receipt at my request, and asked me to pick up my passport on the due date. In other words, that was the normal procedure.”

Secretary Liu replied, “Definitely, you are right. It is impossible for us to send all the passports of several hundred thousand overseas Chinese to be reviewed by the authorities in China.”

I asked, “Then, why did my application need to be reviewed by the authorities in China? What is the first step of the review? And who decided it?”

He said, “I cannot tell you the answer, and you don’t need

to ask for the details.” From his response I could see that the officials of the Consulate also felt their way of dealing with this matter was not altogether right.

I replied, “If that was your normal official procedure, I wouldn’t ask any questions. But as you just mentioned, this scrutiny procedure is not applicable to every applicant, and my case has something to do with China’s policy towards Falun Gong; it is apparent that the decision was made due to the crackdown on Falun Gong.”

Liu: “I have told you that I am only a clerk and I can only do what they tell me to do.”

Ms. Wang: “Then can you let me know which secretary or consul is responsible for the business concerning Falun Gong? Can I have a talk with him or her?”

Liu: “I cannot tell you that; I have nothing to tell you.” His answer once again indicated that the Chinese Consulate’s act was unreasonable.

Ms. Wang: “Now, I understand that it isn’t at your discretion. But the reason why I asked you who is responsible for this matter is that it involves the accountability for the persecution of Falun Gong. If a citizen is deprived of nationality just because they practice Falun Gong, this is a serious violation of human rights. I will appeal to the international human rights organizations, the French Government, the media and The World

Organization to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong. That is why I want you to tell me the phone number of the person responsible for this matter. I also would like to let you know that those who persecuted Falun Gong, including Jiang Zemin, Li Lanqing, Luo Gan, Sun Jiazheng, etc. have been sued overseas. More and more Chinese people have come to know the facts about the persecution of Falun Gong. Everyone who participates in this oppression will eventually be held responsible for their actions."

Secretary Liu said, "I know, but I am simply a clerk. I can only ask you to wait for the outcome at home."

Ms. Wang: "Then can you tell me your phone number so that I can contact you?"

Liu: "No, I'll contact you when I get instructions from the authorities in China. I have your telephone number."

On July 1, after waiting for four months, I went to the Consulate again, and asked two clerks in a reception room about my application for my passport renewal. I said, "Secretary Liu once asked me to go home and wait for your notification, but I haven't received any message from you after four months have past." One of the clerks called Secretary Liu, telling him that I was there to query about the progress of my application. After talking to Secretary Liu, he told

me that the clerk dealing with my case was not in the office that day, and asked me to come back some other time. I pointed to the initial L on the receipt and asked him if it meant that Secretary Liu was the person dealing with my case. But he gave me a negative response. I thus asked if I could talk to other people in charge; however, they kept quiet. I further told them that the Chinese Embassy should be responsible to Chinese citizens, and that they should not deny my application without reason. I said, "Isn't it because I practice Falun Gong that you treat me this way? Isn't it because you feel your reasons are unjustifiable that you dare not answer my questions?"

I talked to the people in the queue behind me and said: "The Falun Gong practitioners in China have been cruelly persecuted. Now they have been shot by murderers hired by Jiang's regime in South Africa. The reason for Falun Gong practitioners appealing outside the Embassy is that they want to let people know we cannot tolerate these kinds of atrocities to continue any longer."

One of the clerks asked me not to spread the information there and the other stared at me and said, "Where is the evidence?"

I said, "Those practitioners were on their way to sue Zeng Qinghong and Bo Xilai, who should mainly be held accountable for the persecution of Falun

Gong. The practitioner who was shot wore clothing with the words 'Falun Dafa'. It is evident that the motive for the shooting was against Falun Gong. Who has persecuted Falun Gong, and who are most afraid of the lawsuits initiated by Falun Gong practitioners? Isn't it very clear?"

I once again asked to talk to the person in charge, but they didn't give me any response. Then I approached a claims counter, and handed my receipt to the people inside. The clerk replied: "This is not the case I dealt with. You should go to the people who gave you this receipt." I added: "Can you tell who this person is?" She blurted out "Secretary Liu!" Apparently, the receptionist had lied to me at that point.

Before the Consulate closed for the noon break, Secretary Liu walked out of the Consulate along with several people. I approached him to ask about the matter regarding my passport renewal. He said, "Without instruction, what can I do. You just wait!"

One year has passed since I submitted my application, and the matter has been delayed unreasonably in this way by the Chinese Consulate.

The Chinese Embassy Refuses to Renew Our Passports

My name is Sheng Li. On the afternoon of June 29, 2001, my wife Zhong Donghong and I went to the Chinese Consulate in France to apply for the renewal of our passports. As the passports we had were Service Passports, the consuls asked us to show them the necessary certificates for passport renewal authorized by the Education Division of the Consulate.

On July 2, 2001, my wife and I went to the Education Division to request these certificates. At first, a secretary with the last name of Wang came to help us. As both my wife and I had been practicing Falun Gong for some years, the secretary tried to ascertain whether my wife

had passed out informational flyers about China's persecution of Falun Gong to tourists in the area of the Louvre Museum. We then started to discuss the issue of Falun Gong with the secretary. The atmosphere was relatively calm even though each of us took strong positions. After about half an hour, the Director of the Education Division, Mr. Guoxing Chao, joined us. When Mr. Chao realized that we were talking about Falun Gong, he angrily sat down and commenced with a fiery attack on both Falun Gong and its founder, accusing Falun Gong of sabotaging the Chinese government. In a calm manner, we told him how we had benefited both physically and spiritually from practicing Falun Gong. We

said that as practitioners of Falun Gong, we only hoped that the Chinese government would immediately stop the cruel and violent crackdown on Falun Gong initiated by Jiang's regime, and peacefully end all persecution against its practitioners. This director, honored with being a diplomat, completely disregarded the plain truth of the persecution of many thousands of Falun Gong practitioners, including the fact that more than 200 Falun Gong practitioners had already been tortured to death by that time. He responded in an extremely vicious and inhuman way, saying that the persecution should absolutely continue and never stop. To finish his tirade, Mr. Chao shouted forcefully, in a manner mimicking that adopted during the Cultural Revolution, bellowing, "It's impossible for you to renew your passports here! Either you go home, clear your minds about Falun Gong, and then come see me again, or you can return to China and renew your passports there!" In closing, he finished by adding, "You can go ahead and seek asylum. I don't care about you!"



Mr. and Mrs. Shen were deprived of their passports by the Chinese Embassy in France

Chinese Embassy in France Refuses to Renew the Passports of Ms. Huang Ailan and Her Husband

My name is Ailan Huang and I live in Paris, France. On February 2, 2004, I went to the Consular Section of the Chinese Embassy in Paris to have my passport extended. A clerk accepted my application form, photos and the other necessary papers, and then gave me a receipt that would enable me to get my passport back on February 16.

On Monday February 16, when I approached the clerk to get my passport back, she told me that she couldn't find my passport. I went to the reception office near the gate and asked why my passport wasn't there. A gentleman in the reception office phoned and inquired about my lost passport. Someone in the Consular Section said that he couldn't find it either. I waited for more than two hours. Finally I asked him for a telephone number of a person who is in charge of my passport. He gave me the telephone number of a Mr. Wang. When I got home, I phoned Mr. Wang many times but nobody answered.

On Wednesday when I was away, my daughter answered a telephone call, requesting that I go to the Consular Section the next day. The person in the reception office told me that they were not working that day. I told him that Mr. Wang had asked me

to come. The man in the reception office said that there was no way I could see him even if he had asked me to come, and then he told me to come again the next day. On Friday, I went there again. The man in the reception office called Mr. Wang and told me that Mr. Wang was too busy to see me. He asked me to come again the next week. I said that I had phoned Mr. Wang many times but nobody answered. The person in the reception office didn't say anything.

The next week, the person in the reception office told me again that Mr. Wang was engaged. I told him that I also have to work and it was impossible

for me to come here again and again without any result. The person in the reception office called Mr. Wang again. He told Mr. Wang that I had been here many times, and then he told me to wait for a little while. In a few minutes, Mr. Wang came downstairs and asked me in to have a talk. His first words were, "Aren't you practicing Falun Gong?" I answered, "Yes, I am practicing Falun Gong. Is there anything wrong with me practicing Falun Gong?" "Do you know that practicing Falun Gong is banned in China?" he asked. I told him, "You shouldn't just listen to the propaganda from the Chinese ruling Party; it would be much better to listen to what we Falun



Mr. Wu and Ms. Huang cannot get their passports renewed by the Chinese Consulate in France

Gong practitioners have to say.”

I told him about the great physical and mental changes that have taken place since my whole family started practicing Falun Gong. I continued, “Falun Gong teaches people Truthfulness, Compassion and Forbearance. Is it wrong to be good people?” He asked me to write a report, in which I should tell them what I thought about Falun Gong. I told him that there was no need for me to write such a report, because I had told him what I thought about Falun Gong just now. He insisted that I write it. I asked him, “Are you going to give my passport back if I write a report expressing the same opinion about Falun Gong as I’ve told you just now?” He replied, “We will consider it.” A week passed and I sent my report to the Consular Section by registered mail. In the report, I told them about how my body and mind have benefited from practicing Falun Gong and how Jiang’s group has cruelly suppressed Falun Gong. As a Dafa practitioner, it is my

duty to tell more people about Falun Gong and to help end the persecution as soon as possible. I expressed the hope that they wouldn’t continue taking part in the persecution of Falun Gong practitioners after they learned the facts.

A few days after the letter was sent, I went to the Consulate Section again. Mr. Wang told me that he had received my letter. I asked him where my passport was. He said he had to wait for a reply from the authorities in China and he was not sure how long that would take. I asked him if he could write me a certificate indicating that my passport was being processed. He said that he could do nothing about it and asked me to take my passport back without it being extended. This was in February, and my passport was due to expire on June 1.

On June 22, my husband and I went to the Consular Section to have our passports extended. The clerk gave us a receipt with which

we could get our passports back on July 6 after going through all the necessary procedures.

On July 6, the woman who was in charge of giving back the passports said she couldn’t find our passports. We then went to the reception office and asked what was wrong with our passports. The man in the reception diverted us to another clerk. When I handed in my receipt, the woman said, “Your case is special and you have to wait for a reply from the authorities in China.” When I inquired what section was in charge of the matter and its address and telephone number, she answered, “How can I tell you?!” I replied, “All right, I will leave my telephone number with you, and you can contact me if you want to know anything about me.” She said, “We’ve already got a lot of information about you.” “Can you write and tell me the reason why our passports have not been extended?” I asked. She refused and asked us to take our passports back.

Germany

The Price of Conscience—I Lost My Citizenship Because of My Belief in “Truth-Benevolence-Forbearance”

My name is Chen Gang and I am a Falun Gong practitioner living in Germany. On May 21, 2000, I went to the Chinese Consulate in Munich, Germany to renew my passport. On May 23, one of the staff there called me and asked me to come to the Consulate. An officer in the visa application department interviewed me. He put my old passport before me and asked me, “Are you the person in charge of Falun Gong in Munich?”

I replied, “Falun Gong practitioners don’t have an organization, so we don’t have anybody in charge. It is just that whoever has the time and the heart contributes more of his or her efforts voluntarily.”

The officer asked again, “Do you know China’s policy on Falun Gong?”

I replied, “I have never acknowledged that Jiang’s policy of persecuting Falun Gong represents China’s policy.”

He raised his voice and said, “I’m asking you if you know about China’s policy on Falun Gong?”

I said, “And I answered you precisely. Jiang alone cannot represent China or the one and a half billion Chinese people.”

He said, “With this kind of attitude, just take your old passport home with you. Think hard and clearly before you come back again.”

I replied, “I’ve already thought it over for a long time. I can answer you right now. No threats will change my belief in ‘Truthfulness-Benevolence-Forbearance.’ Jiang has persecuted over one hundred million Chinese people who believe in ‘Truthfulness-Benevolence-Forbearance.’ He is the one who has endangered the country and the people.”

He interrupted me and said, “Do not talk about this here.

This is Chinese territory. Please leave!” Because of my belief in “Truthfulness-Benevolence-Forbearance,” I was deprived of my rights as a Chinese citizen and I was forced to leave this piece of overseas Chinese territory. Not having a valid passport has already caused a lot of problems with my school and work in Germany.

This was the second time I had been persecuted for upholding my conscience. The first time was after the massacre in Tiananmen Square. On the morning of June 4, 1989, with my own eyes I saw many civilians and students



Ms. Chen Gang and his sister.

being killed or wounded by gunshots. I saw the windows and walls of a subway station filled with bullet holes. I saw bodies spread thinly on the ground after being crushed into meat patties by tanks.

After that, twenty-four hours a day, the TV news kept lying about what happened. It claimed that Beijing citizens had rioted and that only soldiers from the People's Liberation Army had died or been injured. They said there were no casualties among civilians and students. Just like the persecution of Falun Gong today, what the TV news said was nothing but lies. Not only did they lie about it, they also forced everyone else to lie about it, requiring all Chinese people in all industries, businesses and schools to express their support for opening fire on the students and civilians. This is exactly the same as today's "millions of signatures opposing Falun Gong" (a petition drive launched by Jiang's regime in an attempt to justify its persecution of Falun Gong, in which schoolchildren and workers were intimidated into signing their names). The school I was attending, the Beijing University of Science and Technology, also forced all college students to explicitly show their support for the government's so called action of "putting down a rebellion." Except for me, everyone in our Electrical Engineering Department submitted to the pressure and against their will lied to express their support for the gov-

ernment. I was the only one who stayed silent from the beginning to the end because I knew that what the TV had publicized was different from what I had seen.

Because I was the only one in the department who had not expressed support for the government, I immediately became a prime target. The secretary of the Party's Branch Office colluded with the Martial-Law troops to find an excuse to arrest me. The Martial-Law troops had already gone to our school with machine guns in their hands and arrested about a dozen students, but they couldn't find any excuse to arrest me, so they planned to punish me by expelling me from school. I was forced to ask a doctor to issue a statement for me that would allow me to take a one-year sick leave. I stayed home in hiding for a year to avoid the heat of the political situation. Because of what happened, I started thinking about going abroad to continue my education; I felt that I was deprived of my dignity as a human being in China.

With this wish of going abroad in mind and also with the wish to learn something related to traditional Chinese culture before leaving the country, I thought about qigong. At the time, many different kinds of qigong were practiced in society. Falun Gong was the only one that didn't charge money, so I decided to try it. The first day, I learned the exercises at a practice site. As soon as I finished doing "Penetrating the Two Cosmic

Extremes," I felt very different. Then I learned the sitting meditation exercise. After just moving my hands a little bit, I could feel my palms becoming very warm and I felt energy radiating out from my palms. I thought to myself, "This Falun Gong is for real!" What Teacher Li Hongzhi said answered all the questions about life that I had pondered throughout my life. The principles that Falun Gong promotes, "Truthfulness-Benevolence-Forbearance," were just what I had been searching for. After I started practicing Falun Gong, I held myself to the standard of "Truthfulness-Benevolence-Forbearance," and both my body and mind benefited immensely. The relationships among my family members also become more harmonious.

However, Falun Gong, which benefits our country so much and does not pose any danger, has been cruelly persecuted by the Chinese government. Moreover, this persecution has extended to foreign countries. In Germany, I was threatened with denial of my Chinese citizenship just because of my personal belief. In 1989, I was forced to choose between my conscience and being a student. Today, I am again forced to face the same choice; should I be a man of conscience or should I keep my Chinese citizenship?

Holland

The Chinese Embassy in The Netherlands Refuses to Replace My Passport

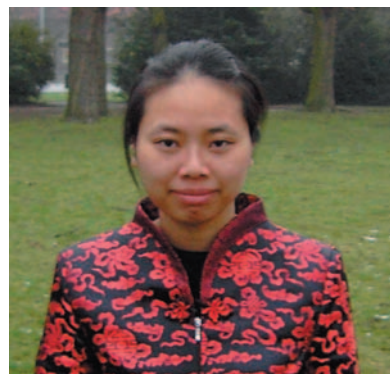
My name is Deng Qing, I'm 28 years old. I graduated from Beijing Normal University with a degree in Mathematics. In 1996, I arrived in the Netherlands to pursue my postgraduate studies. In 2001, the Eindhoven University of Technology granted me a Ph.D. in Mathematics. Presently, a Dutch computer company employs me.

In September 2002, my passport was stolen during a trip to Denmark. In early November, I went to the Chinese Embassy in The Hague to apply for a replacement. At that time, an officer told me that I could get a replacement passport within two or three weeks. I thought that no one knew that I practiced Falun Gong. On November 15, I received a phone call from the Embassy; they informed me that my passport was ready and that I could pick it up in a few days. Two days later, I received another phone call from the Embassy. This time they said that my pass-

port was not ready.

Three weeks later, Wang, who was the consul at that time, asked me to meet with her. She asked me if I practiced Falun Gong. She told me that if I did, I should give them a written statement that I would renounce my belief in Falun Gong. Otherwise, I would not be granted a replacement passport. I showed her pictures about the Tiananmen Square "Self-immolation incident," which showed many questionable points. She looked at me with a blank look and told me that these pictures were a fake. I proceeded to tell her about the benefits of body and mind that I obtained from practicing Falun Gong. She said that if I felt good, I could practice at home. She asked me if I could guarantee that I would not practice and meditate in front of the Embassy. I said: "This is the place where we can express our opinion. I can't promise." Then I told her about the inhuman persecution that

is taking place in China. I said: "If there were no such persecution, I wouldn't come even if you invited me. Who does not want to rest at home during the weekends?" I told her it is unlawful to deprive me of my nationality with such a flimsy excuse. To my surprise, she denied this and said that they didn't deprive me of my nationality, nor did they say that they would refuse to replace my passport. It was only that they needed some time to investigate. I asked her how long this would take, to which she answered that



Ms. Deng Qing.

it was not certain.

February 2003 was the month when my residency permit expired. Without a passport, I could not renew the permit. I went to the Consulate for my passport. The officer who received me was a new consul, named Sun. I showed him pictures that revealed the questionable points of the Tiananmen Square "Self-immolation incident." I also showed him pictures of Falun Gong practitioners after they were brutally beaten in Chinese labor camps. He dared not look at them and closed his eyes. When facing the truth, they can do nothing but deceive themselves as well as others. I told him that both my body and spirit have benefited from practicing Falun Gong, and that I would without doubt continue to practice such a marvelous practice. He talked with me mainly to

understand my attitude towards Falun Gong. After the discussion he told me that I wouldn't get my replacement passport if I continued to hold such an attitude. He said he would ask for an opinion from his superior. I asked him why I couldn't get my replacement passport and he said that I violated the law. I then asked him, what law had I violated? He could not answer, nor did he ever show me the regulation. So until now, I still don't know which law I had supposedly "violated." Three months later, I went to the Embassy again to ask for my passport. The answer he gave me was that they were still waiting for approval from China. In March 2004, I went the Embassy again and got the same answer from Consul Sun. Now I know that waiting for the approval from China was just a way to put me off. In May and early September 2004, I went to the Embassy again for my passport, but every time I came back disappointed.

In order to renew my residency permit, my lawyer has sent faxes many times to the Embassy, but we are still waiting for a reply.

The Chinese Embassy is blackmailing me. Either I renounce Falun Gong or I will not get a replacement passport. I was once terminally ill. To stop practicing Falun Gong would mean a relapse and possible death. If that happens, who will take responsibility? It is inhuman for the Chinese Embassy to do that. On the other hand, according to the

Chinese Constitution, a citizen has freedom of belief. Why does the Chinese Embassy interfere with a citizen's right of belief?

Also, not having a passport creates a lot of difficulties when renewing my Dutch residency status. If I lose my residency status, I will lose my job. I know in China thousands of people have lost their jobs because they practice Falun Gong. I am so far away from China and it is hard to believe that such a persecution can happen to me. Not having a passport is very stressful and affects my mind. I'm worried that I will lose my residency status, lose my job and it will be difficult for me to see my family within the foreseeable future.

I'm being refused a replacement of my stolen passport, because I am not willing to betray my conscience. I hold the wish that one day I can go back to China and visit my elderly parents. But my greatest wish is that one day Falun Gong practitioners can practice openly and freely in China.

0261502

取证单
PICK UP FORM

姓名/Name:
电话/Tel:

领事机关专用/FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

批注:

等级: 份数:

收件: 护照 ☐ 公证书 ☐

收件人: 收件日期:

取证日期
DATE FOR PICK UP

Photo of Ms. Deng Qing's passport pickup form.

Hungary

Why Did the Chinese Embassy Confiscate My Passport?

My name is Zhang Xiaoping, I'm a Falun Gong practitioner living in Hungary. In early April 2002, the Chinese Embassy called me and asked me to come to the Embassy for an interview on the coming Monday. When asked about the reason for their request, they said, "You know what you have done."

Just two days before the interview day, my daughter and I bumped into two men and one of them called me by my name. I felt kind of strange, and asked, "How do you know my name?" They replied, "We are from the Chinese Embassy." I doubted it, but I looked around and saw that one of the Embassy's cars was parked nearby. They added, "Now that we have bumped into each other here, let's have a talk." I asked, "What do you want to talk about?" They asked me where and how many years I had been practicing Falun Gong. I answered the questions and told them the benefits I have gained from practicing Falun Gong.

They said, "There are many ways to keep fit, and you don't have to practice Falun Gong. You had better quit practicing Falun Gong, and focus on your business so as to lead a stable life. Did you read the flyers you distributed? Why did you mention the name of our Embassy in the flyers? You are involved in politics, and against our government." I said, "You may not realize the facts about Falun Gong and the persecution practitioners have suffered. We are seeking support and calling for an end to this persecution. Practicing Falun Gong not only can keep you fit, but more importantly it can revive moral standards. Falun Gong teaches people how to become more kind-hearted and a better person." They said, "You had better not do things for Falun Gong any more otherwise you should not blame me for my unkindness to you. You should make the right judgment, and be responsible for the consequences." Then they declared that the conversation was over.



Ms. Zhang Xiaoping's passport was denied renewal by the Chinese Embassy in Hungary

As expected, in May 2003 my passport extension application was unreasonably denied.

In May 2003, since I wanted to renew my residency status, I needed to renew my passport and apply for a new version before it expired. On May 26, 2003, I submitted my application along with the required materials. As with other Chinese people, I got a receipt indicating that the new passport could be issued on June 19 (see the photo below). One thing I didn't pay much attention to at that time was that the others' passports were returned to the applicants after they were checked, and the clerk only kept the duplicates of the passports as well as the applications. However, the clerk kept my passport at the Embassy. Moreover, the receipt I got did not indicate the date that I could claim my new passport until I asked them to add it.

When I went to claim my passport on the date indicated, they said that there were some problems with my application, and asked me to wait. They talked to me in a room next door. I asked them what had happened, but a clerk with the surname Ma said, "Your passport renewal application is denied." "Why?" I asked. He said, "You practice Falun Gong. Why bother asking this question!" He sounded as if it is reasonable to deny passport renewal applications for those who practice Falun Gong. I said, "Falun Gong is very good! What is wrong with wanting to be a kind-hearted person by following

the principles of Truthfulness, Compassion and Forbearance? After all, what is the connection between my passport and Falun Gong?" He replied that it had already been decided by the government.

I said, "The decision is against the facts. It was entirely based on libel and fabricated lies, and the persecution is illegal!" He said, "You should not say that because I majored in law." I said, "Given that, you should know that the persecution of Falun Gong is absolutely without legal basis." He kept quiet and then argued irrationally, "Now that it is a fixed policy, you should not say that it is persecution." When I asked when my passport renewal application could be approved, he said, "If you write something to me, we'll approve your application." Upon hearing that, I knew what he wanted me to write.

I thus said with a smile, "You see how wonderful I look now. Practicing Falun Gong makes my body and mind become healthy. Is it possible for me to give up practicing Falun Gong?" And then they asked me to go home and think it over. At that moment, Consul Peng entered the room and asked about the result of the talk. I therefore asked, "If you want to deny my passport renewal application, please give me the reasons in writing or return my old passport to me." They said, "We are not authorized to return your passport to you. It must be agreed to by the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. As to giving you the reasons in writing, it is not stipulated in the working code." They then asked me to go home.

After leaving the Embassy, I felt it was ridiculous to confiscate my passport and deny my application just because I want to become a kind-hearted person. Why is it so difficult to be a kind-hearted person? Is it a disguised form of persecution? Therefore I came back to claim my passport again. Consul Peng talked to me this time, so I told him why I practice Falun Gong and the facts about the physical and spiritual benefits I have gained. I said, "I did not break any law, so the Embassy should not deny my passport renewal". The consul asked, "Do you know what kind of institution the Chinese Embassy is?" He emphasized this word-by-word: "The Chinese Embassy is an extension

020810	
取证单 PICK UP FORM	
姓名/Name: [handwritten]	
电话/Tel: [handwritten]	
领事机关专用/FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY	
批注: [handwritten]	
等级: [handwritten]	份数: [handwritten]
收件: 护照 ☐ 公证书 ☐	
收件人: [handwritten]	收件日期: [handwritten]
取证日期 DATE FOR PICK UP	[handwritten]

Receipt of Ms. Zhang's application for passport renewal

of the Chinese Government.” He seemed to be telling me that the Embassy was just carrying out the Jiang group’s policy, and it had nothing to be blamed for. Then he became irritable and said, “You often led a group of people to make trouble here. It’s outrageous! You are against the government, and it is damaging our national stability and unity.” I replied calmly with a smile, “Consul, you have witnessed that our appeal is always peaceful and rational without any violence. Nonetheless, so many kind-hearted people have been persecuted to death. We were calling for an end to the persecution. What did you mean by ‘against the government’? The persecution of Falun Gong is based on Jiang Zemin’s personal will. Can he represent the Chinese Government”?

The consul began to speak badly and irrationally about Falun Gong, he defamed Mr. Li Hongzhi, and repeated the lies and libels fabricated by the Chinese media to defame Falun Gong. I stopped him from continuing. I asked him if he had read our leaflets that contain information about the lawsuit against Jiang Zemin. The consul was so unhappy that he stood up to say that he had something else to deal with. I said, “I must

submit my passport to the immigration agency tomorrow. Otherwise, I will have trouble with my residence status.” The consul told me, “Unless you write a repentance statement to give up practicing Falun Gong, there will be no way for you to get your passport back.” I said, “So when shall I come back again?” The consul replied, “Just wait for our notification.”

In the middle of July, the Embassy notified me to have a talk with them. At the beginning the consul especially expressed his concern about my life, and then he asked me, for my children’s sake, not to get myself into trouble because of the passport issue. In the meantime, he also mentioned that my daughter held a dependents visa so her residence status was related to mine and that losing my residence status might affect my daughter’s right to an education, preventing her from being able to go back to China, etc.. In fact, they fully understood the situation we might encounter without having my passport. For one thing, it would affect our residence status and make us unable to live and work normally. He wanted to know my final decision. I stared at him resolutely and shook my head, indicating that I would never give up practicing Dafa.

He seemed to be kind of disappointed, and said, “I think you are involved too much to change your mind overnight. But as long as you promise not to practice the exercises in front of the Embassy, we will not stop you from practicing it at any other place.” He also mentioned that they might return my passport to me, but would be unable to approve my extension application. In addition, he told me that I had several more months to decide on writing a repentance statement, and that as soon as I signed the repentance statement, my passport would be extended.

In this way, they confiscated my passport at will, without any legal procedure.

Ireland

The Chinese Embassy in Ireland Told Me I Break the Law Whenever I Practice Falun Gong, No Matter Where I Am

My name is Dai Dongxue. I called the Chinese Embassy in Ireland in the beginning of February 2001 to ask them to renew my passport. Previously, in August 2000, they had refused to issue a new passport for me when my passport ran out of blank pages. This time I called and asked them whether they would renew my passport for me as it was about to expire. They told me to call back in a few days. A week later I called them back and they told me that they would not renew my passport. When I asked them why they said that I knew why. After about two more weeks, I called them again to ask for a letter providing documentation that the embassy would not renew my passport. Again, they asked me to call back a few days later. I then called them back a week later and this time they told me that they would not issue a letter or anything else. They also said that I broke the law in China where Falun Gong was

banned. I said to them that I wasn't in China; I was in Ireland. They further stated that because I practiced Falun Gong when the government already banned it that I had broken the law. I summarized to them what I had heard. Firstly they would not renew my passport because I practice of Falun Gong and secondly, they would not give any proof that they refused my application. They agreed with what I had said; I then hang up the phone.

I called the Chinese Embassy again on February 27, 2001, to discuss my passport issue. This time they made 3 points to me:

1. Falun Gong is an [slandorous word omitted] which was banned in China, and I break the law whenever I practice Falun Gong, no matter where I am;

2. If I want to get my passport renewed, I will have to denounce Falun Gong totally, and be "clear-headed"

about how "evil and harmful" Falun Gong is; and

3. They would renew my passport only if I gave up practicing Falun Gong.

I told them that Falun Gong is not a cult and that it only teaches people to be better and more spiritually centered. Furthermore I told them that I would never give up the practice.



Photo of Ms. Dai Dongxue

The Chinese Consulate in Milan: You Can Go Back to China and Sue Us in the Foreign Office

I am Zhang Guifen, a resident of Italy. My husband, Lan Jianhua, and I have been engaged in scientific research.

We were Chinese passport holders and our passports were to expire on December 17, 2001. In order to keep our passports valid, we went to the Chinese Consulate in Milan in advance on November 13, 2001 and delivered to the Consulate our application forms, our photos, copies of our Certificates of Residence and our passports. The embassy official Fu Zhongyang gave us a collection receipt without a collection date on it. When we asked him when we could collect our passports, he replied that our situation was special and we had to wait for a phone call. When we asked what was special about us, he refused to answer.

A few days later, when we made an inquiry by phone to the Consulate using the contact number on the receipt, the embassy

staff replied that our applications were not on their computer. On December 14, 2001, we went to the Chinese Consulate to enquire about our passport renewal, the then first Consul Liang Haitao received us and told us that if we could write a letter stating that we would “not damage the image of China” [implying that practicing Falun Gong, and appealing

for justice for the detained practitioners in China was damaging the image of China], then our passport renewal could be processed. We asked for the reason, and he replied that whoever the Consulate thinks it's necessary to write to we will have to write to and he cited the example that if a Chinese woman gave birth illegally in Italy, she would have



Mr. and Mrs. Lan's passports were denied renewal by the Chinese Consulate in Milan

to write such a statement. Yet we had violated neither Chinese Laws nor Italian Laws, and so we refused to write such a statement. After talking with him for some time, he finally told us that our passports could not be renewed because we are Falun Gong practitioners.

Later we made a few phone calls to Liang Haitao. He told us "This situation cannot be decided by me. Only if you write a statement can we process the renewal." On the morning of March 22, 2002, we received a phone call from Liang Haitao saying that we could collect our passports. On March 25, 2002, at 10:20 a.m., we arrived at the Chinese Consulate in Milan and waited in the queue to collect our passports. There were many people that day. At about 12:00 a.m., there were still more than ten people in front of us and a consul Mr. Fu called out our names. We gave him our collection receipt and our passports were given back. However we found out that our passports were not renewed. We asked him "Why do you give us back unprocessed passports?" He did not answer and asked us to wait. We waited for a while, and nobody came to see us. We then went to ask Mr. Fu again. He said he just came to the Consulate and didn't know the reason. I told him that it was Liang Haitao who informed us to come to collect our passports. He said he didn't know where Liang Haitao was. However we had just seen Liang Haitao leaving the

area, and we requested that Mr. Fu contact him.

After a while, Liang Haitao came back. We asked him for an explanation of why our passports were not renewed, he did not answer directly, and instead said, "I have told you before." We said to him, "Our passports were given to you on November 13, 2001. Today is March 25, 2002. Our passports have stayed with you for five months. When the passports were given to you, they were still valid. Now they have expired. Please could you write us a letter stating the date of our passport delivery and the date of their collection?" He refused to do so. We then requested the return of our passport renewal application forms (which contained our photos) or a copy of them. He went inside, and then came out and told us it was not possible. We told him their action was very unreasonable. He then told us, "You can go back to China and sue us in the Foreign Office." He threatened us many times, saying, "You must leave immediately, otherwise I will take some measures." There were about twenty Chinese and Western people in the Consulate. Liang Haitao angrily said in front of all these people, "I am not a Falun Gong member." He called for the embassy guard and the local police. We told him publicly: "We are Falun Gong practitioners, Falun Gong is righteous, there is nothing wrong with being a good person according to the principle of Truthfulness,

Compassion and Forbearance, and there are over 100 million people in over sixty countries practicing Falun Gong."

Soon three police cars arrived with two guards and four police officers. After their investigation, the police concluded that our actions were proper. The guards wrote down our passport numbers and the event process and said that they were willing to provide a statement of the event. We parted with the police at 1:30 p.m.

Chinese Consulate in Italy: “What Passport? I Can’t Remember.”

My name is Shao Jingbiao. In November 2001, I lost my passport. On April 17, 2002, I went to the Chinese Consulate to apply for a new passport. Duan Xiaoyi, the Director of the Consul Department, met with me. After reviewing of all the documents, he gave me a pick-up notification, which said that I would be able to collect my new passport on April 24 (please refer to the picture). On April 24, 2002, I went to collect my passport and was met by Mr. Yu Yang, another official at the Consulate. He looked at me and said quite sternly, "You will have a long wait. Your documents are with the Bureau of Public Security." He could hardly restrain his happiness at my misfortune. I turned around and saw Duan Xiaoyi, whom I had spoken with during my first visit. He pretended that he had never seen me. He seemed to be very surprised and said, "What passport? I can't remember. I'm positive that I did not handle this. I didn't write this note. Find the person you spoke with during your first visit."

During late 2003 and in early 2004, I mailed two registered letters to the Consulate and urged

them to expedite issuance of my passport. It is like dropping stones into the sea – no response. To this day, I have not heard from the Consulate concerning my passport.



Mr. Shao Jingbiao's passport

Japan

Falun Gong Practitioner's Passport Renewal was Denied

My name is Gao Shanshan. I am 32 years old, and I was born in Jilin, China. In May 1998, I went to Japan to study. I studied Japanese for two years and English for another two years there, and I am now a third year university student.

In December 1999, I went to Hong Kong to attend a Falun Gong experience sharing conference. I needed to go to China in order to obtain a transit visa to Hong Kong. So I went to Shenzhen with 17 other practitioners. One practitioner was held back at customs on our way back to Hong Kong because her passport was registered. Although all the other practitioners had passed customs, we did not want to leave her behind. We didn't want her to be sent back to China, so we stayed in Shenzhen. At approximately 4 p.m., they took away all of our passports for the purpose of verification and came back at midnight. Immigration officials searched us, took our pictures and interrogated us.

Then they took away all of our Falun Gong books and materials. They returned our passports, escorted us to Hong Kong immigration and handed us over to the Hong Kong police. We were released after the Hong Kong police briefly questioned us. Since then, my passport number has been registered on their blacklist. When I went back to China via Shanghai and Beijing in 2000, I was detained and put under house arrest in a hotel. On the second day, I was put on a flight back to Japan. At the 2000 Spring Festival when I went back to China again, I was pushed back onto a Pakistan Airlines jet along with two other practitioners, and I was stuck in Pakistan for two days. Since 2000, I have been barred from returning to China.

In March 2003, my passport was going to expire, so I went to the Chinese Embassy to apply for a renewal. My passport was held, but not processed. After my persistent efforts, the

embassy renewed my passport for one year. In March 2004, I needed to renew my passport again. I was told that it could not be processed. I had to talk to the staff responsible at the embassy and in July my passport was renewed. But I don't know if my passport has been registered. I can only use it for traveling outside China. I still cannot get back into China.



Ms. Gao Shanshan.

Why Did the Chinese Embassy in Japan Reject My Passport Renewal Application

My name is Bao Guofen, and I am a Falun Gong practitioner. I have lived in Japan for 16 years and am in the process of becoming a permanent resident of Japan.

Before I started practicing Falun Gong, I had many illnesses including nerve pain and abnormal blood pressure. The anguish of these illnesses profoundly affected my life and work. I finally lost the ability to work, so I had no choice but to resign. In May 1997 I went back to China in order to seek treatment for the illnesses. I spent lots of money and had a difficult time looking for a good doctor and good medicine,

but my illnesses still were not fully cured.

In July 1998, when I was at my worst, a friend introduced me to Falun Gong. I read the book *Zhuan Falun* immediately and started to learn the exercises from my friend. Within just two months, the illnesses that had troubled me for so many years disappeared. I now live in a joyful and relaxed state, free of illness. Slowly I came to understand that Falun Gong is not only an effective way of healing, but it can also help people to upgrade their moral character.

A brutal persecution against Falun Gong began in China in 1999. Because I have truly benefited from Falun Gong, I knew very well that Jiang's propaganda against Falun Gong was fabricated, so I went back to China a few times to appeal on behalf of this practice at the government appeal office.

When I went back to China to appeal in 1999, the officials stamped my passport, which voids it immediately. In 2001, I went to the Chinese Embassy in Japan to try to renew my passport, but they told me, "We cannot do anything for you because your name is on 'the list,' since you were one of the more than one thousand people who went to appeal." Later Officer

Wu Xiaoyin interviewed me. He requested that I sign a statement promising not to practice Falun Gong. I did not agree to his request. As a result, I have been without a passport for three years, which has been a great inconvenience. I had problems looking for a job because I didn't have a passport, and I also could not travel overseas.

I am a citizen of the People's Republic of China. I have not committed any crime, and I merely wanted to speak out in support of a cultivation practice that is good for mind and body. For this simple reason, my right to return to my country and my right to have my passport renewed were taken away from me. This is an abuse of our basic human rights. No democratic country can imagine how badly China has breached her own constitution. I hope that the true principles of Falun Gong will be recognized again in China one day, and those who persecute the good will be justly punished by history.

(Although I finally got my new passport after long struggle, the pain that I suffered will last a long time.)



The Chinese Embassy refused to renew Ms. Bao Guofen's passport for three years simply because she practices Falun Gong

The Chinese Embassy Refused to Renew a Chinese Artist's Passport

I am an artist and I have been living in Japan for the last nine years. I grew up in an artistic family, nurtured by western oil paintings. Like other artists who have serious attitudes towards life and the pursuit of the ideal artistic life, I think art is related to life and the purpose of life.

Why would a person who chooses art as his life's work practice Falun Gong? Elder folks who have been through the Cultural Revolution tell me that I am destroying my future since I cannot go back to China anymore because of practicing Falun Gong.

The reason for my choice is simple. It is because the happiness that Falun Gong has brought to me is more than what art has brought me. As a Chinese artist, in the days when traditional Chinese art was deprecated and western art was highly respected, I asked myself, "What is the essence of Chinese traditional arts?" So I decided to explore the ancient, deeply hidden, Chinese culture.

I went back to China, searching for the profound mysterious cultivation practices that could tell me the true meaning of life. I read many ancient and modern books of Buddhism, Taoism, and Confucianism, and I have met many famous experts. I also tried some modern Qi Gong practices;

yet I could not find a perfect answer. Finally, after hopelessly returning to Japan, I accidentally opened the book *Zhuan Falun* that I had bought in China. All of a sudden, I understand the true meaning of life and many things that I had not known. My feelings cannot be fully described, but it was true pleasure.

Since that day, I began to tell more people about this practice. I want to tell every person who is searching for the righteous path of life to try Falun Gong. I eventually volunteered to be a Falun Gong assistant.

Yet, the persecution started on July 20, 1999, and spread all over China and overseas. Jiang Zemin started this persecution because of his jealousy, utilizing his power to brutally persecute Falun Gong practitioners. I was astonished by the Cultural Revolution-style persecution against Falun Gong practitioners. I was heart broken because Chinese culture is once again being trampled. So I decided that I must tell the truth about the persecution and rescue the victims in China. No matter how long it takes, I will continue my efforts and make the truth known everywhere.

After traveling to Europe in June 2002, I was on my way back to Japan. When I was changing

planes in Denmark on June 19, my passport, airplane tickets, and money were stolen. I have a document from the Denmark police stating my passport and airplane ticket were stolen. Yet customs refused me entry into Japan. After they understood my passport and airplane ticket had been stolen, they called the Chinese embassy. A man named Wu Xiaoyan of the Chinese embassy promised to prepare a new passport for me. Customs temporarily let me enter Japan and told me to renew my passport and then go to the airport where I had landed and complete the processing to re-enter Japan. Otherwise, I would



The Chinese Embassy refused to renew the passport of Mr. Li Yuan, an artist of oil painting.

have an illegal status.

On July 5, 2002, I went to the Chinese Embassy to renew my passport. But when I returned on the appointed day to get it, I was told it had been denied. When I asked for the reason, the person would not explain, but just told me to think about who I am. I requested a document stating that the renewal of my passport was denied, so I could take it to the Japanese administrative authority. I was concerned that I would be treated as "an illegal immigrant." He refused, and said he couldn't do anything. Finally he gave me the name Wu Xiaoyan as the official who monitors Falun Gong practitioners. I called Mr. Wu, and he said it was an upper level decision and he could not renew my passport. I wanted him to write a statement, but he refused to do so. When I renewed my visa in September, the Japanese government could not believe that the Chinese embassy would not write an official statement for me. The confused Japanese authorities did a serious investigation of me, and I was detained for one day as an illegal immigrant. After months and several investigations, the Chinese government finally wrote a statement to certify my status. Since my wife is Japanese, the Japanese government has given me a special visa to stay in Japan. I am back to living a normal life. If it weren't for my wife, I don't know how much more severe persecution I would have been subjected to.

This process has greatly disturbed me. Since the Chinese Embassy has never renewed my passport, this has voided the record of my having lived in Japan for the last nine years. I had applied for permanent residency, but that application is now canceled. A new visa means the time period for my living in Japan has just begun, and I have not met the qualifications to apply for permanent residency.

This persecution by the Chinese Embassy is unbelievable and unreasonable. Jiang and his followers have utilized his power to deprive Chinese citizens of their rights. This experience has firmly established my will to expose the crimes of Jiang and his followers to the world.

The image shows two Chinese passport renewal application forms. The left form is No. 9164857 and the right form is No. 9167355. Both forms contain handwritten information and official stamps.

Form 9164857 (Left):

- 申請人: 李國 (Li Guo)
- 辦証目的: 新辦護照
- 電話: 03-3860-7159
- 申請日: 2002年7月5日
- 交付證件: 護照/登錄原票記載事項證明書/公証書
- 項目: 李國 / 份數: 1 / 類別: /
- 取証日: 2002年7月5日
- 取証時間: 上午 (受取は午前中に限る) (9:00~12:00)
- 取証日付金: (受取日に料金を支払う)

Form 9167355 (Right):

- 申請人: 李國 (Li Guo)
- 辦証目的: 新辦護照
- 電話: 03-3860-7159
- 申請日: 2002年7月19日
- 交付證件: 護照/登錄原票記載事項證明書/公証書
- 項目: 李國 / 份數: 1 / 類別: /
- 取証日: 2002年7月19日
- 取証時間: 上午 (受取は午前中に限る) (9:00~12:00)
- 取証日付金: (受取日に料金を支払う)

Mr. Li Yuan's document of passport renewal

Dr. Lu Yong Could not Return Home

My name is Lu Yong. I went to renew my passport on July 1, 2002. A female Japanese employee processed my passport and told me to pick it up on July 4.

When I went to pick up my new passport, the young Japanese lady who had processed my application could not find it anywhere; she was surprised. She asked her co-workers about it, but no one knew anything. Finally, she went to ask her supervisor, who told her that my circumstances were “special,” and they needed further instructions from the Chinese government. At that moment, I realized that the Chinese government had put my name on their blacklist. Several days later, the supervisor called me and said, “The Chinese government cannot renew your passport, and you should know why.” When I went to pick up my old passport, the Japanese lady couldn’t understand why the Chinese government had refused to renew my passport and her face was filled with sympathy.

I became a man without a nationality because of the Chinese government’s persecution on Falun Gong.

It was difficult being without a valid passport; I could not return to my own country, even to visit my mother-in-law when she was seriously ill. It has also brought a lot of inconvenience

when looking for a job in Japan. Once, when I was looking for a job, one company considered hiring me and hoped to assign me to conduct business in China. They were astounded when they found out that I didn’t possess a valid passport and they could not offer me the position. Simply because I believe in “Truthfulness, Compassion, Forbearance,” the Chinese government has stripped me of my right to travel and find work, and many other things guaranteed to its citizens.



The Chinese Embassy in Japan refused to renew Dr. Lu Yong's passport.

The Chinese Consulate in Osaka: “You Know Why”

My name is Wang Xiaoyang and I work at a food company in Japan. I have a Japanese husband and we live together with his mother. We have a happy family. From April 2001 to July 2002, however, the Chinese Consulate at Osaka unreasonably withheld my passport because of my practice of Falun Gong. The illegal action of the consulate has brought great difficulty to me and to my family.

When Jiang's regime first launched the persecution, I only heard the news without knowing any details. It was not until October 1999 that I learned from the Internet how severe the persecution was. Every time I browsed the Internet, I cried. I was also deeply touched by the pure compassion of the Chinese

practitioners, who continued to put the interest of others first despite the persecution. I wanted to go back to China to tell my government that the persecution of Falun Gong is wrong. By the end of 1999, I heard that some Tokyo practitioners were planning to go to China to appeal, so I joined them.

To our surprise, we ended up in the Beijing Security Bureau even before we arrived at the Central Appeals Office. We were interrogated as if we were criminals and were forcibly deported after an overnight detention. Since then, problems have come one after another because China has added my name to its blacklist.

When I came back to Japan, my husband suggested that I apply for Japanese citizenship so that I wouldn't be persecuted or harassed again. To obtain the citizenship, I needed a document verifying my Chinese nationality. On April 18, 2001, I went to the Chinese Consulate in Osaka to apply for such a document. After receiving my passport (see photo), a consulate officer gave me a card as a receipt to pick up my Chinese nationality certificate three days later.

Three days later, however, the Consulate told me that my passport had some problems and asked me to wait for further

notice. I asked what happened. Officers in the Consulate refused to answer. At that time, I sensed that it might have something to do with interrogation in Beijing. After a month, I still had not heard anything from the consulate. During this period, I called the Consulate several times and they hung up on me every time before I could even ask my questions.

One month later, I went to the Consulate again to request the nationality certificate. The Consulate refused my request. When I asked why, they told me: “You know why.” I said that I didn't know. They were very unreasonable and ordered me to leave. I said: “If you won't issue me the nationality certificate, please return my passport.” They said that it was impossible. I said: “I didn't do anything wrong to cause you to withhold my passport.” They simply ignored me as if I didn't exist. After that, I went to the Consulate several times and they always put me off with all kinds of excuses. Eventually, they refused to see me.

In June 2002, I went back to the Consulate again for my passport and the nationality certificate. I resigned from work and was determined to fight until I got my rights back. By that time, another man had replaced the consul who had originally worked on my case, and he also



Ms. Wang Xiaoyang's passport

refused to see me. I then went to a window to tell a receptionist that I hadn't done anything wrong, but that the consulate was withholding my passport because of my practice of Falun Gong. If the consul in charge would not come out to see me, I would just stay. The receptionist then called the consul out. The consul told me that he was busy and had no time to see me. I said: "This is your job. You have no reason not to see me." I told him that I had resigned from my job and would stay at the Consulate until my request was properly addressed.

He then started to talk with me. I told him how I learned Falun Gong and about the positive changes in my life, as well as how wrong the persecution is. One month later, he told me that he could issue me the nationality certificate. However, to satisfy his supervisors, he wanted me to write a warrant letter stating that I would not go against the Chinese government. I thought that I never wanted to go against Chinese government and we just wanted to help the government realize its mistake, so there wasn't anything wrong with writing such a letter. So I wrote: "I have never been against the [Chinese] government, and I promise I will never go against the government." However, my conscience told me that it was wrong to comply with any their demands. Because of my attachment to the nationality certificate, I still wrote that letter. The Consulate in Osaka then returned my pass-

port and issued me a Nationality Certificate on July 26, 2002. I obtained Japanese citizenship in April 2003.

I have been striving to be a good person by following the principles of Truthfulness, Compassion and Forbearance. However, the Chinese Consulate in Osaka persecuted me for this very reason. For more than one year, their persecution brought trouble, pressure and serious damage to my family and me.



Ms. Wang Xiaoyang's passport was unreasonably held by the Chinese Consulate in Osaka.

The Chinese Embassy in Tokyo Denied My Passport

My name is Chen Xuejuan. I am a Chinese citizen and a Falun Gong practitioner. My husband works at a Japanese company. My status in Japan is currently “spouse of a legal resident alien.”

After I started to practice Falun Gong in 1996, my health improved tremendously. However, despite how great Falun Gong is, in July 1999, China’s former leader Jiang Zemin started a crackdown to eradicate Falun Gong. The methods used included: arresting and torturing practitioners, putting them into forced labor camps and prisons, ransacking their homes, burning Falun Gong books, and punishing practitioners’ family members, etc.. In addition, the state propaganda machine was used to thoroughly defame and slander Falun Gong.



Ms. Chen Xuejuan's passport

In order to let more people know about the real situation and the truth about Falun Gong, and to end the persecution sooner, in the past several years, I have actively participated in various appeal activities.

Because my passport would expire very soon, on June 20, 2003, I went to the Consulate Department of the Chinese Embassy in Tokyo, Japan, to apply for an extension. The receipt said that I could pick it up on June 25. Before I went to get my renewed passport, I received a telephone call notifying me that a consul wanted to talk to me. Around 11:30 a.m. on June 26, I went to the Consulate Department. The person who talked to me was Wu Xiaoyin (perhaps a first class secretary). His sole duty all these years has been to handle the Falun Gong “issue.” He said that I had been arrested in China. I replied that I was arrested only because I practiced Falun Gong, and I had never broken any law. He then said that it was a policy from “up above” that if I didn’t write something promising not to practice Falun Gong in the future, they would not extend my passport. In the end, he returned the passport to me without an extension and took away the receipt as well.

I am a Chinese citizen and

have never done anything that harms the country. I have never broken any laws, either. All I have done was appeal to the Chinese government to stop the persecution of Falun Gong based on my sense of justice and conscience, because the persecution has been founded on lies. It has wasted a great amount of national resources, just to persecute on law-abiding citizens who follow the principles of Truthfulness-Compassion-Forbearance. In China, hundreds of thousands of practitioners have been arrested, detained and tortured, and thousands of Falun Gong practitioners have been killed. This is against the constitution, and it is a disaster for the Chinese people. This is truly what has harmed the interests of China and tarnished China’s image.

The Chinese Embassy in Japan refused to renew my passport. This is extremely bad conduct that violates the constitution and the basic human rights of a citizen. It is a form of persecution against overseas Falun Gong practitioners.

The Chinese Consulate in Osaka Deprived Me of My Chinese Citizenship

My name is Zhang Shuhua. I have been practicing Falun Gong since 1996. I realized that this system could improve people's moral standards, and that one could improve one's health. After I started practicing, my whole body felt light while walking, and I did not get tired while working. I have learned to look within myself in any situation, and I no longer get upset when bad things happen to me.

After Jiang's regime started the persecution of Falun Gong in 1999, I went to Beijing to appeal to the central government in order to clarify the truth about Falun Gong. At Tiananmen Square, the police illegally detained me. Eighteen days of detention made me realize that the police not only break the law, but also ignore the illegal activities taking place around them.

In 2002, I married my Japanese husband whom I had known for five years and came to live in Japan; yet I still could not escape the persecution of Jiang's group. When I lost my passport and applied for a new one at the Chinese Consulate in Osaka, they refused to issue a new one for me simply because I am a Falun Gong practitioner. The following is my story:

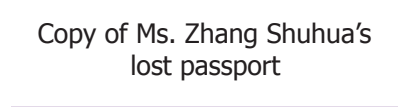
I lost my passport in September 2003, and I went to the Chi-

nese Consulate in Osaka as soon as I could, to inform them of the loss and to ask about the procedure for applying for a new passport. The security guard blocked my way at the entrance, because I practice Falun Gong. The guard said he was only following the consulate's regulations. However, I was also following the legal stipulation to report the loss of my passport promptly. I had to force myself to comprehend that I, a Chinese citizen, was not being allowed to enter the Chinese Consulate. I waited outside patiently. At noontime, I finally heard someone speaking Chinese coming out of the building. I saw a young female staff member so I approached her and told her, with a great deal of sincerity, about why I had come. I told her that I practice Falun Gong and explained briefly about the situation of the persecution of Falun Gong in China, and hoped she could understand me. She thought for a while, told me which documents were needed for the passport application, and left in a hurry.

A month later, after I had prepared all the necessary documents, I went to the consulate again, but the receptionist pushed me out the door. She wouldn't even allow me to stand on the steps outside of the building, and told me this was what



The Chinese Consulate in Osaka deprived Ms. Zhang Shuhua of her right to have a passport simply because of her practice of Falun Gong



Please Return My Passport to Me

My name is Qiu Guiqin. I applied for the renewal of my passport with the Chinese Consulate in Osaka, Japan on December 1, 2004. After more than a month, however, I had yet to receive my new passport. Furthermore, Consulate workers made several phone calls to my home, saying that my passport would only be returned to me if I stopped petitioning for Falun Gong. They said that if I wrote a letter of guarantee, renouncing Falun Gong, I could be given my passport. They also asked my family to persuade me to comply.

The person making the phone calls sounded quite polite and addressed me as “Aunt Qiu.” I asked for his name, but he gave no reply and only asked me to come to the Consulate at 10:00 a.m. the next morning. But when I arrived there at 10:00 a.m., they again rejected my application and told me to come back at 2:00 p.m. the same day. When I returned, the consul, Zhao, received me. Zhao said that I was against the government and couldn’t be given a passport.

The reason why Consul Zhao said I was against the government is perhaps that I gone to the Consulate every day, winter and summer, to petition on behalf of Falun Gong. We practice Falun Gong to improve our health and get rid of our illnesses, and

to live our lives in accordance to the principals of Truthfulness, Benevolence, and Forbearance. There is nothing wrong with that. In China, the persecution on Falun Gong practitioners has been going on for more than five years. The number of people who have been tortured to death exceeds at least 1,500. How miserable! I go to the Chinese Consulate to petition every day because I hope that this cruel and inhuman persecution can be stopped as soon as possible, that all the practitioners of Falun Gong in China can one day have a peaceful environment to practice, and that they can all have the freedom to uphold their beliefs. Is this really asking too much?

I am 65 years old and have lived in Japan for 19 years. Once I began to practice Falun Gong, all of the illnesses that I once had disappeared. What a great practice this is. There are people from more than 60 countries and regions who practice Falun Gong. Both Mr. Li Hongzhi, the founder of Falun Gong, and Falun Gong itself, have received more than 1,000 proclamations and honors all over the world. Only China persecutes us. Many lies, such as the staged self-immolation and murder, have been fabricated to cheat and mislead everyday people. So many people in many different countries around the world practice Falun

Gong, and nothing like the self-immolation or murder have ever been attributed to practitioners anywhere else. During the seven peaceful years between 1992 and the beginning of the persecution, no such things happened in China, either.

I am a legal citizen of China now living in Japan. As staff members working in the Consulate for a country, it is their duty to issue a legal citizen a passport. I feel it is a disgrace that a consul refused to give me my passport!



Ms. Qiu Guiqin, practicing one of the Falun Gong exercises in front of the Chinese Consulate in Osaka, Japan, and petitioning the Consulate, hoping they will return her passport.

What I Experienced when I Tried to Renew My Passport at the Chinese Consulate in Japan

My name is Ma Shuhua. I am a Chinese citizen and I live in Japan. I am a Falun Gong practitioner. My husband is a foreign student and my child is now in the sixth grade. We obtained our visas for Japan because of my husband's student status.

On April 18, 2003, I went to the Chinese Consulate in Japan to submit my passport renewal application, because all the pages had been stamped. They accepted my application and asked me to return for pickup on April 23. Before that date, staff from the consulate called me and I talked to a secretary with the last name of Wu. In summary, I was told that I would only receive a new passport if I agreed to give up Falun Gong. I did not give in to this demand.

On February 2, 2004, my child's passport and my passport expired and I again submitted the application for renewal. When turning in my application I told the clerk that I didn't get my new passport earlier because I practiced Falun Gong. She told me that this was no longer the case. I was told that I should return for our passports on February 5. On Feb. 2, a secretary from the consulate with the last name of Lu called me at 5:00 p.m. and asked me to come for an interview. After two interviews, he proposed

two conditions:

1. I should not hurt the economic benefits of the country and not damage the image of the country (government);
2. I should not appeal outside the consulate for a period of time.

He thought that my appealing outside the consulate would prevent foreigners from investing in China's businesses. I did not accept these conditions, as I had not done anything to hurt the image of the country. A free country and its government would attract more investments and a government that persecutes its citizens and commits human rights violations would prevent foreign investments. It was the persecution of Falun Gong that sullied the image of China and thus caused it to lose economic opportunities.

He called me and I called him back. He told me that he had sent a message to China to ask the authorities to renew my passport, but he did not know when he would get a reply. I didn't know how long I would have to wait. Many Falun Gong practitioners did not receive their passports.

I am a Chinese citizen. I have not done anything that sullied the country's image, or anything

that would have made China lose economic benefits. I have never broken any law. I had no idea when and how I was put on their blacklist. The refusal to issue new passports or renew passports for overseas practitioners is definitely persecution and discrimination.

I came to Japan in March 1999 and started to practice Falun Gong in April. I became healthy and was feeling happy. My chronic shoulder bursitis, arthritis and measles were gone within two months of starting the practice. When I learned about the suppression of Falun Gong that started on July 20, 1999, I felt it was unreasonable and decided to continue the practice.

Around Dec. 10, 1999, I traveled to Hong Kong to attend the Falun Gong Asian Experience Sharing Conference. Regulations in Hong Kong required me and other Chinese practitioners from Japan to enter through customs in Shenzhen. At customs, the officer realized that we were Falun Gong practitioners and detained us. After 5 or 6 hours, they sent us back to Japan and some practitioners' passports were stamped "cancelled."

After we returned to Japan, we understood how the propaganda in China was deceiving all of the Chinese people. Al-

though Falun Gong is practiced in over 60 countries, the Chinese government even claimed that overseas Chinese were forbidden to practice Falun Gong. I was very sad.

From that time on, I could no longer return to my country. I have become an outcast.

In March 2004, as I had not heard any news from the consul-

ate, I faxed a letter that I had prepared for the media and the public to the Chinese consulate. After an hour, the secretary with the last name of Lu called me and asked if I had sent out the letter. As soon as he heard that I had not done so, he said, "It would create a lot of problems if you did. Come tomorrow and apply for your passport." I got my passport within three days.

Though I received my passport, which was supposed to be issued to me a long time ago, there are still a lot of practitioners in Japan who have not received their passports. I ask the public for their support. Please help us end the persecution against Falun Gong.

New Zealand

The Chinese Consulate in Auckland Denied My Passport Extension

My name is Yu Jingfang. I am a permanent resident of New Zealand and reside in Auckland. In May 1995, I came to know Falun Gong from a classmate of mine, and I started to practice in April 1996. After practicing Falun Gong, my acquired rheumatism (which had already affected my heart) and a stomach ailment were healed completely. I enjoyed a happy and fulfilled life.

My passport was to expire in April 2001. In February 2001, I went to the Chinese Consulate in Auckland to get my passport extended. The same night, Consul Luo called me and asked me if I was a Falun Gong practitioner. I told him, "Yes." He, then, started to tell the lies that Jiang and his regime had forged to vilify Falun Gong. I told him the truth about Falun Gong and the persecution. He asked me to discuss the matter in person with him the next day at the consulate.

The next afternoon, I went to the consulate. Consul Luo asked

me to write an article about practicing Falun Gong. I thought that this was a chance to let working officers at the consulate know the truth. I handed over the article about the benefits I had gained from the practice. He asked me to leave and await his notice.

A week later, I went to pick up my passport as normally stipulated (after five working days). Consul Luo asked me to await notification. I received no reply after another week and a half, so I went to the consulate to fetch my passport even without the requested extension.

Later in June 2001, I went to extend my passport once again. I went through the procedure and paid the NZ\$20.00 fee. The Pickup Number was 202853. However, my passport was again returned without the extension. After this, I went to find Consul Luo many times, but my request was always denied. This lasted till May 2003 when I again went to the consulate to extend my passport. I waited for nearly two



Mr. Yu Jingfang

hours until Consul Luo and two other staff came out. Consul Luo said, "I can't make the extension." I asked them to write down the reason for denial. They said nothing. Eventually, I had my passport back with no extension. The \$20.00 I had paid was not refunded.

With the help of fellow practitioners, I found the local MP Office. The secretary of the MP sympathized with me for my ordeal and suggested that I go to the Department of Internal Affairs to apply for a kind of ID that serves as a travel permit for those who can't obtain passports from their native countries. The official of Internal Affairs replied that I must obtain written notice

from the Chinese Consulate for the rejection. I went there twice for this purpose and provided them with a copy of the reply from Internal Affairs. To my surprise, Consul Luo asked me for a written notice of why I needed a written denial from the consulate. I told them that it was they, not I, who should issue a written statement for denial. My request was once again rejected. The officials of Internal Affairs, New Zealand had to call the Chinese Consulate. I was issued an ID after they confirmed that the reason of denial was because I practice Falun Gong.

After I obtained my visa to the United States to attend a Falun Dafa experience sharing

conference, almost everyone who saw my ID for boarding the plane said it was the first time they had heard of this type of ID. They were very pleased to accept flyers about Falun Dafa and showed their sympathy when I told them about the persecution I had encountered.

I hereby appeal to stop the persecution of Falun Gong and urge all Chinese embassies and consular staff to stop being accomplices in the ongoing persecution. I urge them to choose right over wrong.

Peru

The Chinese Embassy in Peru Cancelled My Passport

My name is Su Ying. I settled in Peru in February 1996, following a visit to my relatives there. In 1997, I began to practice Falun Gong after I obtained the book *Zhuan Falun* from Mainland China.

My passport expired on May 31, 2003. On February 21, 2003, I went to the Chinese Embassy in Lima, Peru to apply for a passport extension. A consular employee took my passport and told me to wait for further notice at home. One week passed. I didn't receive any notice, so I called the embassy to ask about my passport. The consul who answered the phone said that they had to wait for a reply from China before they could process my passport. He hung up without giving me any further explanation. I went to the embassy in person to see the consul and was told, "He is not here. He went on a business trip." She said that they didn't know about my case. They had to wait till the consul came back. When I went to see them again later on, a

clerk told me that the consul was transferred back to China.

Since I insisted on seeing the ambassador or the consul to get a good explanation for their giving me the run-around, the new consul met with me. I asked him during the meeting, "Why have you not processed my passport extension request for over a month? You issued my passport! Using the same process, previously I got it back after five working days." He said, "It is not the same this time since you are a Falun Gong practitioner. I have to follow the special policy for Falun Gong issued by Beijing."

He said that he and the ambassador, Mai Guoyan had already reported my situation in Peru to Beijing and were waiting for a response. He asked me to wait for further notification at home. Later on, I went to see the consul again. The clerk told me that he was not in the office. I called the consul. He didn't answer the phone. I continued to go to the embassy once a



Ms. Su Ying.

week in person. In May 2003, the consul met with me and told me that Beijing had denied my application. I told him that it was wrong for the Chinese government to suppress Falun Gong. Falun Gong went through a lawful registration in Peru and was approved by the Peruvian government. It was illegal for them to do this. He asked me curiously, “You are a Chinese. How could you get it registered? Who handled it?”

He told me that he could help me find a job, help me to conduct business, help me make money like other local Chinese, and that he could also issue me a new passport. As long as I gave up Falun Gong, he could make all this possible. I refused immediately and said that I would never give up Falun Gong. There was nothing wrong with practicing Falun Gong. I asked for my passport back. He returned my passport stamped with a cancellation seal. This is the entire passport extension application process that I went through in the Chinese Embassy in Lima.

I told people in all circles of

society and the media about this incident, the process I was subjected to and the reason why my passport was cancelled. I exposed the embassy’s crime, and that the officials from the embassy followed Jiang Zemin’s orders to persecute Falun Gong practitioners overseas. I wrote open letters to government officials, the media, local Chinese people and others in various circles of influence. I called for people to follow righteousness and their good conscience, and called for a joint effort to stop this persecution.

I received widespread sympathy, support and help. The press, radio station, editors from TV stations and reporters went to the Chinese Embassy to inquire about the process and reason for my passport cancellation. A Peruvian congressman wrote to the Peruvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs about my case and asked them to help me. The Peruvian Human Rights Organization represented in the United Nations considered giving me asylum status for my personal safety.

This March, I decided to go to the First Central and Southern

American Falun Dafa Experience Sharing Conference in Argentina. I applied for a passport through the Peruvian Human Rights Organization. After discussions in a meeting, the Peruvian Human Rights Organization issued me a United Nations Refugee Passport. Due to interference from the Chinese Embassy, I was detained at an airport in Argentina where they attempted to send me back to Peru. Fellow practitioners from Argentina, Peru, Canada, the United States, France and other countries came to my aid. They told the facts about the persecution of Falun Gong at the hands of Jiang Zemin and his followers to people in the Argentine Presidential Palace, to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to the Immigration Bureau and to the customs officials at the airport. The Argentine government officials gave me permission to enter the country after they learned the truth.

Scotland

The Edinburgh Chinese Embassy Refused to Renew My Chinese Passport

My name is Ha Jing. I immigrated to Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1996. One year later, in 1997, I began to practice Falun Gong.

In June 2002, my Chinese Passport was about to expire. I had between one to two months to get it renewed. I wanted to get a head start and therefore went to the Chinese Embassy in Edinburgh to apply for a renewal of my passport.

I had volunteered to teach Falun Gong during the past years. After Jiang's cohorts began to persecute Falun Gong, I frequently joined the peaceful appeal in front of the Chinese Embassy. I'm certain that my name is on the Chinese Embassy black list.

Chinese Embassy officials brazenly told me that if I wanted a passport renewal, I had to renounce Falun Gong. I refused. Later, they returned my old passport. At the same time, they contacted my husband, a non-

practitioner, and asked him to persuade me to practice at home and not distribute flyers. Since then, I have appealed peacefully outside the Chinese Embassy daily, for two hours.

Some time later, a British BBC TV reporter made a documentary about Falun Gong. Therefore, I tried again to reason with Chinese Embassy staff. I asked them to explain why my passport was rejected. As soon, as the Embassy officials noticed the reporter outside the Embassy doors, they went outside and swore at the reporter. They asked her to mind her own business. The reporter recorded all this and broadcasted this incident throughout England. The Chinese Embassy continues to refuse to respond to my request for a passport renewal. I'm still waiting for their reply.

After some time, the Chinese Embassy moved to a new building. Another practitioner and I



Ms. Ha Jing's Photo

visited the Embassy and asked about the delay of my passport renewal. I told them that there is nothing wrong with practicing Falun Gong. I told them that I had the right to know why they rejected my passport renewal. The official told me that I had violated Chinese law. I asked him, "Which law have I violated?" He became speechless. I demanded to meet with the new Consulate. In response he called the police and claimed that I had jeopardized his work. When the police

arrived, I told my story to the police and everyone else inside the Embassy, waiting for their passports. After people heard my story, they became very troubled by the Chinese Embassy staff's unreasonableness. The police tried to reason with the Chinese Embassy's official. He told him that this lady had not interfered with his work and gave him a stern reminder on the issue of basic human rights.

During the past three years,

I have contacted many local media centers and newspapers, to tell them the truth about Falun Gong. I was given a sympathetic ear by many and support by some. Now, many have heard the truth about the unwarranted rejection of my passport renewal by the Chinese Embassy.

Singapore

The Chinese Embassy in Singapore Refused to Renew My Passport

My name is Gao Hao, and I am a Falun Gong practitioner from Singapore. In May 2001, I went to the Chinese Embassy in Singapore to renew my passport. An official in his 40s came out and took me to one of their meeting rooms. He said, "Currently the 'national' policy states you must give up the practice of Falun Gong and stop any association with other Falun Gong practitioners or activities to renew your passport." I told him that Falun Gong practitioners have always been peaceful in their appeals to the Chinese government, and it is also beneficial. He replied by asking, "What is good about Falun Gong? Right now, the Chinese government forbids anyone from practicing it." I explained, "Falun Gong teaches one to be kind, to be a good person, and it is a belief. The media in China is controlled by the CCP. Why did the country praise Falun Gong before the persecution began? How come bad things did not

happen before the persecution?" He could only respond, "There are very poor places in China, what you are doing is not good for the Chinese economy." I then told him, "Jiang Zemin's spending 100 million dollars of Chinese citizen's money to buy an Air Force One plane for himself is bad for the economy. China's human rights record is very bad." The official said, "China's human rights record is good; every resolution targeting China's human rights conditions always got vetoed." I said to him, "Look at the countries that objected to the resolutions; they are usually the poorer countries, also with bad human rights records. Jiang bribed them with Chinese citizens' hard earned money. There are many things that you don't know about because they are not as described in the newspaper." I then gave him the pamphlet "Falun Gong's Peaceful Journey." The official started to act nervous after he accepted it. He



The Chinese Embassy in Singapore denied the renewal of Mr. Gao Hao's passport.

was listening for sounds from the other room while he opened the first page of the pamphlet. After a while, there were weird laughing sounds coming from the other room, and this scared the official. He immediately returned the pamphlet back to me and said, "We have our own sources. Our 'national policy' states that you need to make a statement renouncing Falun Gong to get a new passport." I wasn't willing to give up my belief in "Truthfulness, Compassion, Forbearance," so he didn't say anything, gave me back my old passport and let me out of the embassy.

At that time, I was immigrating to Australia. I told the Australian government that the Chinese Embassy refused to renew my passport because I practiced Falun Gong. They said that they would give me permanent residency if I went to Australia

before my passport expired.

Unfortunately, in Australia, my passport got damaged by the rain and could not be used. I went to the Chinese Embassy in Australia to apply for a new one. The same official visited me and told me that I had to write a statement to stop practicing Falun Gong to get a passport. I asked him why I couldn't be a Chinese citizen while practicing Falun Gong. I asked him, "A man like me, am I not a man?" He couldn't say anything for awhile, and then said, "It's national policy." I told him, "You are an official. You should follow your conscience. Right now the campaign to persecute Falun Gong is the same as the policies of the Cultural Revolution." He said he was only enforcing the Chinese government's policy. I requested to see the documents that stated that people practicing Falun

Gong are not Chinese citizens. He said he couldn't show them to me as he was only carrying out orders. I said, "You are only concerned with your own power and benefits; you are worried you might lose them if you give me a passport." He answered, "It's good you know that." At last, I told him before ending our conversation, "Good deeds are rewarded by good deeds, and bad deeds are rewarded by bad deeds."

From our conversation, I can see that the official is also a victim of the persecution by Jiang's faction. He is doing a bad thing because of the evil threats and is enticed by power and money. I don't know how many Chinese are living in such darkness.

Spain

Chinese Embassy in Spain Refuses to Renew My Passport

My name is Pan Jie. I moved to Spain in February 1999 and obtained my legal residency status following Spain's amnesty in 2000. I started to practice Falun Gong in 1996. Before that, I had various illnesses that prevented me from working and taking care of my family, but I regained my health shortly after I practiced Falun Gong.

Since my passport had expired in December 2001, in January 2002 I went to the Chinese Consulate in Spain to renew my passport. Normally, it takes one week to renew one's passport. One week later, I went to the Chinese Consulate to collect my passport, but I was told that my passport had been forwarded to the China Public Security Sector because I practiced Falun Gong, and my passport would not be renewed if I did not renounce Falun Gong. I refused their unacceptable requirement immediately. Since then, I have written letters to the Chinese Consulate

asking for my passport renewal many times, but never received a response.

The denial of my passport renewal has brought me many difficulties. The problem facing me now is to have my residency status renewed, for which I need a passport. My family misses me a lot, and they want to reunite with me in Spain. But I have no way to complete the necessary procedures if I don't obtain a renewed residency status.



Ms. Pan Jie was denied passport renewal by the Chinese Consulate in Spain

Switzerland

How We were Deprived of Our Chinese Nationality

My name is Yang Lifang. My wife is Pan Shuzhen. In 1987 we moved to Switzerland from China. Our Chinese passports expired on December 29, 2003. On December 16, we went to the Embassy to extend our passports. Because we needed to visit relatives and to travel to other countries, we expedited our application. After filling out the paperwork we passed it through the window. The embassy staff member, Ms. Shen, issued us a receipt and told us to come back the next day to get our passports.

The next day when we went to get our passports, the staff person took out our application and our passports, and said, "Your passports cannot be processed because of technical problems."

I said, "How can technical problems occur since the consular department processes passports every day? What is the technical problem?"

She didn't answer.

I said, "Is there any official

documentation of the problem? Can you show me?"

She said, "No."

I said, "So, in a single word, the Embassy can have us excluded from our own state and cancel our nationality." The staff member said, "You exaggerate too much."

I said, "We are not the one's exaggerating. You are. You know that we won't have any nationality without valid passports. It's your job to process passports for Chinese citizens and it's not right if you don't do it. Let me talk to your boss." Then the staff member called her director, Ms. Yu Shufen.

I said, "We were born in China. We regard our country as our motherland. We look to the motherland to protect us. There must be some reason if the motherland does not want to protect us?"

Yu said, "The technical problem is just a technical problem."



Photo of Mr. Yang Lifang and his wife, taken in 2003

I said, "Is there any official document from the State Department, or any instruction from the Foreign Ministry, or an order from Jiang Zemin to inform you not to extend our passports? If so, can you please show us the document?"

Yu said, "No. We don't have to show you anything, even if we have it."

I said, "This is your job. You should give us a satisfactory explanation."

Yu said, "It's just a technical problem and we can't process it."

I said, "What technical problem? I believe 'a technical problem' is an artificial excuse. The real reason is that we are Falun Gong practitioners!"

Actually there was no technical problem. They had cut our photos to the correct size and glued them to the form we handed in. We had no doubt that they checked the "black list" in the course of processing the passports, found out that we are Falun Gong practitioners, then stopped the procedure using the excuse of a "technical problem."

Yu responded nervously, her hands and mouth trembling, "It is you who said that."

I said, "Please ask yourself, what the real reason is."

Yu did not answer.

We then began to clarify the truth, saying that we practice Falun Gong in Switzerland,

where Falun Gong is formally registered and acknowledged by the Swiss government. We told her the facts; starting with the principle of Truthfulness-Benevolence-Forbearance; we told her how Falun Gong teaches people to be good people, and that practicing Falun Gong can improve people's health and raise their moral standard. We also explained that the Chinese government praised Falun Gong during the early years of its introduction until Jiang Zemin's persecution of Falun Gong started in 1999. We explained that many people in over sixty countries around the world are practicing Falun Gong, that Jiang Zemin has extended the persecution overseas, and that he and his followers have intentionally divided overseas Chinese into two groups: those who practice Falun Gong and those who do not. These actions are all an attempt to persecute one group and to spread hatred among overseas Chinese people. The situation with our passports is undoubtedly another new example of Jiang Zemin trying to split the overseas Chinese population.

Yu Shufen said at this time, "This is the Chinese Embassy. You're disturbing our work and I'm going to call the police."

I said, "Fine. Please do it! We are Chinese citizens. We ask you to extend our passports but you refuse to do so. You have not given us a reasonable explanation either. It's just right and proper for the police to hear about it."

Of course Yu Shufen clearly knew that justice was not on her side, so she didn't dare to call the police.

During this period of time, we felt anxious because the passport problem was related to whether we could legally stay in Switzerland. We had to inform the related Swiss government department that we had lost our Chinese nationality because we practice Falun Gong. The Chinese Embassy refused to extend our passports due to some alleged "technical problems." The officials in the Swiss government could not understand this, and they said, "You are Chinese citizens, why does the Chinese Embassy refuse to extend your passports? Your belief is your choice and this is your freedom." I told them that the Chinese Embassy said it was just a technical problem and could not do it. They laughed, which made us feel embarrassed. Finally, they asked us to go back to the Chinese Embassy and ask for a document to explain why our passports could not be issued.

On January 14, 2004, we went to the Chinese Embassy again. A man who sat behind the counter said that Director Yu was the only one who could answer our questions. I told Yu that the related Swiss government department needed a letter of proof from the Chinese Embassy regarding the failure of the extension of our passports.

Yu said, "This is interfering

in Chinese internal affairs.”

“Internal affairs” is an embodiment of the Chinese government’s policy and law. It clearly implies that not extending passports for Falun Gong practitioners is a diplomatic policy set by the Chinese government, not a so-called technical problem.

We went back to see Yu Shufen once again. No matter what we said, she still refused to extend our passports, and said, “Technical problems are technical problems! See what you can do!”

I said, “Then please write a document saying that you could not issue the passports to us because of the technical problem, and sign your name on it.”

Yu said, “Why should I sign my name?”

I asked Yu, “Do you know that if you do not extend our

passports, we would lose the right of residence here, and therefore you are blocking our means of subsistence?”

Yu answered, “Yes, I know.”

The word, “Yes,” reflects the evil nature of the persecution towards overseas Falun Gong practitioners by the Chinese Embassies. It is an extension of Jiang’s policy of “Destroying them physically, defaming their reputations, and bankrupting them financially.” This policy is intended to persecute Chinese citizens who practice Falun Gong, making them become stateless refugees, unemployed, with no financial resources. This policy renders law-abiding Chinese citizens unable to continue their studies or visit relatives and friends in China; and when they do return to their own country they are arrested and put into prison.

We pointed out the fact that for overseas Chinese to hold a Chinese passport is a most basic human right. The conduct of the Chinese Embassy in refusing to issue or extend Chinese passports is not only a violation of China’s Constitution, but also a violation of international law, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Charter of the United Nations.

Yu Shufen said, “You can sue me whenever you want to.”

The Chinese Consulate in Zurich Refuses to Renew My Passport

My name is Yao Bing, from Switzerland. My passport expired on January 15, 2004. On December 23, 2003, I went to the Chinese Consulate in Zurich to apply for renewal of my passport. The officers told me to pick up the renewed passport on December 29, 2003. On January 5, 2004, I returned to the Consulate in Zurich for my renewed passport. I was told, "Due to technical problems, the passport could not be renewed."

This rejection took me by surprise! I asked some Chinese people I knew if they had ever encountered such a problem. Everyone responded that this was quite impossible. I decided to ask Consulate staff for a more detailed explanation. About 10:00 a.m. on January 14, 2004, I had

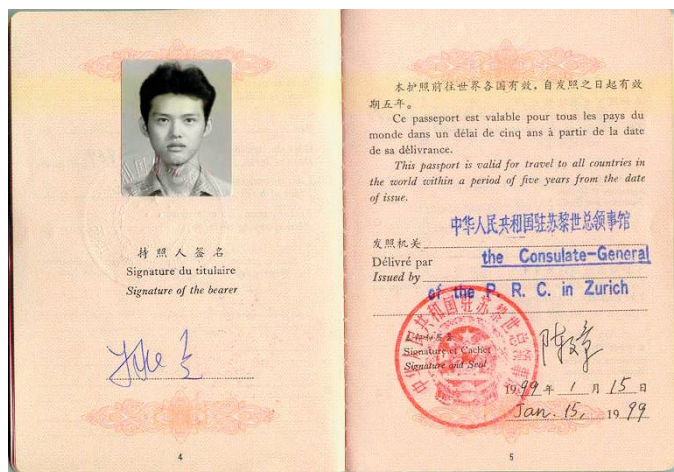
a telephone conversation with Consul Lu Wenjie. Lu Wenjie told me that the reason for rejecting my passport renewal was because I practice Falun Gong. I asked Consul Lu Wenjie for a face-to-face meeting, as I wanted a clearer explanation. Consul Lu Wenjie agreed to meet with me.

On January 19, 2004, at 3 p.m., we met in the Consulate in Zurich. During the meeting I told them that my reason for practicing Falun Gong was because Falun Gong's principles explain that only when one improves one's spiritual and moral standard, treats others well, returns to one's original true self and is truly a good person, truthful and tolerant, can one be truly happy and safe. I live, study and work by these principles.

However, to suppress Falun Gong, the Chinese government deceives and lies to the Chinese people. They confuse right with wrong, deceive everyday people, instigate hatred and plant discord among the people. For example, they staged the "self-immolation" incident in Tiananmen Square and blamed Falun Gong practitioners.

At the end of the meeting I was required to write down my understanding of Falun Gong. After thinking about it deeply, I decided not to write anything. I know in my heart that to practice Falun Gong is beneficial to society. Besides, I had already made my point of view quite clear during the meeting. There was no need to write anything. But the Consul said, "Without any written material it will be difficult for us to process your application."

I told him, "A citizen's passport is only a proof of nationality. Any Chinese citizen, no matter where he lives, has the right to possess a passport. When the passport expires, the citizen has the right to have his passport renewed as long as he hasn't given up his Chinese nationality." To this he replied, "This regulation is a directive from Beijing."



Mr. Yao Bing's Passport

United Kingdom

Former President of Manchester's Metropolitan Students' Union Is Refused Passport Renewal

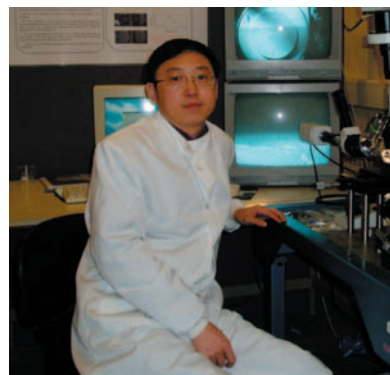
My name is Liu Wei. In 1997 I immigrated to Manchester, England, to study for a Ph.D.. I graduated in 2001. After I received my degree, I was given a research position at the university.

From 1998 to 1999, I was the president of the Manchester Metropolitan Students' Union and the executive leader of the Chinese Student and Scholar Association. During that time, I worked diligently for the Chinese students in Manchester. During the same year, the Chinese Consulate's Education Division gave honorable mention for the effort by the Student Union on behalf of the Chinese students. I had established an excellent relationship with the Chinese Consulate in Manchester. During the 1999 Chinese New Year celebration celebrated by the Student Union, close to 500 people attended. The General Consulate and officials from the Chinese Embassy, Manchester Chinese Consulate

cultural sponsors and Education Division were all present. The Falun Gong exercise demonstration was part of the program that evening and was a favorite of the audience.

My Chinese passport expired on April 10, 2004. In early April I mailed my passport to the Manchester Chinese Consulate, requesting a renewal. The officials at the Consulate had of course known for many years that I practiced Falun Gong. Before I sent my renewal application, an official from the Consulate told me that I had to write a statement renouncing Falun Gong. Therefore, I attached a short note to the passport stating that I would continue to practice Falun Gong and I refused to write any kind of statement that was against my belief, just because I wanted to renew my passport.

I went to the Chinese Consulate to get my passport and an official told me that I was con-



Dr. Liu Wei in his lab.

sidered a very aggressive Falun Gong practitioner and therefore my passport couldn't be renewed. My passport would only be renewed if I stated that I was not a major member or I would never participate in any Falun Gong activity. I turned down their offer and asked for a written notification, telling me officially why my passport renewal was denied. The official told me that they would not provide any written materials.

The passport renewal denial caused much inconvenience not only in my personal life, but also for my work. People who knew me said, after they heard about this, that the Consulate handled

the situation irresponsibly. The British Foreign Ministry and my local congressperson wrote letters to the Chinese Embassy and Consulate. However, the Consulate would not relent unless I would renounce Falun Gong; otherwise they would not renew my passport.

The British Ministry of Interior issued me my working permit and visa after learning that my passport renewal was denied by the Chinese Consulate, because I insisted on practicing Falun Gong, which teaches "Truth, Compassion, Tolerance." This allowed me to remain legally in Britain. But losing my passport prevented me from leaving

Britain to attend international meetings and conferences and thus had a negative impact on my work and life. Westerners couldn't understand why someone who was a high-tech researcher and had a doctorate could not have his passport renewed. They could not understand that my citizenship was taken away because of my personal belief.

The *British Broadcast Company* (BBC) filmed a special documentary based on my story and wondered how the persecution against Falun Gong by Jiang's regime could have been extended overseas.

A Little Girl's Right to Obtain a Passport from the Chinese Embassy

My name is Mo Zhengfang. On July 24, 2000, I went to the Chinese Embassy in London to register my baby daughter of six months. I provided comprehensive documents including my passport as requested. The officer told me that it would take three working days to register my baby on my passport as an accompanying child and I would get the passport back at the same time. A few days later one of my friends, Ms. Fan Yanyu, went to the Embassy to collect my passport, as I did not live in London at that time. However, she was not successful. She brought back a message from the Embassy that I must be interviewed before I could get my passport back. On August 24, 2000, I went to the Embassy to be interviewed. At the interview, Mr. Du told me that I must write a statement about my thoughts on Falun Gong.

In addition, the statement would be sent back to China for approval from the Ministry of Public Security of China. Until my statement was approved, my daughter could not be registered on my passport as an accompanying child. I was also told that if I continued practicing Falun Gong, registration was impossible, and my daughter could not have her own passport either. I asked for a suspending ap-

plication and the return of my passport first, as I had to apply for an extension of stay in the UK as a student before the expiration date of my student visa (September 30, 2000) and would get matriculation at a university. But I was told that the passport could not be returned to me as well, until the Ministry of Public Security of China granted approval. Mr. Du let me write down my postal address on an official envelope so that he could post my passport to me as long as he received the approval. He also asked me to give him the original pick-up form at the same time.

Since I handed my passport to the Chinese Embassy, 44 days later on September 15, I received my passport from the Embassy. The Embassy had registered my baby daughter on a page of the passport on August 1, 2000, but they cancelled the registration later.

Since then, I launched a campaign to win back my daughter's passport. I wrote letters to the media, councilors, MPs, and MEPs telling them what we had encountered with the Embassy, and asked for their kind help. I also appealed in public with other Falun Gong practitioners by demonstrating the Falun Gong exercises, and asked for support from warm-hearted people to

write letters to the Embassy. Then my MP, Mr. Ian Luke offered his support by sponsoring an Early Day Motion titled Miss Minghui You in the House of Commons, and 62 MPs signed the EDM. In May 2002, the Chinese Embassy had to inform me that I could collect a new passport for my daughter due to the great public moral pressure. So, we won back my daughter's right to have a Chinese passport.



You Minghui's Photo

Chinese Consulate Refuses to Extend a Chinese Medical Doctor's Passport

My name is Zhao Liping. My Chinese passport expired on July 27, 2004. Because my passport had to be submitted to the Immigration and Nationality Directorate to apply for a work visa, it was not returned to me until late August. I then needed the passport to open a bank account. Therefore, it was September 13 before I went to the Chinese Consulate in Edinburgh to collect the application form to extend my passport. On Monday of the following week, I went to the Chinese Consulate again to apply for an extension of my passport. The clerk told me that I would need to submit a letter to explain why the extension application was not filed out before the expiration date. On September 27, I submitted all of the requested documents. The Chinese Consulate gave me a receipt and told me that my passport would be ready for pickup on September 30. I had to work at a clinic that day, but I got a phone call from the Chinese Consulate around one o'clock in the afternoon. I was told that their equipment was "out of order," and that I would have to wait for further instructions by phone after October 1.

However, I have never received another phone call from them. On October 11 and 18, I made two trips to the Chinese Consulate, trying to find out what was going on. I said, "Why can other people's passport ex-

tensions be processed within three to five days, but mine is different from the others? Is it because I practice Falun Gong?" At first the clerk replied, "Yes," but he immediately changed this mind and said, "No." He went on to say, "All of the applications have to wait for instructions from Beijing." I asked him which department in Beijing. He said that information was confidential. I asked to talk to the consul in person. He first said that the consul was on a business trip, but later on he said that the consul had no time. Nevertheless, he promised to pass along a letter to the consul if I wanted to write one.

On October 30 I wrote a letter and asked the clerk to give it to the consul. One week later I went to the Consulate again to inquire about the situation. I was told to keep waiting.

I paid another visit to the

Chinese Consulate on Monday, January 24 of this year. They returned the expired passport to me and told me to keep waiting. They tried to evade their responsibility by claiming that the authorities in Beijing had not yet given them any instructions.

It has been more than three months since I submitted my passport and the required documents. The Chinese authorities have deprived me of my basic rights as a Chinese citizen, without an official reason or explanation.



Ms. Zhao Liping's passport

How I Was Deprived of My Chinese Nationality

My name is Xie Weiguo. My passport expired on May 13, 2004. My fiancée Zhu Yongjie has been illegally detained in the Daxin Forced Labor Camp in Beijing for 19 months since November 4, 2002, just because of her belief in Falun Gong. When Yongjie was still being held in the forced labor camp in April 2004, the Ministry of State Security of China took this opportunity to call me, first through Yongjie's parents, and then together with her father. An officer of the Ministry of State Security said this to me: "We are fully aware of your activities in the UK. It would be totally impossible for you to extend your passport in the UK. You will have to come back to China and then we will help to extend it." Yongjie's parents were very frightened for me upon hearing this news. The officer also threatened me: "As long as you don't apply for refugee status, everything is ok. If you apply, you and Yongjie's parents, brothers and sisters will all be affected." I was very astonished to hear this. He also said: "If you come back to China to extend your passport following the instructed routes, and if you don't do illegal things, then I can guarantee your safety. I will arrange a special exit at Beijing airport, and Yongjie's father and I will receive you at the airport. You

will be safe." I could only laugh at this ridiculous statement. It is unbelievable that a State Security officer would bother to travel a long distance from Urumchi to Beijing (about 3,700 kilometers) to personally pick me up at the airport for nothing. His motivation for doing so was very obvious.

On May 11, 2004, I handed in my passport to the Chinese Embassy in London to extend or renew it. I went to the Chinese Embassy to pick up my passport on May 18. The official said they needed to wait for a reply from China because I am on a "special list." Then they could extend or renew my passport. I asked him what kind of "special list" it is. He said that I should know it myself. I asked him how long I had to wait. He said that he had no idea. He talked quite a lot about Falun Gong. Apparently, the only reason why my passport cannot be extended is because I practice Falun Gong and appeal for an end to the persecution of Falun Gong.



Mr. Xie Weiguo's passport.

I Need My Passport

My name is Mo Zhengfang. Before April 29, 2004, I was an asylum seeker waiting for the Home Office's decision. I could not apply to renew my passport. I was granted Indefinite Leave to Remain after April 29, 2004, but was not given refugee status, because my case was also in the range of the Home Office's one-off family exercise. By law, I could not get a travel document automatically as refugees can; I would have to renew my passport from the Chinese Embassy.

So, I went to the Chinese Embassy to apply for passport renewal on June 7, 2004. The official behind the window gave me a “pick up” form stating that I could collect my new passport on June 11, 2004. Just one day before the due date, I received a phone call from the Chinese Embassy saying that they could not issue a new passport for me unless they received approval from China, and that I could only get my old passport back the next day. I went to the Embassy on June 11, 2004 again and picked up my old invalid passport. On the collection day, I asked the officials the reason for not issuing a new passport to me and how long I would I have to wait; both of them answered “No idea.” On September 16, 2004, I went to the Embassy again to ask if I could get a new passport. I was told that I had to wait. When I asked how long it would take, the official answered that she had no idea about this.

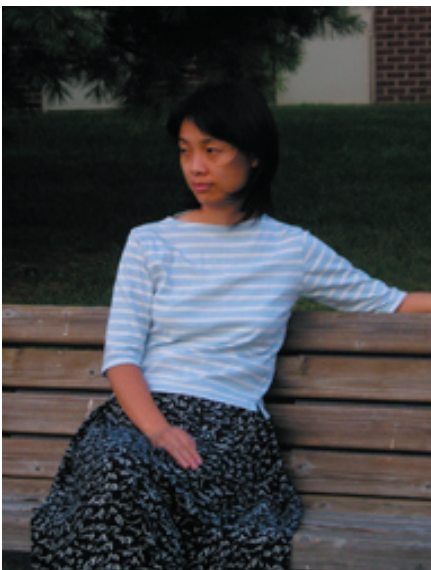


Ms. Mo Zhenqfang's passport.

United States

Becoming a Refugee in the United States

My name is Yang Chunfang. One Saturday while I was doing the Falun Gong exercises in front of the Chinese Embassy in Washington D.C., my bag with my passport inside was stolen. I was very worried. As a foreigner in the U.S., a passport is very important. I went to apply for a new one immediately.



Ms. Yang Chunfang became a refugee because the Chinese government would not extend her passport.

After gathering all the required elements for a new passport based on the embassy's website, I went to the Chinese Embassy. At the embassy, a female employee told me I could not apply for a passport that day because I had advertised about my lost passport in *The Epoch Times* newspaper. Instead she said, "You need to advertise in newspapers such as *Qiao Bao*." It is known that *Qiao Bao* is run by the Chinese government, whose goal is to incite hatred and misunderstanding about Falun Gong. To put an advertisement in *Qiao Bao* was also expensive.

I felt it was unfair that the Chinese Embassy was making it difficult to apply for a new passport. Being a student without a passport, however, is inconvenient. As a compromise, I advertised with a newspaper that was not so closely related to the Chinese government. I finally managed to complete the application filing in April of the following year. In the notification

about the loss of my passport, I wrote down, "I lost it while I was practicing exercises in front of the Chinese Embassy" The official at the Chinese Embassy asked me what exercise I was practicing. I said, "The Falun Gong exercises."

After six months went by, in October 2003, I went to the Chinese Embassy to inquire about the status of my passport. A female staff member came out to tell me that it wasn't ready yet. I asked her why? She said it would take some time for the public security bureau to check it out. I asked her whether I could call China to find out what was going on. She evaded my eyes and said awkwardly in a low voice, "Sure."

I called the Public Security Bureau in China that was in charge of issuing passports. A female staff member told me that their record only showed that my passport had expired in July 2002. I told her that I had obtained an extension. She then

replied, "If you got it extended with the local Chinese Embassy that means they had already validated the passport and there is no need for them to check with us. Plus, we have never received any inquiry from the Chinese Embassy about a passport replacement for you."

That night, I began to seriously inquire about how to apply for political asylum in the United States.

The following day, a consular official by the surname of Lin called and asked if I could meet with him regarding my passport. My husband and I went there together, but he was not allowed to be in the meeting.

I met with Mr. Lin for about an hour. During the meeting, he asked me, "Besides doing the exercises in front of the Chinese Embassy, what other Falun Gong activities have you participated in and what role did you play in these activities?" I told him, "I refuse to answer these questions. Replacing a passport should not be linked with my personal belief. The Chinese Constitution also states that its citizens have freedom of belief. Besides, the embassy knows very well all the information about overseas Falun Gong activities." Jiang Zemin has spent a quarter of the GNP every year to persecute Falun Gong. I asked him, "Do you know how my passport got lost?" I also told him that a spokesman for the Chinese Consulate in San Francisco said in a TV interview,

about Dr. Charles Lee, a Chinese-American who was arrested when he returned to China, "We have all the names of the overseas Falun Gong practitioners...." Mr. Lin seemed surprised and asked, "Really?" I said, "Of course, I would be happy to show you the documents for you to look into it."

At the end of the meeting, Mr. Lin said he was not the person who could make the decision regarding my passport. Regardless of who made the decisions, several Falun Gong practitioners in the DC area have been denied an extension of their passport, simply because they practice Falun Gong. Mr. Lin was always the person who handled the interviews.

A month later, I applied for political asylum and officially became a refugee in the United States.

By chance, I met an American Consulate official who had interviewed me before. When he heard that I was thinking about suing the Chinese government for depriving me of a passport, he asked me in bewilderment, "Why? Didn't you already receive asylum status? Engaging in a lawsuit is very expensive."

I told him, "If it were only for me, I would not sue the Chinese government. But, did you know that the Chinese Embassy and Consulates threaten Chinese students, saying that they will not extend their passports in an

attempt to force them to stop practicing Falun Gong? I never heard of such things like this happening before the persecution of Falun Gong began in July 1999. Now they use their authority to threaten their fellow countrymen, to make them choose, and to create hatred. My suing the government is not only for myself, but also for the righteousness. I only want to tell people that there is still right and wrong."

The official said slowly, "I have met many people; the Chinese have left the deepest impression. There were the students who went to Tiananmen Square in 1989, and now there are you Falun Gong practitioners. I am deeply moved by your spirit. This is what is lacking in today's Americans."

The spirit of the Chinese may be able to bring hope to this world. I feel that no people should be persecuted by their own country and have to become refugees in another.

“Mother, Why Can’t We Return to China?”

One day in May at a Kansas Chinese school, children were all discussing some exciting news: With the support of the Shandong Province Science Association, students and teachers would go to a summer camp in China. Only the 8 year-old Qianqian and 6 year-old Chunzhi were silent.

Qianqian and Chunzhi’s parents practice Falun Gong, and the Chinese Consulate has refused to renew their passports.

Their parents Mr. Kuang Jiyun and Ms. Wang Dongmei have been in the United States for over ten years. They currently reside in Kansas City. In January 2004, it was time to renew their passports. Mr. Kuang followed the guidelines on the website of the Chinese Consulate in Chicago, filled out the application forms and sent them in with the appropriate fees.

The mail went out on January 5. Two weeks passed, but they did not get their passports back. Rather, someone from the Consulate phoned Mr. Kuang at his office. The person did not explain why the Consulate had not sent back their passports, but instead asked, “Are you still practicing Falun Gong?” Mr. Kuang replied, “Sure.” The person told him to think twice about it and hung up.



Mr. Kuang’s family is not allowed to go back China because they practice Falun Gong

In the beginning of February, the Consulate official again called and asked Mr. Kuang if he still practiced Falun Gong. Mr. Kuang confirmed that he did. The person asked him if he had ever gone in front of the Consulate to demonstrate, and if he went to protest during Jiang Zemin’s visit. Mr. Kuang declined to answer his questions, saying that was irrelevant to the passport extension.

His wife, Ms. Wang Dongmei, didn’t receive any response from the Chinese Consulate either. She called the Consulate to ask about her passport around February 10. A Mr. Zhou answered the phone. After checking Ms. Wang’s name in the computer, he switched the topic immediately to Falun Gong. She patiently explained to him the benefits that she’d enjoyed both physically and mentally after

practicing Falun Gong. The talk lasted for over forty minutes. Afterwards, Mr. Zhou told her that he could not make decisions on passport issues and needed to ask his superiors. He asked her to keep waiting.

The visa department of the Chicago Chinese Consulate came to Kansas City to help local overseas Chinese with their passport extensions. Ms. Wang went to inquire about hers too. In the beginning, a Mr. Han treated her quite nicely, but as soon as he heard the words “Falun Gong,” he changed his attitude and ignored Ms. Wang. She then turned to an older woman who was also from the Consulate. The woman asked her why she practiced Falun Gong. Ms. Wang explained to her that her husband had many illnesses and they struggled a lot in the past. After practicing Falun Gong, he turned into a different person. His illnesses went away, and the family became harmonious. The woman was surprised, “Is Falun Gong truly that powerful?” Then she added, “Why don’t you find another Qigong to practice. If you stop practicing Falun Gong, I will extend your passport right away.”

This clearly demonstrated that the sole reason that the Chinese Consulate did not extend

Mr. Kuang and Ms. Wang's passports was because they practice Falun Gong.

Many righteous people condemned the Chinese Consulate's behavior after learning about this case.

On April 2, State Senator Stephen R. Morris wrote to Mr. Xhu Jinzhong, the Consul General of the Chinese Consulate in Chicago, requesting that he approve the extensions of and return the passports to those Falun Gong practitioners who had their passports withheld. He wrote:

Honorable Consul Xhu:

The reason that I am writing this letter to you is to request the immediate return of the passports of Ms. Wang Dongmei and her husband, Mr. Kuang Jiyun. To my knowledge, the couple sent in their passports together with all the necessary documentation and fees to your Consulate for an extension in January. You believe that you can withhold their passports because they practice Falun Gong. But what you are doing is not acceptable in the United States of America. In a civilized society, we cannot tolerate the persecution of innocent people just because of their beliefs. Please arrange to have Ms. Wang and her husband's passports extended and returned to them. Your prompt response is appreciated.

Sincerely,

*Stephen R. Morris,
Illinois State Senate.*

An attorney working for Mr. Kuang and Ms. Wang also wrote to the Chinese Consulate to express his concerns and request that the Consulate return their passports.

In early April, Ms. Wang called Mr. Zhou at the Chinese Consulate to ask him if they had received the letters from Senator Morris and their attorney. Zhou said yes, but whether they were going to deal with it or not still depended on the decision of higher authorities. Ms. Wang asked him, "What higher authorities?" Mr. Zhou answered, "China." Wang asked, "Where in China?" "Beijing," said Mr. Zhou. She then asked, "Which department in Beijing?" Mr. Zhou replied, "Can't tell you." She then asked him how long it would take, and the answer was, "Two more weeks."

But they did not hear anything from the Consulate until two months later. On June 24, Mr. Kuang and Ms. Wang received their old passports in the mail, but there were no extensions.

Inside China, in a prison or detention center, the question that a prison guard most often asks a Falun Gong practitioner is, "Do you still practice Falun Gong?" If the answer is no, then the practitioner is released. If the answer is yes, then they'll continue with their beatings. Overseas,

the same question is also asked. If the answer is no, then they'll give the applicant his passport. If the answer is yes, then they just make the practitioner wait.

Although the persecution manifests in different ways, the essence is the same. That is, they apply all kinds of coercive measures to try to force a person to renounce Falun Gong.

My Passport Denial Case Received Public Attention

My name is Michael (Ke) Ye. I am a Ph.D. Candidate with the School of Policy, Planning and Development at the University of Southern California.

The Chinese Consulate refused to renew my passport simply because I practice Falun Gong.

I started to practice Falun Gong six years ago when I had such serious health problems that I almost collapsed. Falun Gong saved my life and my health problems cleared up. Now I have passed my qualifying exam and have started to work on my PhD dissertation. From my own experiences I realized the miraculous effects of Falun Gong's teaching of "Truthfulness, Compassion, Forbearance" in improving people's mental and physical health and upgrading morality. Therefore, I adhered



Renewal was initially granted, but was "CANCELLED" by the Chinese consulate after they found out Mr. Ye was a Falun Gong practitioner.



The Chinese Consulate in Los Angeles refused to renew Michael Ye's passport.

to my belief in Falun Gong even after the Chinese government's campaign of persecution began. At the same time, out of my sense of justice and conscience, I urged the Chinese government to stop the brutal persecution.

For this reason, my passport renewal has been denied for more than two months, and I still need to wait for further notice on whether it can be renewed and returned to me. Under ordinary circumstances the Consulate will renew a student's passport within one week. My case lends support to the existence of a black list of overseas Falun Gong practitioners. Similar denials have happened to several other practitioners. Without a passport, I will not be able to travel outside the U.S. If I cannot get my passport renewed before it expires, my legal status in the U.S. will be jeopardized, unless I apply for asylum. That would create much difficulty for me in completing

my studies or finding employment here.

I am sad that a government can use such contemptible means to persecute its overseas students. They are doing this to force me to return to China, where they will be totally free to persecute me. It is hard to believe that in this modern age the simple pursuit of "Truthfulness, Compassion, Forbearance" can be called a "crime" and the universal right to tell the truth can be forcefully denied. Such persecution will intimidate overseas students. I love my country and my fellow people in China deeply. My fervent hope is that some day I can apply what I have learned to help solve problems in China. Now I don't know whether my dream will come true.

Even with the persecution I am facing, Falun Gong practitioners in China are not so lucky as me. They face danger all the time. According to sources cited by Chinese government officials, more than 1600 Falun Gong practitioners have been tortured to death. Many more people are tortured in jail or forced to become homeless. The violence against Falun Gong is still escalating. I hope that what I am doing can help ease the pressure and suffering of practitioners in China.

The state terrorism against Falun Gong implemented by Jiang is a crime against our society and harmful to our nation. It is ridiculous that the Jiang regime does not focus on the issues people really care about such as corruption, but exerts every effort to persecute innocent Falun

Gong practitioners.

We demand that Jiang stop the brutal persecution and call for Consulate officials to resist this unconstitutional policy. We also hope that more kind-hearted people can help in our effort and prevent more innocent people

from suffering.

History rewards benevolent acts and penalizes atrocities. History will reveal the goodness of Falun Gong.

A Chinese Worker's Passport was Confiscated

My name is Tian Yunshan. In 1999, the Chinese Consulate in Los Angeles confiscated my passport because I am a Falun Gong practitioner.

In May 1999, I went to the Chinese Consulate in Los Angeles to renew my passport. At that time, I was a department manager in a U.S.-based subsidiary of

a Chinese company. A few days later, the general manager called me to a personal meeting. He told me that he was aware of my passport extension problems, and that they also posed significant problems for our company.

Apparently, Chinese Foreign Affairs Department staff had taken the director of our head office in China to task for failing to supervise staff stationed abroad as expected. They told our director in China that one of the U.S.-based staff members (indicating me) was practicing Falun Gong, and that Falun Gong was an "illegal organization." They demanded that our company send me back to China as punishment. Later, the director of our head office in China contacted me directly. According to him, staff from the Foreign Affairs Department implied there

was no way I could renew my passport or change it to a private passport, simply because I practiced Falun Gong.

It's easy to imagine how much pressure this put on my company. It also brought enormous inconvenience to my daily work and life. Considering that I was not a key member of Falun Gong and that I had only practiced Falun Gong for eight months at the time, it is a mystery how the Chinese Consulate identified me as a practitioner and blacklisted me. It is indeed scary that the Chinese government even has a common civilian's daily life under surveillance.



The Chinese Consulate in Los Angeles confiscated Ms. Tian Yunshan's passport simply because she is a Falun Gong practitioner.

How the Chinese Consulate in San Francisco Rejected My Application to Renew My Passport

My name is Pan Jun and I am a Chinese citizen residing in the United States. I arrived in the U.S. in 1993. In 1998, I learned Falun Gong and have practiced it ever since. At this time, I am employed as an accountant in an accounting firm. My expired Chinese passport number is 147175986 and it expired on July 14, 2004.

The Chinese Consul General of San Francisco cancelled my passport. I want to share with you the story of the cancellation.

On June 8, 2004, I delivered all the necessary documents to the Chinese Consulate in San Francisco. On June 11, 2004, I was supposed to pick up my extended passport.

On June 10, 2004, I received a call from Consul Gao. He asked if I was Jun Pan and I responded in the affirmative. He told me that although his office received my passport renewal application his office did not have the authority to renew it. He told me that I did not need to come to the Consulate on Friday, June 11 2004 to pick up my passport. He told me that his office had contacted Beijing and they would get back to me once they heard back. I thanked him for his call.

About June 24, 2004, I got another call from the San

Francisco Consulate. A gentleman asked if I was Jun Pan and I said yes. He then asked if I practiced Falun Gong. I said yes, and he asked me about my view on Falun Gong. I told him that it was positive, otherwise, why would I practice it. He asked me to come the next day to the Consulate to pick up my passport, and he suggested that we could talk further. He refused to tell me his name, saying it was of no importance.

On June 25, 2004, I went to the San Francisco Consulate. A clerk told me that he could not find my passport. It took a while to make it clear to the clerk that although I had come to pick up my passport, I understood that a consul official wanted to talk to me first. I said that I did not know who to talk to. An official came and escorted me into the Consulate.

I recognized his voice. He was the person who had called me the day before. He did not introduce himself. He began to question me about Falun Gong and said that he held a negative view and understanding of Falun Gong. I replied that I would be more than happy to share my understanding with him and he seemed fine with asking me questions.

His first question was about

why Falun Gong does not allow people to get medical attention when they are sick? I told him that he might have misunderstood, because in *Zhuan Falun*, the main book of Falun Gong, the difference between qigong treatment and hospital treatment was explained. Mr. Li Hongzhi, the author of *Zhuan Falun*, clarified the effect of hospital treatment in that particular chapter and how Falun Gong looks at hospital treatment. Mr. Li did not say that you should not go to a hospital and cannot take medicine.

Then he asked why Falun Gong is against the Chinese government? I said I was not against the Chinese government; on the



Mr. Pan cannot get his passport from the Chinese Consulate in San Francisco.

contrary I love China.

He said maybe you are not but what about those people who protest outside the Consulate. He wondered why every time, when Chinese officials are in town, Falun Gong practitioners always protest outside the Consulate.

I told him that the people I knew were not against the Chinese government either.

I explained to him that people outside the Consulate are appealing for the Consulate's and the Chinese government's attention. They want to tell all that the persecution of Falun Gong is wrong and that they want the government to stop the persecution. In addition, I explained that we did not protest every time an official from China is in town. We are only here when those who support the persecution and who commit crimes towards Falun Gong practitioners, and whose actions are also considered crimes under Chinese laws are in town.

He said that he heard that Falun Gong hired people to protest outside the Chinese Consul-

ate. I was surprised that he heard such rumors. I told him that I knew most of the people who protested outside the Chinese Consulate. I gave some examples. I did not believe that anyone paid them to protest outside Chinese Consulate.

He said that he thought protesting outside the Chinese Consulate is considered a loss of face for the Chinese people and that it certainly was not beneficial to the cause. I explained to him that it was this persecution that caused all these troubles and that it was this persecution that brought loss of face to the Chinese people. If there were no persecution, and Falun Gong practitioners' constitutional rights and their freedom of belief and assembly were respected, then China would truly earn respect from the world's people.

He had many other misunderstandings. I had the strong impression that he was misinformed about Falun Gong. I am not going into all the details in this article.

Coming back to my passport issue, he said towards the end of the meeting that his office could not extend my passport. His office lacked the authority to extend my passport. I asked him if this denial was because I practiced Falun Gong in the United States. He told me that this was the reason.

I also asked him, since his office lacked the authority to approve my passport extension, if he knew where in the U.S. or in China I could appeal for my rights as a Chinese citizen? He said that he could not answer this question, and ended the meeting.

It is sad that my passport was cancelled and that I have no recourse. The door was slammed in my face as there is no place here or in China where I can appeal for my rights as a Chinese citizen.



The stamp on the passport says "CANCELLED" due to practicing Falun Gong

The Chinese Consulate in San Francisco Rejected My Passport Renewal Because I Practice Falun Gong

My name is Li Qing, and I am a student at Stanford University.

On the afternoon of April 19, 2001, a consul from the Chinese Consulate in San Francisco came to the International Student Center of Stanford University to help Chinese students extend their passports. As my passport would expire in three months, I, along with six other Chinese students had all the application materials ready and handed them to the consul. After the consul received our passports, he asked the Chinese Students and Scholars Association president to sign a statement against Falun Gong on behalf of all the Chinese students at Stanford University. He also asked him to organize activities against Falun Gong among Chinese students. The president knows that Falun Gong is good, so he did not want to sign the letter, but the consul continued to persuade him to sign, offering financial support to their organization in return. Seeing this, I talked to the consul and told him that I am a Falun Gong practitioner, and benefit greatly from practicing. After a while, the consul left in a hurry without any result.

Two weeks later, the consul notified me to pick up my passport at the Consulate. After I

arrived, he returned my passport and the application fee. I found no stamp of extension on the passport and no explanation for the refusal. I asked for the reason. The answer I got was, “You go in for activities that defy the government...”

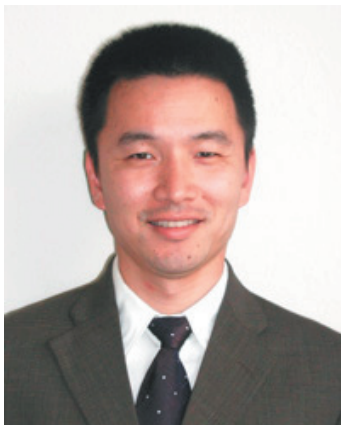
My passport was to expire in mid-July 2001, and my research group was going to Germany for an academic conference in August. I had already bought the airline ticket and was only waiting for the extension of my passport so that I could apply for a visa at the German Consulate. After contacting the Chinese Consulate many times without conclusion, my department had to cancel my trip to Germany.

Several months after that, people from the National Security Bureau had a talk with my relatives in China, in an attempt to have my relatives pressure me to give up Falun Gong.



Dr. Li Qing

The Dallas Morning News: Sun Dakun's Passport Withheld Because of His Practice of Falun Gong



Mr. Sun Dakun is a man without a nation because of his practice of Falun Gong

A report from The Dallas Morning News covered both the persecution in China, and the extension of the persecution to the territory of the U.S.

“Dakun Sun, an organizer of the World Falun Dafa Day event in Fort Worth, Dallas, is a man without a nation.

‘The Chinese Consulate refused to renew my passport, and I can’t travel and I can’t go back home,’ Mr. Sun said. ‘They got my name from a local Web site about Falun Gong - I think they matched my name to my passport and would not renew it.’

Mr. Sun asked whether he

had broken any laws while in the United States and asked what he could do to get his passport renewed.

‘They never told me on the phone what I did wrong, and they never returned my calls,’ he said.

A trip to the Consulate in Houston revealed that his passport was withheld because of his Falun Gong practices, Mr. Sun said.

He was granted a three-year work permit by the U.S. government but said he is unsure what he will do when it expires.”

The Chinese Consulate in Houston Rejected My Passport Extension Application

My name is Cui Fushang. I learned Falun Gong in late 1998 when I was studying in Florida. After obtaining my Ph.D. from the University South Florida last August, I moved to my present residence in Virginia. The Chinese Consulate in Houston unreasonably cancelled my passport because I practice Falun Gong.

On November 27, 2001, I put all the required documents into an envelope and mailed

it to the Chinese Consulate in Houston by overnight express. According to a stamp mark on my passport, the Consulate received my passport on November 28 and then granted my passport extension immediately. However, at noon on November 29, I received a phone call from a Consulate official whose last name was allegedly Yang. Mr. Yang wanted to “check my status with Falun Gong.” He repeated the Jiang regime’s persecutory policy

and requested that I quit my Falun Gong practice. I rejected his request, told him of the positive experiences I had practicing Falun Gong. The conversation continued for about 40 minutes. At last, he said that he knew my situation now. After that talk, I never received any further information regarding my passport, so I decided to call the Consulate to get an update on the situation.

I actually called the Consul-



Mr. Cui Fushang and his wife.

ate twice and the answer each time was the same: The consul in charge of passport extension wasn't available and my passport would be processed as soon as the officer came back. After more than two months, in response to my repeated requests, the Consulate mailed me back a cancelled passport [see photo above]. Evidently, the Houston Consulate had purposefully withheld my passport, as passport renewal by mail typically does not take more than 2 weeks. As a matter of fact, my passport had been originally extended for another 5 years upon its arrival at the Consulate. What likely happened was that the Consulate found my name on its Falun Gong blacklist on November 29 and thus withheld my passport extension, while having a consul call me to pressure me into renouncing Falun Gong. After they realized they couldn't achieve that goal, they cancelled my passport extension. As a matter of fact, Chinese public security officials had threatened my father even before I submitted my application for

a passport renewal telling him: "If your son continues to participate in Falun Gong activities in the U.S., he will have problems when he applies for renewal of his passport." Below is what actually happened:

During the China-U.S. human rights dialogue in October 2001, I participated in a peaceful appeal in Washington D.C., calling on China to end the persecution of Falun Gong. When I came back to my home in Florida, as usual, I called my parents in China. To my great surprise, my parents, especially my father, were in a panic and very upset. I became worried, particularly because my father has a very serious heart disease. My father told me that a police officer had told him that I had gone to Washington D.C. to appeal. The officer also said that the police had all the records of my phone calls to China and knew all the details of my activities in the U.S.. The police officer requested my parents to persuade me not to appeal for Falun Gong any more; otherwise my family would face severe consequences. The police officer mentioned to my father that my passport would soon expire. Later, my brother and sister both mentioned my passport when I called them. In China, especially for elders like my parents who live in the countryside, people don't know the details about passports, and many never see a passport in

their entire lifetime. The only plausible explanation was that the police threatened my family that the Chinese authorities would not renew my passport.

The unreasonable cancellation of my passport by the Houston Consulate has brought me a lot of trouble. The payroll office at the University of South Florida, where I was studying for my Ph.D., has requested many times that I provide a valid passport; otherwise, the University will have to suspend my assistantship. As a result, I had to explain the situation to people in my department, to the international students and scholars' office, and to my lawyer on numerous occasions. The only reason for the rejection of my passport extension was that I practiced Falun Gong and follow the principles of Truthfulness, Compassion, Forbearance.



The Chinese Consulate in Houston first granted and later cancelled Cui's passport renewal.

“It was A Decision from Higher Authorities”

My name is Yang Sen, I am an electrical engineer in Chicago. In mid-November 2004, I went to the Chinese Consulate in Chicago to submit my application to renew my passport. A week later, I went back to the Consulate to pick up my passport. A consul of-



Mr. Yang Sen

ficial by the surname Zhou called me into his office and told me, “Mr. Yang, we have discussed your application and based on your current situation, we cannot renew your passport. We will call you when we can renew it.” I specifically asked him, “What is the main reason why my passport can’t be renewed?” Consul Zhou replied, “There’s no reason.” I then said, “Please renew my passport if you don’t have any reason not to.” Zhou, however, repeatedly told me, “Based on your current situation, we can’t renew your passport.” I asked him, “What situation?” Zhou refused to explain himself, so I then asked him, “Is it because I practice Falun Gong.” Zhou then

just showed a baffled expression, implying it was a decision from higher authorities and the Consulate was just following orders.

This reminded me of what the Chinese Consulate told my friends, Xu Zhiwei and Zhu Jiang, who also practice Falun Gong when they refused to renew their passports. The Consulate alleged that my friends had “jeopardized China’s honor and state security” and so their passports couldn’t be renewed. Then when it came to my turn, why was I only told “No Reason”?

A Couple was Deprived of Their Chinese Citizenship

My name is Zuo Jing. I began to practice Falun Gong in 1997. In 1998, I took up studies at a United States University and received a B.Sc. in Accounting. During my studies I also worked part-time. In 2001, my husband graduated from his University program and we moved to Chicago.

In May 2002, my husband's passport expired and he requested a renewal from the Chinese Consulate in Chicago. His passport was not renewed and no explanation was given. My husband discussed the matter with the staff from the Consulate during which he was accused of jeopardizing the country's security! Yet, Consulate staff could not back up the "damaging" accusation with concrete facts. My husband and I clearly understood the Consulate's reasons, which they could not openly admit - my husband is a Falun Gong practitioner. Chicago's media picked up on this and reported extensively about the Consulate's denial of my husband's passport renewal.

At the end of 2002, my passport was about to expire. I submitted all of the required documents. I went to pick up the passport at the appointed time. The officer at the Consulate asked me to wait another week, although my application had al-

ready been approved. That week, a consul whose name is Ye Zhen called me and wanted to know more about my background. I told him that my husband was not granted his passport renewal, because he practices Falun Gong. I then told him that I am also a Falun Gong practitioner. After hearing this, he was ready to hang up the phone immediately. I succeeded in telling him quickly that he should not persecute Falun Gong and that he needed to understand the truth. I was able to tell him that the day will certainly come when everybody will know the truth about Falun Gong.

I returned one week later to the Consulate. They still refused to renew my passport, but gave no reason. I asked for a meeting. I asked that they provide a reason for their refusal to renew my passport. The staff at the Consulate dared not face me, a woman. Doesn't this clearly show that they know what they do is wrong? Don't they feel really guilty? I sent faxes to the consuls and told them the truth about Falun Gong. I also called them and left messages, hoping that we could meet. But, it did not surprise me that I did not receive any reply.

Because of the Chinese Communist Party's persecution of Falun Gong, my husband and

I were not granted a passport renewal. Therefore, we can't go back to China and visit our family members. We are deprived of our Chinese citizenship.



Ms. Zuo Jing's passport

My Right As a Chinese Citizen Trampled by Chinese Consulate in San Francisco

My name is Guo Wei. I work in the San Francisco Bay Area as a computer engineer. In 1995, during my college days at Beijing's Qinghua University, I started to practice Falun Gong. A friend introduced it to me. At that time, after reading it once, I thought the book *Zhuan Falun* was very good. I have been diligent in my practice of Falun Gong. It helped me attain a healthy body and mind.

Beyond my comprehension, out of jealousy and disregarding for the general public's welfare, Jiang Zemin launched the brutal Cultural Revolution style persecution against Falun Gong. Since I lived abroad in a country that had free speech, I was able to receive the news about the suffering of tens of millions of Falun Gong practitioners in China. If this persecution was allowed to last, I believed it would become a tragedy similar to the Cultural Revolution, and it would bring catastrophe to the nation. So, three times during 1999 to 2000, I went back to China to peacefully appeal on behalf of Falun Gong. I wished to help government officials who still have a conscience to stop the tragedy from going too far. Instead, I was thrown behind bars.

I was forced to leave China. My passport, which was issued to

me in 1996 when I left China to study in the U.S., was due to expire on July 29, 2001. Therefore, around January 16, 2001, I went to the Chinese Consulate in San Francisco to apply for a passport extension. Upon my submitting the completed form and the related materials, the Consulate visa worker told me to come and get it on the 18th.

Two days later, when I showed up to get my passport, the Consulate official said that they could not grant the extension to me. I asked why not and he rudely replied, "You know the reason why." I said, "I don't know why. I am a Chinese citizen. Why can't my passport be extended? Could it be due to my practicing of Falun Gong?" Then he commented, "Every day you all come to protest in front of the Consulate, and you dare to think you can get a passport extension?" I explained to him that we came to appeal because of the innocent Falun Gong practitioners who were unlawfully detained, beaten, and tortured to death; without such a persecution we would not come to protest.

After getting my passport back I noticed that they had initially extended it till July 28, 2006, with the official red seal of San Francisco Chinese Consulate; but then it was crossed

out with a blue CANCELLED stamp. This was obviously done after they found out that I practiced Falun Gong.

This incident occurred several years ago but I still remember it vividly. I was really disappointed that Chinese Consulate officials in San Francisco did not adhere to China's Constitution and trampled a Chinese citizen's right to receive a passport extension. Now I am writing this down, hoping to let more people know about the persecution against Falun Gong practitioners outside of China.



Mr. Guo Wei's passport



The renewal was initially granted, but a big blue "CANCELLED" stamp was put on the renewal page after the Consulate found out I practiced Falun Gong.

Chinese Consulate in New York: “Still Practicing Falun Gong? Your Passport Will Not Be Processed.”

My name is Wang Wenyi. On July 15, 2004, at 10 o'clock, I had a meeting at the Chinese Consulate in New York for the renewal of my passport. I brought with me my passport, which had been cancelled in Switzerland two years earlier. I wanted to apply for a new one, and followed the procedures of the Visa Division. I was helped by a young man called Zou Xi, at least that was the name on the nameplate.

I said, “Hello, I would like to get a new passport.”

As I spoke, I handed him my old passport and four photos, together with the application form, which had been duly completed.



Ms. Wang Wenyi's passport renewal was rejected by the Chinese Consulate in New York.

“Why was your passport cancelled? Where and when was it cancelled?” Mr. Zou opened my passport and looked at it, and looked at me dubiously.

“It was cancelled two years ago in Bern, Switzerland. I went to the Embassy to have my passport renewed, and was told then to come back three days later. When I returned, the Embassy told me that they were unable to process it. They asked me to return to the U.S. and apply for a renewal there. Then they cancelled my passport and gave me a travel permit.”

“Why?” Zou Xi asked.

“Because they knew that I was a Falun Gong practitioner.”

“Oh!” He looked at me, and asked, “Are you still practicing?”

“Of course, I am. It's my belief. It has nothing to do with my rights as a citizen.”

“If you are still practicing, then I cannot process your new passport application,” Mr. Zou said, and handed me back my passport.

“Just because of my belief in Falun Gong, my passport was not renewed and I was deprived of my rights as a citizen. Isn't this unreasonable behavior?”

“Sorry, I follow the regula-

tions of the country. The country considers...” Zou Xi murmured.

“I would like to have a look at the original copy of this regulation. When was it issued and who issued it? Was it the Department of Public Security, or the Department of Country Security? Which department? Nobody ever told me about this before.”

“This regulation has been effective since July of 1999. Every one knows it. The government regulates that. Sorry...” Zou Xi couldn't tell if such a regulation actually existed. He could not provide an original copy either.

“I only want to tell you that it's a personal belief to practice Falun Gong and to live by the principles 'Truthfulness, Compassion and Forbearance.' It's the fundamental human right of each and every one. You have been living abroad for some time, and should know how other countries look at this matter.”

“Don't tell me these things. I am not the person to make decisions.” Mr. Zou showed no interest in any further discussion.

I looked at this young man who blindly followed his superiors and listened to his arguments. He found no justification for his refusal. I felt deeply saddened. I wondered if his generation could

The Chinese Consulate in Houston Unreasonably Refused My Application for a Passport Extension

My name is Wei Jinxia. I am a Falun Gong practitioner in Texas. The Chinese Consulate in Houston rejected my application for a passport extension simply because I practice Falun Gong. It has been more than two years since then and as a result I have suffered difficulty in my life and work.

On November 5, 2001, I went to the Chinese Consulate in Houston to apply for an extension of my passport, as it was going to expire on November 20, 2001. At the Consulate, I filled in the application form and handed in all requested information. I was told to come back to pick up my passport on November 8.

On the morning of November 6, I received a call from a man at the Consulate. He asked if I had applied for a passport extension. I answered yes. Then he asked for my husband's name. I was curious and asked him why he wanted to know. He started to talk about my husband's passport. His passport had been seized by the Consulate more than 8 months ago because he practiced Falun Gong. The man said, "You are young and don't have much experience. You know very well the Chinese Government's position on Falun Gong. We'll give



Both Ms. Wei Jinxia and her husband Mr. Wang Yongsheng's applications for passport extensions were rejected by the Chinese Consulate in Houston

you one more chance and hopefully you can change your position towards Falun Gong." His words implied that they would seize my passport, too.

I told him over the phone, "We did not commit wrongdoing. It is Jiang's regime that slanders and persecutes Falun Gong. We practice every day in front of the Consulate only to convey to the government that the persecution is wrong and in hopes that the government will listen to the people's voice and correct their wrongdoing. We do not oppose the government. On the contrary, we trust the government and wish that it will understand the people's wish and correct its mistake. The situation would be different if we opposed the government."

Then he repeated some slan-

derous lies about Falun Gong. I explained the facts to him and said, "Are you forcing us to confess to false charges? For Chinese people living overseas, it is difficult to survive without a passport. You seized my husband's passport, and as a result, he cannot change his visa status."

At the end, he said, "Since you won't give up practicing Falun Gong, nothing will change and you'll be responsible for the consequences. Whenever you change your mind, give us a call or write a letter." I asked him, "Whom should I ask for if I call?" "Umm -- then write a letter instead," he answered. Apparently, he did not want to let me know his name.

I said, "Since I live in this city, let's have a face to face conversation."

He answered, "We don't have time."

I said, "If you don't have time to meet me, just stamp a seal on my passport. It won't take you much time." That was the end of the first call.

On November 9, my husband and I went to the Consulate to ask for our passports. A front desk staff member told us to wait for a while. A man came out and met us. From his voice, I

knew he was the man that had called me. This time I asked for his name again. He told us reluctantly that his family name was Yang (We found out later that his name was Yang Zhuofan). In our conversation, he mentioned that practicing Falun Gong in front of the Consulate was involving us in politics and going against the government. We told him, “We came to practice the Falun Gong exercises after Jiang’s regime began persecuting Falun Gong. If the persecution were stopped, imprisoned Falun Gong practitioners were released and people could practice Falun Gong freely in China, then we would not come anymore.” He said, “The Consulate will not

give a passport extension to those who don’t follow the government. Whenever you change your mind, you can come to ask for the extension of your passports again.”

In the end, the Consulate officials returned my husband’s passport, which had already expired, and my passport, which would soon expire. The only reason for the rejection of our application for a passport extension was that we practice Falun Gong and follow the principles of Truthfulness, Compassion, Forbearance.

New York Consulate: “You Should Give It A Second Thought and Don’t Be Too Serious On Certain Matters.”

My name is Dong Yuexing. I’m a Chinese citizen and a Falun Gong practitioner. I am visiting the U.S. for personal reasons with a general passport that expired on December 17, 2001. I went to the Chinese Consulate in New York to apply for a passport extension and was told to come back to get my passport on December 18, according to the instructions on the receipt from the Consulate.

When I returned to the Consulate to pick up my passport on the morning of December 31, the officer looked up my application on the computer using the receipt number. She took a look at the screen and had a few words with another officer. The other officer went to another computer to retrieve my records and came back to tell me that my passport extension application did not meet the regulations and had been refused. I asked him, “Which regulations don’t I meet?” He could not answer me and asked me to check it out on my own. I said, “I looked through all the regulations and I still do not understand which regulations I do not meet; please explain it clearly to me.” He said it was not his duty to give me an explanation and asked me to talk to the supervisor.

A consul whose last name is Dai came to meet with me. He looked at my passport and told

me that my passport extension application could not be processed right away. I asked him why this was so and he could not give me any reason. He just said that he only had limited authority. I asked, “Was the decision to refuse my passport extension application under directions of higher officers?” He said that basically it was his decision not to approve my passport extension application, but he could not tell me the reason either. He continued, “I don’t have any motives to create trouble for you, but you should give it a second thought and don’t be too serious on certain matters. Aren’t we all here to make a little more money?” I said, “A human being certainly needs to make a living, but the most important thing in being a human being is to live openly and aboveboard, to be a good person, and not to do bad deeds, or one will create a huge amount of karma on one’s own.” He said that I sounded like a Falun Gong practitioner, [talking about] this karma and that karma. I said, “Everyone talks about karma and that doing bad deeds incurs karma.”

He regretted that he did not have time to talk with me and advised me to come back a couple of years later if I wanted to extend my passport. I said, “If you do not approve my passport extension, I will have a great deal of difficulty

making a living.” He did not say anything else and headed back to his office.

It is because I am a Falun Gong practitioner that the Chinese Consulate in New York refused my passport extension application for no reason. I could not figure out what other reason would cause them to make such a decision. Consul Dai certainly was uncooperative. However, it is a fact, and this is evidence that the unreasonable persecution of Falun Gong practitioners in China has extended to overseas Chinese also.

A Couple Protest the Unfair, Unreasonable Denial of Their Chinese Passports

Ms. Shi Wei and her husband Mr. Lin Chuan, residents of Virginia, have had their passports unreasonably withheld by the Chinese Embassy because of their belief in Falun Gong.

The Lin Couple graduated from the University of Science and Technology of China and they have lived in the U.S. for twelve years. On December 30, 2003, they went to the Chinese Embassy to apply for their passport renewal. This is a routine procedure and usually only takes a few days to complete. However, since then the passports have not been returned.

Why would the Chinese Embassy withhold their passports? Ms. Shi Wei said: “When we went to the Chinese Embassy to pick up our passports, one of the staff in the visa office couldn’t find them. Ten minutes later, a staff member whose last name is Lin took us into a small room. He told us that the embassy wouldn’t grant our passport renewal because we appealed in front of the Chinese Embassy and have participated in many other Falun Gong activities.”

Ms. Shi Wei then asked him: “Did we violate any law so that we can’t be Chinese citizens any-



Ms. Shi Wei standing in front of the Chinese Embassy visa office

more? Shouldn’t Jiang Zemin be brought to justice as he has murdered so many innocent Falun Gong practitioners?” He couldn’t answer, and he just repeated that the higher authorities refused to renew our passports.”

Two months have passed, and there is no sign that the Chinese Embassy is going to change its mind. Ms. Shi Wei thus went to the visa office of the Chinese Embassy to raise the public’s awareness about the embassy’s unfair actions. After learning of her and her husband’s situation, many people who went to the visa office were very surprised and couldn’t understand why the embassy has done this to them.



Mr. Lin Chuan is a computer engineer without a passport

Peaceful Appeal before the Consulate Becomes an Excuse for Persecution

My name is Tang Jian. I am a Chinese citizen living in Houston, Texas. On the morning of September 2, 2003, I went to the Chinese Consulate in Houston to apply for a passport extension. When I had just arrived at the entrance of the Passport and Visa Office, an associate consul-general saw me and said in a stern voice, "Why are you here?" I said that I came to apply to have my passport extended. He did not answer me and left. Then another official told me that it was already past office hours. This official wanted me to come back at 1:30 p.m..

I went to the passport and visa office again in the afternoon. The staff member in the front office accepted my application documents for a passport extension. Visa office chief Wei immediately came out of his office and took my application to the office in the back. I noticed that he had not come out to take other applicants' information.

On my way back to work I received a phone call from Consul Yang Zhuofan. He said that he wanted to get to know my circumstances. After asking me something about my personal experiences after I came to the U.S., he asked me about my practicing Falun Gong. I answered all his questions. He asked me why I

went to practice in front of the Consulate every day. He said that doing this was hurting China's reputation and that Falun Gong is against the law, etc. I said that this is the United States and I have not violated any law and have obeyed U.S. law.

Let me explain: In China, hundreds of thousands of innocent Falun Gong practitioners are maltreated during the persecution. Many practitioners have been tortured to death. They have no place to appeal for justice or make their voices heard. I practice in front of the Consulate just to let the world's people learn about the persecution in China, and to urge certain people in China to stop the brutal persecution.

He wanted me to stop practicing in front of the Consulate. I indicated that if certain people in China would stop the persecution, as a matter of fact, I would go to practice in the park where the environment is much better. He said more words imploring me to stop practicing in front of the Consulate. Seeing that I was very insistent, he terminated the conversation. We had talked for half an hour.

The next day I went to pick up my passport. The person in the front office told me that my passport had not been extended.

I demanded an explanation. Then the visa office chief Wei came out to talk to me. He said that they wanted to send my application to China for approval and then let me know after the approval. I asked why my application to have my passport extended had to go through a special procedure while others did not. He said that Yang Zhuofan had already mentioned the reason yesterday. He said that I should know the reason. I asked if it was due to my practicing Falun Gong. He said that Mr. Yang had already explained and he would not repeat it. He returned the passport to me without an extension.

Later, I went there twice to apply for an extension and I was refused on both occasions. I went there once at 1:30 p.m.. The person in the front office told me that my passport would not be



Ms. Tang Jian cannot get her new passport from the Chinese Consulate just because of practicing Falun Gong

extended. I told them that Falun Gong practitioners in China are being arrested, tortured, detained and killed, while outside China, the Chinese Consulate has gone so far as to use these methods to persecute us. After asking Mr. Yang, the staff members in the front office told me that Mr. Yang would come to talk to me at 3:00 p.m. and asked me to wait. Mr. Yang, however, did not show up, even by 3:30 p.m. I told them that I had waited for so long and asked why he did not keep his word. The persons in the front office said they did not know the reason. At

the same time they asked me to leave right away since they wanted to close for the day.

One official in the Consulate told me that they would extend my passport if I would stop practicing in front of the Consulate.

As of today, my passport still hasn't been extended.

Mother's Passport Confiscated in China, Son's Passport Extension Denied in the U.S.

Mr. Xu Zhiwei is a software specialist with Motorola in Schaumburg, Illinois. His mother is unable to travel abroad from China because Beijing authorities have confiscated her passport.

Both Xu and his mother practice Falun Gong, which is a practice of refining the body and mind through exercise and meditation. The practice has been banned in China since 1999.

Xu's mother, 57-year-old Cui Zhang, started practicing Falun Gong in 1995. The government was her arrested in March 2000 and sent her to a labor camp because she refused to renounce the practice. She was released 10 days after starting a hunger strike.

She was arrested again and jailed for nearly three months in 2001. His mother was released from jail in July 2001, but has been under close surveillance ever since. Since her passport was seized, it is impossible for her to travel.

"I want to bring my mother here," Xu said. "I want her to be free from persecution."

Last year, the Consulate denied Xu's request to get his own passport renewed, citing his involvement in "activities abroad which are harmful to the country's security and interest." The Consulate would not say

whether the denial had anything to do with Falun Gong.

Without taking further action, Xu, could only legally remain in the United States until his visa expired in 2004. He is still trying to get a passport renewal.

"I'm worried that if I go to China to see my mother, I won't be able to return," he said.

Xu moved to the United States in 1997 to finish doctoral studies in computer science. He now lives in Mount Prospect with his wife, and their young son.

"It's a dream of mine to have my mother meet my son in person," he said. "So far, she's just seen pictures."

Xu hopes that publicizing stories like his mother's and bringing them to the attention of government leaders will spur China to relax its stance against Falun Gong. The Chicago City Council, the Illinois General Assembly and the U.S. Congress all adopted resolutions in 2002 condemning China's persecution of Falun Gong practitioners.



Mr. Xu Zhiwei and his family are denied reunion

The Chinese Consulate in Los Angeles Refused to Extend my Passport

My name is Zhang Xiuhua. I live in Los Angeles (LA), California. In 2000, I went to the Chinese Consulate in LA to request a passport extension. I am sorry to say, the embassy officials have refused to extend my passport because I practice Falun Gong. They objected to my frequent visits to the consulate to clarify the truth about Falun Gong to people. Therefore, everyone in the Chinese Consulate knows me.

On November 20, 2004, Mrs. Hu, a friend of mine, and

I returned to the consulate to ask for a passport extension. A female staff member there gave me a hard time. She asked for a letter from the Foreign Affairs Office in China. I said, "You know very well that the Foreign Affairs Office in China will not issue such a letter because I practice Falun Gong. You are asking the impossible." A male staff member then took my passport into another room. After quite some time he returned the passport to the female staff member, who still refused to extend my passport.

The Chinese Constitution grants every Chinese citizen the right to have his/her passport extended. Yet the persecutors took this inherent citizen's right from me because I practice Falun Gong.

I call on all kindhearted people to help me get back my passport.