

Falun Gong Today: Focus on China

A comprehensive look at the hate propaganda, forced labor, brainwashing, torture and killings of Falun Gong practitioners throughout China.



In 60 countries around the world, more than 100 million people have taken up Falun Gong—a traditional Chinese practice of exercise, meditation and principled living.

A peaceful meditation practice... violently persecuted in China



For more than five years, a faction within the Chinese Government has sought to “eradicate Falun Gong,” ordering the use of hate propaganda, forced labor, brainwashing and torture throughout China.

Unimaginable Cruelty

The Systematic Suppression of 100 Million People

It began in the middle of the night, July 20, 1999. Across China under the veil of dark, police and security dragged hundreds of ordinary people from their beds. Many would be taken to holding centers and jails, others beaten, and some, reportedly, would be executed.

What had they done? Nothing more than to practice Falun Gong, a traditional form of Chinese exercise and meditation that had grown immensely popular.

Police were acting on orders from the top, from Communist Party head Jiang Zemin, who ordered the group crushed. By most accounts, Jiang was resentful of the popular group – numbering 100 million – and wished to make a show of power.

Two days later, on July 22, Falun Gong was formally outlawed across the land, marking the official beginning of a violent campaign in China that has continued for more than five years.

The suppression of Falun Gong has been from the outset in violation of China’s own constitution – which promises freedom of belief – and a breach of international human rights treaties China has signed. Millions of peaceful, apolitical citizens have been cast as enemies of the state.

Jiang declared that “no means are too excessive” in the drive to “eradicate Falun Gong.”

To date over 1,000 deaths in state custody have been



documented, most owing to torture, with Government sources indicating the true death toll is more than 5,000 or even higher. Hundreds of thousands more – or millions, by some estimates – languish while unlawfully held captive in China’s prisons and labor camps. Beatings, brainwashing tactics, torture, rape, and forced labor are common. Permeating every facet of society, the persecution is marked by its scope and vigor.

In the words of the United States Congress, China’s regime has “systematically attempted to eradicate the practice and those who follow it... through organized brainwashing, torture, and murder.”

Georges-Henri Beauthier, a human rights attorney who prosecuted Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet and perpetrators of the Rwanda genocide, has called the campaign a “horrific form of genocide.”

This newspaper was assembled by volunteers to provide insight into the scope and tactics utilized by Chinese Communist authorities against Falun Gong, the crimes of which are so vast and horrible, they not only threaten to destroy the fabric of Chinese society, but are an affront to our very humanity.

It is our hope that more people come to know the true nature of what has been unleashed inside China against Falun Gong and raise their voices to condemn it.

“ *Few spiritual or religious peoples in the world today face the degree or depth of persecution as do the members of the Falun Gong spiritual movement in China.* ”

— Rabbi David Saperstein
Former Chair, U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom

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Cases of Murder



Abducted and Killed by Police

56-year-old Ms. Xiong Fengxia (above) was abducted from her home in October, 2002 as part of a massive roundup of Falun Gong practitioners in Gucheng Town, Hebei Province. Xiong was beaten severely over a two-week period before dying in police custody. Family members say they counted over 40 wounds on her body, and an autopsy report found there was extravasated blood in her chest and an accumulation of mucous in her trachea. There was also a reddish fluid in her bladder.

University Lecturer Dies after Severe Beatings

32-year-old Ms. Zhao Xin, before her arrest (below, at left) and three days later (below, at right)—neck broken, paralyzed and unable to speak. She eventually died from her injuries. Zhao was arrested for practicing Falun Gong exercises in a public park.



Amnesty International Urgent Action Subject Tortured to Death



On March 5th, 2002, Mr. Chengjun Liu tapped into a cable T.V. signal in China's northeastern city of Changchun to broadcast programs exposing the atrocities against Falun Gong practitioners in China. The broadcast in Changchun sent shock waves throughout northeast China, as hundreds of thousands witnessed for the first time investigative reports about the systematic campaign to 'eradicate' Falun Gong in their own country. Chinese authorities began a massive hunt for Falun Gong practitioners, unleashing near-marshal law upon Changchun.

Nine days later, Liu was arrested.

On March 15th, Amnesty International issued an Urgent Action statement for Falun Gong practitioners in Changchun, in which Liu was mentioned by name.

Throughout Liu's imprisonment, sources say he was subjected to severe torture and abuse. According to eyewitnesses who saw Liu in October 2003, he was incapacitated and "hard to recognize" from the torture.

At 4 a.m. on December 26, Liu died from his injuries. According to eyewitnesses, there was blood in Liu's nose, ears, and on his legs. Liu's body was cremated seven hours after his death with neither an autopsy performed nor the family's consent.

The directive to "eradicate Falun Gong" is applied nationwide in China, while information about torture victims and resultant deaths is treated as a "state secret." As of Dec. 10, 2004, 1,157 deaths of Falun Gong practitioners from abuse or torture have been verified. According to Chinese Government sources, the true death toll is well over 5,000.



Husband and Wife Abducted from Home and Tortured; Wife Dies

On April 1st, 2004, Chinese police ransacked the home of 31-year-old Ms. Huang Zhao (above) and her husband, stealing valuables and detaining the couple who both practice Falun Gong. Two weeks later, Huang was dead.

Witnesses say by the second day of her detention, Huang had been severely beaten and could no longer walk. Because she refused to renounce her beliefs, on April 4th Huang was transferred to the No.1 Branch of Wuhan City Police (the local "6-10 Office") where she was tortured further. Huang died at 3 a.m. on April 16th at the Wuhan City No. 3 Hospital.

Sources familiar with Huang's case say local police are monitoring Huang's family members and the hospital where she died to ensure information about her death is not made public. Everyone walking in and out of Huang's residential building is questioned, they say.

Huang's husband, Liu Ning, was also beaten and tortured after being detained, but he was later released to his family. When Liu visited his mother-in-law to enquire about his wife's whereabouts, he was arrested again.

Firefighter Tortured to Death

Mr. Lu Bingshen, 39-years-old, was a firefighter with the 6th Fire Brigade in Daqing City, Heilongjiang Province. In mid-October 2003, Lu was tortured to death in Daqing City Forced Labor Camp at the hands of the Camp's Assistant Brigade Leader, Mr. Zhang Mingzhu.

Shanghai Native Dies from Torture

Shanghai native Mr. Xinxing Ma, age 40, died from injuries sustained from torture, the severity of which left him emaciated, bedridden and unable to recognize his family shortly before his death.



Killed from Multiple Torture Methods

After almost two years of severe torture in a Chinese labor camp, 29-year-old Mr. Zhang Xiaohong – weighing approximately half his original weight – died on Aug. 4, 2003.

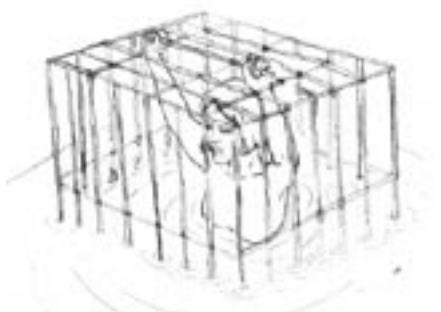
Mr. Zhang was detained on Sept. 21, 2001 for distributing flyers to the public that contained information about human rights abuses against Falun Gong practitioners in China. Soon after he was detained, Mr. Zhang was sentenced to two years at the Mianyang Xinhua Forced Labor Camp in Sichuan Province, where he was tortured with electric batons, beaten, deprived of sleep and bound with ropes until he lost consciousness. This torture was administered repeatedly as labor camp guards attempted to coerce him to write a "repentant" statement renouncing Falun Gong.



“Reports continue of deaths of detained [Falun Gong] practitioners following torture and extreme ill-treatment...in all cases where the victims were Falun Gong practitioners, the government has denied any wrongdoing, even in the face of multiple eyewitness testimonies.

— Amnesty International,
Torture: A Growing Scourge in China

Human rights workers have documented over 100 torture methods used to force Falun Gong practitioners into renouncing their beliefs. These methods include shocking with high-voltage electric batons, burning with hot irons, force-feeding feces, brutal beatings, sexual assault and rape. There are over 38,000 documented cases of severe abuse or torture of Falun Gong practitioners.



“Water Dungeon”

In “Water Dungeons,” the detainee spends many days in total darkness while inside a small cage and immersed in chest deep water. Often the water is dirty or routed from sewage lines. Some detainees have died under such conditions, while others have been driven insane from this torture.

Ms. Christina Chai (right), a Harvard graduate now living and working in Manhattan, says her mother was tortured for many days in a ‘Water Dungeon.’



After the start of the persecution in July of 1999, Christina was followed and monitored by Chinese men she believes were from the New York City Chinese consulate. She has had her phone tampered with several times and received a number of threatening phone calls.

“They’re afraid I’m going to tell the world what they’re doing to my mother and tens of millions of people like her in China,” says Christina. “



Force-feed Irritants or Feces

Force-feeding is a torture method labor camp staff often use on Falun Gong practitioners, and it has been the cause of death in approximately 10% of all known deaths. The force-feeding is most often carried out by labor camp staff with no medical training, or by criminal inmates who are coerced to assist. Firm, unsanitary tubes are forced into a practitioner’s nose and into the stomach, often rupturing or damaging tissue; sometimes the tube enters the lungs. In some cases, the tubes have been left in a practitioner’s stomach for days or weeks, causing severe infections, or pulled out and reinserted repeatedly to increase the pain. Rarely fed nutrients, detainees are often fed irritants such as highly concentrated salt water, hot pepper oil, boiling water, detergent or even human feces.



Extended Solitary Confinement

The dimensions of the cage are less than a person’s height, so one can neither stand up nor lie down. Except for a small barred door, all openings are tightly sealed. No light comes in. Practitioners are at times locked up for 120 days.

High-voltage Electric Shock Batons

The face of 36-year-old Ms. Gao Rongrong (at right, before torture), an accountant at a local fine arts college, was severely disfigured by torture with high-voltage electric shock batons (above).

Electric batons carrying high voltages are used to shock practitioners’ sensitive areas and private parts such as the inside of the mouth, top of the head, breasts, genitals, buttocks, thighs, etc. Several electric batons are often used simultaneously on different parts of the body such as the top of the head and the anus, or to shock a person until the flesh is severely burned. Victims have said that the smell of burning flesh permeates the air during the torture.



Piercing Fingers, Fingernails

Practitioners’ fingertips are pierced with pins and bamboo nails, which are also hammered under the fingernails. In many cases, torturers pull out the practitioners’ fingernails by the root.

Death Bed

The victim’s four limbs are pulled in irregular directions, stretched so the body is completely lifted into the air, inflicting unbearable pain.



Burning with Hot Irons

On June 2nd, 2001, three labor camp guards tried to force Tan Yongji (above) to sign a “repentance statement” renouncing Falun Gong. When he refused, the guards tied him to a post, heated an iron rod in a furnace until it glowed red, and began applying it to his legs. The pain was so excruciating that Tan lost control of his bowel and bladder functions.

The guards pressed the rod on his legs 13 times, spacing them out at regular intervals on his flesh, asking him all the while if he would renounce his belief in Falun Gong.

He never did.

After escaping from the labor camp and boarding a cargo ship bound for the U.S., doctors revealed that the burns were so deep they reached the muscle tissue.

Hundreds of practitioners have reported being burned with cigarettes, lighters, fire, irons, or hot iron bars.



Brutal Beatings

Falun Gong practitioners in police custody are often brutally beaten, sometimes to death. The use of the following items for beating have been documented among the known cases: wooden clubs,

steel and iron bars, iron rods, whips made of twisted copper wire, bamboo sticks, rubber sticks, electric batons, wooden planks, steel wire locks, rattan, electric wire whips and rope whips.

Brainwashing & Psychiatric Wards



Falun Gong practitioners are forced to attend Brainwashing “classes” where they are usually tortured to force them to renounce their beliefs. Businesses and universities must send any employee or student known to practice Falun Gong to brainwashing classes. Mentally healthy practitioners are held and often tortured with nerve-damaging drugs in at least 100 psychiatric hospitals throughout China.

Coercion and Brainwashing

Most outstanding in the persecution are violations committed while trying to force “renunciations” of Falun Gong. For refusing to part with their beliefs, people who practice Falun Gong are threatened with the loss of their jobs, pensions, utilities, homes, schooling, and even families.

All are targeted with brainwashing – meant to destroy a person’s very identity and reprogram his or her mind.

According to a 2001 Washington Post report, “Some local governments had experimented with brainwashing classes before, but in January, Beijing’s secret 610 office, an interagency task force leading the charge against Falun Gong, ordered all neighborhood committees, state institutions and companies to begin using them.”

Citing sources in the Chinese government, the report continued: “No Falun Gong member is supposed to be spared. The most active members are sent directly to labor camps where they are first ‘broken’ by beatings and other torture.”

“Some local governments had experimented with brainwashing classes before, but in January, Beijing’s secret 610 office, an interagency task force leading the charge against Falun Gong, ordered all neighborhood committees, state institutions and companies to begin using them, government sources said. No Falun Gong member is supposed to be spared. The most active members are sent directly to labor camps where they are first “broken” by beatings and other torture, the adviser said.”

— Washington Post
Beijing Bureau; August 5, 2001

Mental Asylums

In a chilling perversion of psychiatry, many perfectly healthy persons have been forcefully committed to China’s mental asylums. For one, the government hopes in doing so to discredit Falun Gong by making its participants look crazy.

Secondly, it is used to punish dissenting views. The tools of psychiatry – including electric shock, sedatives, and other drugs – are turned on Falun Gong detainees as a means of torture and ma-

nipulation. Such things have found their way beyond the asylum’s walls and into the hands of police and prison guards.

Amnesty International has reported how one Beijing police spokesman connected to these hospitals, when questioned about this abuse, explained that “they are not patients, they are here to be re-educated... Most of them are Falun Gong extremists who have been to Beijing to protest...”

“Hospitals are being used to detain and torture [Falun Gong] practitioners...we know of some of the drugs the hospitals force on sane individuals in an attempt to destroy their will and spirit...we know of the widespread use of psychotropic drugs by ordinary police in jails, brainwashing centers and labor camps.”

— Abraham Halpern, M.D.
Former President of
American Academy of
Psychiatry and the Law

Psychiatric Hospitals Used as Torture Facilities

Eyewitness Account of Torture Inside a Psychiatric Hospital

“It was so severe that we writhed in pain”

Testimony of a Falun Gong practitioner (name withheld) from Xuzhou City, Suining County, on June 8, 2001:

We were held in the Xuzhou City Mental Hospital for over three months. We were forcibly tied to a bed and the so-called medical staff gave us injections and forced “medicine” down our throats.

They injected us with unknown drugs as well.

We passed out and were unconscious shortly after receiving the injections.

When the injections were taking effect, we suffered from extreme pain. It was so severe that we writhed in pain, cried out miserably, and slammed ourselves against walls in a desperate attempt to knock ourselves unconscious in order to be rid of the pain.

After the injections’ affect wore off, we questioned the medical staff, “Why did you give injections and oth-

er harmful substances to us even though we are perfectly healthy?”

They replied with shame, “We have no choice. It’s per instructions from above. We have to obey our leaders if we want to keep our jobs. We don’t want to treat you this way, but we don’t want to lose our job.”

They also told us, “You will not die from taking the ‘medicine. It’s purpose is just to inflict severe suffering. If you promise not to practice Falun Gong, we won’t give you injections. Either way, be sure not to run away from the hospital! If we don’t stop the injections gradually, you will die or be driven insane. Even if you succeed in running away from the hospital, others will send you back to the mental hospital, classifying you as a maniac. When the injections are taking effect, the pain you will suffer is tremendous. It’s dreadful to imagine the consequences.”

Washington Post Reports on Psychiatric Abuses

32-year-old Su Gang was a computer engineer with the Qilu Oil Chemical Company. According to family members, Su was in good health and had no mental illness.

Su had been repeatedly detained by the security department of his workplace for refusing to renounce Falun Gong.

On June 23, 2000, The Washington Post reported: “After traveling to Beijing on April 25th to protest for the ban on Falun Gong, he [Su] was arrested again; on May 23rd, his employer, a state-run petrochemical company, approved commitment papers that authorized the police to admit him to a mental hospital. According to Mr. Su’s father, the doctors injected Mr. Su twice a day with an unknown substance. When Mr. Su emerged a week later, he could not eat or move his limbs normally.” He died ten days later.

Detention Centers & Labor Camps

There are between 200,000 and 2 million Falun Gong practitioners held in detention centers and labor “re-education” camps throughout China. Under inhumane conditions, detainees are forced to do up to 18 hours of labor a day. Those who don’t comply are typically beaten, tortured, or starved. Hundreds, perhaps thousands, have died in the camps.



Woman Reduced to Skin and Bones from Two Years of Abuse in Forced Labor Camp

30-year-old Ms. Wang Xia (left) was sentenced to seven years in jail for distributing information about Falun Gong. At Inner Mongolia’s Huhhot City Prison she was tied to a bed with all four limbs stretched out, hung by her arms for long periods of time, and repeatedly shocked with high-voltage electric batons.

Seeing that she was on the verge of death, labor camp authorities told Wang’s family to take her home. “If she dies there we’ll say she committed suicide,” they reportedly said.

At home, however, not only did Wang continue living, but photos and video of her emaciated body were soon posted on the Internet. In the video Wang is shown lying on her back as her four-year-old son cries in the background.

The below three photos document her current state. According to family members, she fades in and out of consciousness.

Currently, the local police are threatening to send Wang back to detention.

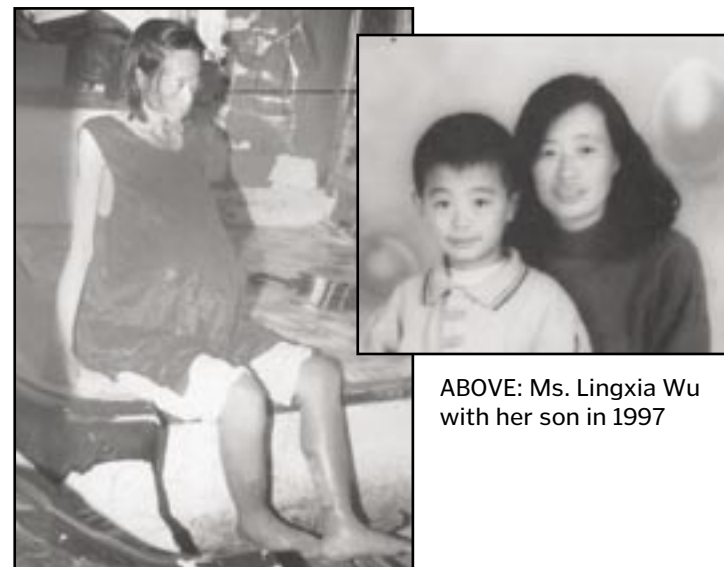


Railroad Officer Emaciated, Near-death

49-year-old Mr. Ma Xuejun (at right, before the persecution) is pictured above in an emaciated state after one year in a detention center. Ma was the Head of the Crosstie and Electricity Section, Dean of the Enterprise Administration Office, and Deputy Director of the Old Cadre Board in the Railroad Department, Jiamusi Branch.

Because he would not renounce Falun Gong, Ma was repeatedly detained between 1999 and 2002. On December 12, 2002, Public Security officials detained him at the Jiamusi Detention Center, where, over the next year, he was repeatedly tortured with electric batons and suffered beatings that resulted in fractured ribs and vertebrae.

On December 26, 2003, fearing Ma would die in the detention center, authorities sent him home in an emaciated state.



ABOVE: Ms. Lingxia Wu with her son in 1997

Made in China

The widespread use of forced labor to make products often sold in the West.

Making Toys Amidst Torture in a Beijing Labor Camp

38-year-old Jennifer Zeng—an Australian resident—was imprisoned in Beijing’s Xin’an Labor Camp where she and approximately 130 prisoners worked long hours making toy rabbits for Beijing’s Mickey Toys Co. Ltd. She was also tortured with electric shocks and beatings. Jennifer later identified the toys being sold in stores in Australia.

New York Resident Forced to Make Toys in Labor Camp

Before escaping to the U.S., Amy Lee was imprisoned and tortured in a Beijing detention center after appealing to Chinese authorities to end the ban on Falun Gong.

Amy was then sent to a nearby labor camp where she worked 15-hour days making toys that were sold in U.S.-based fast-food franchise restaurants.

Sports Gear Sold in the West Made from Forced Labor

Mr. Lin Shenli was sentenced to Jiangsu Labor Camp where he was forced to work 12-hour days making soccer balls by hand. A large section of his chest and buttocks began to bleed and ulcerate from other intensive manual labor.

Throughout, labor camp staff tried to force Lin to renounce his beliefs.

Mother of Teen-age Son Dies from Detention Center Torture

With festering scars on her body and severe edema in her abdomen (above left), Ms. Lingxia Wu was near-death after almost a year of severe torture in a Heilongjiang Province detention center. Fearing she would die in custody, detention center officials released Ms. Wu. She died three weeks later from her injuries. She was 37 years old.

Torture & Sexual Assault of Women



Women of Falun Gong who have been released from detention centers or labor camps tell wrenching tales of physical and sexual abuse in captivity. They have been sodomized with brooms sticks or electric batons causing bleeding from the vagina. They have been stabbed with sharp instruments and beaten about the breasts and genitals. Many have been raped or gang raped.



Bound and Tortured to Death

31-year-old Zhang Hong was stripped of her pants and handcuffed to a bed for days at Wanjia Labor Camp. Unable to use the toilet, she repeatedly soiled the bed and was later tortured to death.

Women Hung Spread-eagle and Naked from Ceiling, Sexually Assaulted with Sticks

Under orders from police, women detainees at the Dalian Reeducation Camp are hung spread-eagle from the ceiling as sticks and pepper oil are shoved into their vaginas – a torture technique known as “hip-splitting.”

60-year-old Ms. Fu Shuying was tied up spread-eagle, while a torturer violently inserted a long rod into her vagina causing severe inflammations and infections. 27-year-old Ms. Chen Hui and 30-year-old Ms. Sun Yan were also tied up in a spread-eagle position as torturers repeatedly thrust long rods into their vaginas causing bleeding.

Three other women suffered similar tortures with chili pepper sauce shoved into their vaginas causing extreme pain,

while in three additional cases toilet and shoe brushes were used causing severe vaginal bleeding.

In order to meet the government’s required quota for the number of “transformed” Falun Gong practitioners, labor camps throughout China are under orders to extract signed “repentance statements” from Falun Gong practitioners in which they renounce their belief in the practice. The daily techniques used at the Dalian Reeducation Camp to meet this quota range from “reeducation” videos denigrating Falun Gong played around-the-clock to sleep deprivation, freezing, burning, electric shock torture, force feeding torture and sexual assault.

Young Woman Suffers Mental Breakdown Following Untold Torture and Rape

Thirty-two-year-old Ms. Zhu Xia cries, laughs, and often bangs on doors and windows madly. She soils her clothing uncontrollably, and has frequent hallucinations, tossing and turning restlessly amidst unseen enemies.

At night Zhu often throws her arms around her head defensively, screaming “Are you going to rape me?”

She has removed her blankets to sleep in the cotton fibers of her mattress and often curses “those terrible men,” muttering she “can’t take it anymore.”

This is not the young woman her family members described as “healthy and vibrant” (center left) before the police took her away



because she practices Falun Gong.

Like hundreds of thousands – perhaps millions – of others in China, Zhu was detained by Chinese authorities and sent to brainwashing classes in order to force her to renounce Falun Gong.

She was held at the Pi County Brainwashing Center in Xinjin County, Sichuan Province.

On April 2, 2004, Pi County authorities released Zhu. According to her family, Zhu’s

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

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

— Wall Street Journal
Excerpt from Ian Johnson’s Pulitzer-prize winning article “A Deadly Exercise”

Beaten and Raped by Beijing Police

In Beijing on the evening of May 14, 2001, a female Falun Gong practitioner [name withheld to protect her identity] was beaten and raped on the street when she was posting fliers about the human rights abuses against Falun Gong practitioners.

According to this woman’s account (at right, pictured after the attack), she was stopped by a plainclothes policeman when she was posting fliers along the city moat from Dabeyao to Yonganli. The policeman appeared to be approximately

30-years old and 1.65-meters tall. The policeman beat her for approximately an hour and then raped her.



The woman lost two front teeth during the attack, and suffered multiple head injuries.

Brutality against Women

The beating and torture of women who practice Falun Gong is rampant throughout China and horrific. Below are two women, one who was severely beaten (below left) and the other shocked with electric batons. (below right)



mental and physical well-being had been devastated, and she had suffered a complete mental breakdown. She is no longer able to take care of herself (center right), and is under the care of her mother.

The exact details of what Zhu went through in the Pi County Brainwashing Center are unknown, although family members say her mental state and behavior leave little doubt she suffered untold torture and was repeatedly raped. Thousands of eyewitnesses and victims have documented severe tortures used on Falun Gong practitioners in order to force them to renounce their beliefs, including shocks with electric batons often in sensitive areas such as the genitals, anus and mouth, violent beatings with pipes, burning with hot irons, rape and gang rape.

Children Orphaned

Many children in China, perhaps ten thousand or more, have lost their parents, who have either been killed or thrown into labor camps amidst the violent suppression of Falun Gong. While some of these children find refuge with grandparents or other relatives, many are left to fend for themselves. In some cases, the children have also been detained with their parents and abused.



Piao Yonghe, age 10: mother murdered

Piao Yonghe (right, with mother), of Jilin City in northeastern China, last saw his mother over two years ago. That was when authorities hauled her away to a labor camp on the basis of her personal beliefs.

Yonghe's life would never be the same again: in August of 2003 she died, following months of torture, sleep deprivation, and brainwashing in the camp.

To avoid persecution from corrupt local police, Yonghe's family had to flee their home, moving several times over the course of a few years. Last winter, Yonghe's grandparents and father rented a simple shed in the shanty town at the foot of North Hill



in Jilin City. They had such a tight budget that even the money to buy coal to heat the apartment was borrowed from others.

Rongrong, age 5: lost loved ones



When Zou Rongrong (left) was born in November 1999, her father (at right with wife) was in a detention center; he was unlawfully locked up for filing an appeal in Beijing on behalf of Falun Gong. Eventually her father was tortured to death by police. Police regularly harassed and kept close watch over Rongrong's mother. To avoid arrest and possible torture at the hands of corrupt police, her mother had to leave home, putting Rongrong in the care of her grandmother.



Struck with grief over the loss of her son-in-law and plight of her daughter, the grandmother grew ill and died. Relatives say that whenever Rongrong misses her loved ones, she steps up on a little stool and reaches up to kiss her dad's box of ashes.

Huang Xinyu, age 6: both parents killed

When not yet two years old, little Xinyu lost her mother, who died at the hands of police while held unlawfully in custody. Her death caused Xinyu such despair her mouth broke out in painful ulcers. Last year, at just four and a half, Xinyu lost her father. He was tortured to death in police custody for, like his wife, being affiliated with Falun Gong.

Confused and traumatized, Xinyu reportedly can't understand what happened to her father and constantly looks and asks for him.



Fadu Dai, age 4: father killed, aunt imprisoned, grandfather dead

Fadu Dai and her mother Jane have seen their family shattered. Jane's husband, Chengyong Chen, was tortured to death in Guanzhou, China. Chengyong's sister was called to identify the remains. When she did so, she herself was arrested for her practice of Falun Gong, and sentenced to a forced labor camp. Chengyong's father, doubly bereft, died of grief shortly thereafter. Jane, who luckily had obtained Australian citizenship, was able to keep herself and Fadu safe.

After months of effort and with the help of Australian Government officials, Jane was able to secure her husband's ashes.

Over the past three years, Jane and Fadu have traveled to over 37 countries to tell others their story, speaking up for all those in China who cannot speak for themselves.

Jane is also a plaintiff in several international lawsuits, charging high-level Chinese officials with crimes against humanity for their roles in the persecution of Falun Gong.



Kaixin age 3: mother tortured to death; father forced from his home

Three months after Kaixin (below right) was born in August 2001, she had to leave her mother (below left) to stay with her grandmother. 16 months later, Kaixin's mother was dead, tortured to death in a forced labor camp.



Her father was in a labor camp at the time, and didn't know his wife was dead.

Kaixin has never seen her father, and to this day, cannot be with him because he has been forced from his home by local authorities who would otherwise arrest him or send him to a labor camp. She now lives with her grandparents in a dilapidated house made of sun-dried mud bricks. They have no income and cannot afford to send Kaixin to school.

Schools and Universities



Overseas Graduate Student Detained and Tortured During Visit Home

Zhao Min (above), a Master's degree student in Computer Science at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland, was illegally detained in China for twenty-two months when he returned home over the holidays. Efforts by the Irish Government and a student campaign at Trinity College won his release last year.

During Zhao's detention, he was repeatedly tortured.

In one incident, Zhao was tied down to a bed while police used multiple electric shock batons to force him to renounce Falun Gong.

“

Universities have sent staff to find students who had dropped out or been expelled for practicing Falun Gong, and brought them back for the [brainwashing] sessions. Other members have been forced to leave sick relatives to go to class. A university student in Beijing, Alex Hsu, said he was on his way to a computer lab earlier this year when a school official stopped him and told him he had to take the class.

Six men surrounded him, forced him into a car and drove him to a hotel near a labor camp outside Beijing. About 20 practitioners were there, all of them students, teachers, university staff members or retired professors. Hsu later learned the class was organized by the Education Ministry. "We were all very scared," Hsu said... "They said if they didn't achieve their goals, if we didn't give up our beliefs, we'd be taken to the labor camp," Hsu said. "Reeducation through labor is a frightening thing to a Chinese person. We all knew we would be harmed and our lives would be in danger. We all knew someone who had died in the camps."

”

— Washington Post
Beijing Bureau; August 5, 2001

Former Chinese Education Minister Sued for Torture and Killing of Teachers and Students

State Councilor and former Minister of Education who utilized the Chinese education system to indoctrinate teachers and students against Falun Gong – often inciting violence – has been sued for torture and extra judicial killing in a Tanzanian court.

The civil suit was filed on July 19th as the former Minister of Education, Ms. Chen Zhili, was visiting several African nations. The suit was filed on behalf of Falun Gong practitioners.

Between 1999 and 2003 as Minister of Education, Chen launched a Cultural Revolution-style campaign throughout China's education system – including graduate schools, colleges, high schools, primary schools, and even kindergartens – ordering teachers and students to undergo “political shaping of thoughts” with respect to Falun Gong.

Amidst the campaign, teachers and students who practiced Falun Gong were often sent to brainwashing centers where they underwent psychological and physical torture.

Sixty-one are known to have died as a result. A few are shown below.

Anti-Falun Gong Propaganda Inserted into Middle School and Elementary School Textbooks and Exams

By order of the Education Department of Zhejiang Province, all schools in the province were required to “conduct anti-cult education based on middle and elementary school students' age and psychological characteristics, combining current affairs policy education and legal education and using Falun Gong as a negative example.”

A book titled “Say No to Cults on Campus” was distributed in middle schools and elementary schools in China. The book was edited by Xu Xian and published by Beijing Publishing House, a non-education publisher. It contained no educational content but echoed media hate propaganda on Falun Gong, grossly violating the “People's Republic of China Compulsory Education Law.”

Expelled from School for Refusing to Sign an anti-Falun Gong Petition

According to Xinsheng Net's report on May 5, 2001, Chengdu University of Chinese Medicine issued a notice to force every student to sign anti-Falun Gong banners. Those who refused would be expelled from the university.

Students and teachers throughout the education system, from elementary schools to universities, must teach and learn anti-Falun Gong propaganda as part of their curriculums. Final exams and routine tests frequently pose questions about Falun Gong that, if answered “incorrectly,” could lead to expulsion or failure to advance in school.



Inciting Hatred in Schools

Walls of Great Cultural Revolution-style banners and propaganda materials were put on display along the main walkway through the Beijing Foreign Language University campus. (above) Lining both sides, the banners vilified Falun Gong and its founder, calling on individuals to be “vigilant” against the traditional Chinese practice.

Similar propaganda displays have been utilized in universities as well as primary and secondary schools throughout China.

Falun Gong Practitioners Barred from Obtaining Education

Item 6 of the enrollment requirements of the Beijing Institute of Electronic Science and Technology specifies that applicants must confirm that the “applicant and his/her family members do not practice Falun Gong.”

Professors, Teachers and Students Who Died in Police Custody



Chen Ying, 17, student, Shuren High School



Professor Wei Zaixin, 63, School of Advanced Technological Studies



Zhang Dezhen, 38, teacher, 6th Middle School Shandong



Professor Zhou Jingsen, 68, Harbin City Management College



Xu Zhilian, 31, teacher, Fuqin Elementary School



Zhou Wenjie, 40, teacher, 2nd Middle School Liaoning

Companies throughout China, including foreign businesses, must treat workers who practice Falun Gong as “illegal” persons, and report them to local authorities. From there, they are taken to brainwashing classes or detention centers. State-run businesses have an appointed “cadre” in charge of identifying and reporting on practitioners in the workplace.



For the past five years, the violent and systematic suppression of Falun Gong has been the centerpiece of China’s worsening human rights record. Little known, however, is how that campaign impacts businesses in China, even as U.S. and other foreign companies are being thrust into its midst.

Falun Gong Slave Labor

Jiangping Wang is handicapped and can’t knit as fast as the others. It’s almost 2:00 a.m. and the Division Six prisoners have been working since dawn. Wang is exhausted. Prison guards heave bricks at his chest. His Falun Gong acquaintances nod off only to be wakened by police jabbing them with scissors.

There are deadlines to meet – a quota of cashmere sweaters for Tianshan Wooltex – or guards won’t get their bonuses.

Forced labor, such as that which Wang is put through, has become both a form of torture and a source of great profit for Chinese labor camps. With the enormous supply of free labor that comes from the Laogai (*lit.* “reform through labor”), China

has lured overseas businesses – many unknowingly – into its profit-through-slave-labor system.

The suppression of Falun Gong over the past five years has fueled this very problem by adding anywhere from several hundred thousand to 2 million people to the 6-million-plus already incarcerated in China’s 1,100 camps. Moreover, the Central Government’s order that “no measure is too excessive” to stamp out Falun Gong has not only opened the door for labor camps to use prisoners however they wish, but has actually encouraged abusive measures.

Some foreign companies in China, including those who conduct regular inspections of their China-based factories, are left unaware of the true source of goods they produce.

It’s not uncommon for labor camp goods to be delivered to factories – where they were supposedly produced – under the veil of night. Similarly, labor camp officials often “contract” out inmates’ labor, only to pocket the profits themselves.

“It’s complicated and pervasive,” says

Alan Adler, the principal of a New Jersey-based manufacturing and importing company. Adler has owned manufacturing operations in China for 25 years and heads up a China-related human rights organization.

“In order to be highly competitive, and at the same time avoid universal scorn, Chinese manufacturers have elaborate and clandestine ploys that make it almost impossible to know what parts of a product are being made by slave labor.”

Corporate Ethics Challenged

In a much publicized case, in the fall of 2003, a large U.S.-based cosmetics company, acting under pressure from Chinese authorities, had been requiring its sales associates in China to sign a statement promising they would neither practice nor advocate for Falun Gong.

Several employees of the cosmetics giant lost their jobs for refusing to sign. In one reported case, an individual who spoke in favor of Falun Gong at a company meeting in China was turned over to authorities. The individual’s status is currently unknown.

“Once they’re identified as Falun Gong, Chinese citizens are often sent to mandatory brainwashing sessions where they’re deprived of sleep and tortured. They do this to make them ‘repent,’ which means give up their practice,” explains Falun Dafa Information Center spokesman, Erping Zhang.

“Most companies don’t realize the ramifications of the actions Chinese officials impose on them with respect to Falun Gong.”

The cosmetics company later reversed the mandate after senior members of the U.S. Congress expressed disapproval. “We are shocked that an American company,” the group told the company, “would be willing to enlist in the Chinese Government’s brutal campaign to identify and persecute members of a particular spiritual movement.”

In December 2003, Switzerland-based Helvetica Invest AG removed a leading German auto maker from its stock option

list on similar grounds. Helvetica learned that the automaker had required people in China seeking employment to sign a statement similar to that of the cosmetics company. The statement included a promise not to practice or support Falun Gong.

But perhaps the worst fallout of China’s repressive measures lies elsewhere. Some fear that foreign investment capital is being funneled into avenues of persecution, especially targeting Falun Gong.

According to the President of the World Organization to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong, John Jaw, the amount of money spent persecuting Falun Gong is well into the billions.

“With so many programs throughout China – from rural education to combating AIDS – lacking money, clearly the Chinese leadership doesn’t have extra budget to spend, so where are the billions used on Falun Gong coming from?” Jaw asked.

Forced to Oppose One Third of China’s Population

As a traditional Chinese Qi Gong (or “Chinese yoga,” as many call it) practice, Falun Gong was widely endorsed by the Chinese government for its health benefits before Chinese leader Jiang Zemin launched the persecution campaign in 1999. Constituting fully 8% of the population in China – 100 million people – adherents of Falun Gong were from every walk of life and segment of society – university students, business leaders, the retired, and even government and military elite.

Including friends and family, it’s safe to say that roughly one third of China’s population is suffering to some extent from Jiang’s campaign.

Be it through shadowy slave labor or outright denial of employees’ basic rights, Jiang Zemin’s faction pits corporations against a huge segment of the Chinese populace.

U.S. Resident Testifies before Congress about Labor Camp Torture

Mr. Chen Gang, now living with his family in Pennsylvania, worked as a logistics manager for the Beijing branch of a European brewery. On June 25, 2000, Chen was abducted in the middle of the night by police and sent to Tuanhe Labor Camp without any legal procedures.

While detained for a period of 18 months, the police often only let him sleep 2 to 4 hours every night. Once he was deprived of sleep for 15 days straight. He was punched and kicked as soon as he closed his eyes.

The police at the camp tortured Chen, using electric batons to shock sensitive



Chen Gang testifies before Congress about abuses in China’s Labor Camps

parts of his body, such as his head, neck and chest. Sometimes using several high-voltage electric batons simultaneously.

Hate Propaganda & State-run Media



Communist authorities have utilized the state-run media in China to create a barrage of fabricated news stories aimed at demonizing Falun Gong. Many violent crimes committed by people with no connection to Falun Gong were re-written in state-run media to frame Falun Gong practitioners as dangerous or worse. Much of this hate propaganda has found its way into Western media reports.

Propaganda & Hate Campaigns

Many millions of dollars have been put into saturating China's TV news, airwaves, and press with defamatory propaganda. The intention is twofold: to distort and demonize Falun Gong so as to turn the public against it; and to mask the government's human rights abuses by depicting the suppression as humane, beneficent, and necessary for "social order."

Schoolchildren are forced to recite poems attacking Falun Gong; college entrance exams contain dozens of questions criticizing the practice; train tickets contain accusatory verses; comic books ridicule the practice; and workplaces hold mandatory "study sessions" on it. In charge of the disinformation blitz is none other than China's Ministry of Propaganda.

Information Control

China's regime has gone further than just controlling media portrayals of Falun Gong. All books, audiotapes, videos, flyers, T-shirts, and items that cast Falun Gong in a positive light are banned. Ransacking of homes has resulted in over 10 million books being confiscated. Many have been destroyed in large book-burning drives. (see photo above)

All non-State-controlled web sites so much as mentioning Falun Gong are banned; a mere visit to one can land a person in jail. As many as 100,000 internet police are in place to monitor online activity, according to CNN. Those who practice Falun Gong typically have their phones tapped, email monitored, and house under surveillance.

Attempts to voice disagreement on the government's Falun Gong policy often meet with disaster. Merely posting a notice can land a person in jail or even lead to execution – new laws brand such acts "subversive." Several individuals have been sentenced to years in prison just for visiting banned Falun Gong web sites and printing their contents.

In the Guise of a News Agency, China's State-run Xinhua News Fabricates Stories, Incites Hatred

On July 2, 2002, Xinhua published a story entitled "16 Beggars Poisoned: the Suspect is a Falun Gong Member." Local media, however, told a very different story.

Seven hours before the Xinhua article was published, local media reported the case had not yet been solved. The Xinhua report, however, said the case had been solved "last night" (i.e., July 1). Accord-

ing to Xinhua the alleged murderer was one Chen Fuzhao, said to be a Falun Gong practitioner. The local media did not mention Falun Gong at all.

Furthermore, the Xinhua account lacked details about the crimes, while the local article had many details about the still-open case.

Days later, a member of the Department of Propaganda for Cangnan County

told U.S. reporters "with great certainty" that this case had not been solved, and that in fact more than 500 policemen were still investigating the case.

Still, Xinhua's "version" of the story was repeated by state-run media throughout China. International wire services outside China then picked up the fabricated story, distributing it around the world.

The Tiananmen Square "Self-immolation": Potent Hate Propaganda

On January 23, 2001, five individuals set themselves on fire in Tiananmen Square. Within hours, Chinese authorities flooded the state-run media with grisly photos of the event, claiming the self-immolators were Falun Gong practitioners. Days later, a Washington Post article reveals that at least two of the self-immolators had never been seen practicing Falun Gong. Further evidence uncovered in the subsequent weeks revealed the incident was staged.

Inside China, however, where all me-

dia were saturated with programs vilifying Falun Gong, the incident became a key tool for Chinese authorities to bend public opinion against Falun Gong. The "self-immolation" infuriated a misled public whose anger, over time, targeted Falun Gong.

People changed from sympathizing with Falun Gong to attacking the practice. Hate crimes targeting Falun Gong increased and Jiang's faction within the Central Government also escalated its persecution.

Award-winning Documentary

In November 2003, the English film "False Fire" which examines the suspicious points of the Tiananmen Self-Immolation incident, won an honorary award at the 51st Columbia International Film Festival for its analytical approach and exposure of the tragic event.



FACT: A Washington Post reporter went to the hometown of two of the alleged self-immolators to investigate, finding no one had ever seen them practice Falun Gong.

FACT: Police on Tiananmen Square were carrying numerous fire extinguishers, which were used to put out the fires of the self-immolators almost immediately. Police normally never carry fire extinguishers on Tiananmen Square.

FACT: Video footage taken from surveillance cameras show one policeman shooting the whole event up-close with a video camera. The up-close footage is

later used in a barrage of propaganda against Falun Gong. Chinese authorities claim the up-close footage was taken by CNN, but CNN says they have no footage from the incident.

FACT: National Taiwan University's Speech Processing Laboratory, a world leader in the areas of Chinese language speech identification, synthesis, and verification, analyzed the voice of one of the self-immolators named Wang Jindong from a number of different interviews broadcast by China's state-run television. The laboratory concluded that the Wang Jindong interviewed in one of the programs is a different person than the Wang Jindong appear-

ing in the other programs.

FACT: According to the Xinhua News Agency, the self-immolation incident took place at 2:41 p.m. After adding the 7 minutes it took to put out the fires and the 20 minutes that it normally takes for a vehicle to go from Tiananmen Square to Jishuitan Hospital (it should take less time for an ambulance), the ambulance should have arrived at Jishuitan Hospital between 3:00 and 3:30 p.m. Yet several medical personnel at the hospital have confirmed that the ambulance didn't arrive at the hospital until around 5:00 p.m. What happened during those hours of disappearance?

Why is Falun Gong Persecuted in China?

Chinese Government Insiders and Overseas Scholars Identify Three Reasons
Why a Faction within the Chinese Leadership Targets Falun Gong

1. Chinese Communist leaders suppress freedom of religion and thought...

The Chinese Communist regime does not tolerate freedom of religious beliefs or ideals deemed not in line with the Communist Party.

Christians must join official, government-run “patriotic churches,” or risk persecution. Baptism and Roman Catholicism are illegal.

Christians must read a version of the Bible censored by atheist authorities; full versions of the Bible are illegal and designated “evil cult materials.”

Buddhist monks must study a curriculum set by atheist authorities that includes business classes and political indoctrination.

2. Communist leader Jiang Zemin grew jealous of Falun Gong’s widespread popularity...

Political gain. Resentment. The suppression of Falun Gong is time and again traced back to these two things. And primarily one figure: a man named Jiang Zemin.

Jiang, acting as head of China’s Communist Party, outlawed Falun Gong in July of 1999 and ordered a violent campaign to destroy the group. The move was not popular – either among Party leaders or the populace.

Falun Gong was popular in China from its inception in 1992. Part of China’s traditional culture, it was taught free in parks and spread by word of mouth. Its health benefits propelled it across boundaries of age, class, and race. By 1998 some 100 million were practicing.

The meditation’s popular appeal reached through the upper

crust of government and even the military, with Party cadres and officials counted among the Falun Gong enthusiasts.

Some even saw it as an answer to China’s socio-economic problems. One officer from China’s National Sports Commission estimated Falun Gong could save 100 billion yuan per year in medical fees, adding, “Premier Zhu Rongji is very happy about that,” according to U.S. News & World Report.

China’s Premier wasn’t alone. Other government offices publicly supported Falun Gong, bestowing it with awards, promoting it as a health tonic on state-run television, hosting events, and even – in one little-known maneuver – trying to set up Falun Gong “learning institutes.”

Li Hongzhi, the practice’s founder, carefully guarded the integrity of his free, apolitical practice, turning down financial incentives from the Chinese State.

All of this proved, by most accounts, irksome for Communist Party head Jiang. He saw in Falun Gong and its popularity a challenge to his moral authority over the Chinese people – the practice was rooted in people’s hearts and history, unlike communist doctrine.

Whereas Jiang demanded that people attend “ideological sessions” to study his own theories, Falun Gong was something people all across China were doing of their own choosing. They would start the day together in the park, meditating, because they liked to. It was the

type of allegiance Jiang – who came to power amidst the 1989 Tiananmen Massacre – had always wanted but never had.

The contrast wasn’t lost on Jiang. “This is obviously very personal for Jiang,” one Party official told the Washington Post. “He wants this organization crushed.”

And so it was that Jiang launched the campaign to wipe out Falun Gong. Many objected. According to the Washington Post, “Communist Party sources said that the standing committee of the Politburo did not unanimously endorse the crackdown and that President Jiang Zemin alone decided that Falun Gong must be eliminated.”

3. Some Communist Party officials scapegoat Falun Gong to gain politically...

As economic and technological developments have become top priorities for China as a nation, many government officials who specialize in political propaganda and ideological battles will engender political unrest to provide them with a “cause” to

gain political power. Falun Gong was made a scapegoat for this purpose. As CNN’s Willy Lam reported a veteran Communist Party source saying, “By unleashing a Mao-style movement [against Falun Gong], Jiang is forcing senior cadres to pledge

allegiance to his line. This will boost Jiang’s authority-and may give him enough momentum to enable him to dictate events ...”

According to the Washington Post, “The crackdown was undertaken to demonstrate and solidify the power of the

Chinese leadership.” Lam has underscored this point as well, writing that, “the most severe criticism leveled at Jiang’s handling of the Falun Gong is that he seems to be using the mass movement to promote allegiance to himself.”

What is Falun Gong?

Falun Gong – also called Falun Dafa – is an ancient and advanced form of qigong or “Chinese Yoga.” Falun Gong consists of gentle exercises combined with a meditation component.

Aside from its popularity (100 million people in 60 countries), what is usually said to distinguish Falun Gong is its emphasis on the practice of refining one’s moral character in accordance with three principles—Truthfulness, Compassion, and Tolerance. These three principles form the backbone of Falun Gong’s philosophy and practitioners of the discipline aspire to live by them in their daily lives, striving to achieve, over time, a state of kindness, selflessness and inner balance.

The discipline of Falun Gong was first made public in May of 1992 in China by Mr. Li Hongzhi, who adherents regard as the practice’s founder or teacher.

From 1992 to 1994, Mr. Li lectured on invitation in almost every major Chinese city, giving 54 lecture series in all. All instruction at that time was overseen by the Chinese Government’s top qigong organization, the China Qigong Scientific Research Society. Since the exercises of Falun Gong

were relatively simple and easy to learn, those who had learned could easily show others. Soon, people began establishing volunteer practice sites in parks and public recreation areas throughout China. Furthermore, news reports and word of mouth acclaimed Falun Gong’s health benefits and positive impact.

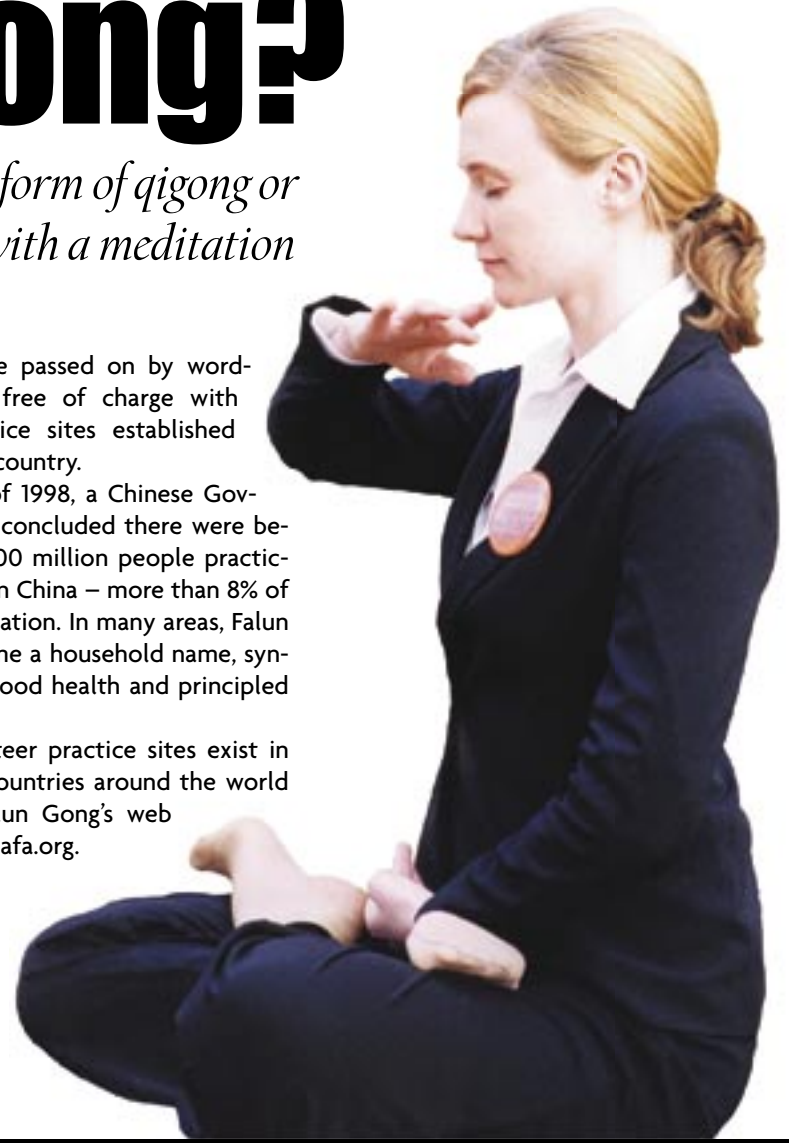
During the early-to-mid 90’s, Falun Gong was also widely embraced by the Chinese Government. Mr. Li was invited to speak at many government venues, such as the Hero’s Foundation in the government’s Public Security Department and received numerous awards such as the “Star Qigong” award given to Mr. Li at the 1993 Oriental Health Expo in Beijing.

By 1996 Falun Gong had established itself as the fastest growing spiritual practice in China, and perhaps, the world. With Mr. Li’s third book, Zhuan Falun, landing on Beijing’s best-seller list, millions were said to be practicing by then as the practice

continued to be passed on by word-of-mouth, and free of charge with volunteer practice sites established throughout the country.

By the end of 1998, a Chinese Government survey concluded there were between 70 and 100 million people practicing Falun Gong in China – more than 8% of the entire population. In many areas, Falun Gong had become a household name, synonymous with good health and principled living.

Today, volunteer practice sites exist in more than 60 countries around the world as listed on Falun Gong’s web site: www.falundafa.org.



A Brief History of Falun Gong...



Upon invitation from government qigong associations, Falun Gong’s founder, Mr. Li Hongzhi, conducted 54 lecture series throughout China.



Widely supported by the Chinese Government in the early 1990’s, Mr. Li lectures for the Hero Foundation in the Public Security Department.



Morning group practice in Chengdu City in 1996, by which time practice sites like this one were in every major city in China run by volunteers.



By 1998, Falun Gong had spread, largely through word of mouth, to 70-100 million people in China. Volunteer practice sites were in every city.



Group practice in Chicago. By 1999, volunteer Falun Gong practice sites were found in most major U.S. cities and in 40 countries around the world.



Group practice in New York City’s Central Park. Despite a violent persecution in China, the practice continues to grow around the world.

For more information about Falun Gong: www.falundafa.org, or call 877-325-8699 (Toll Free)
For information about Falun Gong in the New York area: www.falun-ny.net, or call 212-978-9511
For news and information about the persecution: www.faluninfo.net, or call 888-842-4797 (Toll Free)
To find out how you can help: www.fofg.org, or call 866-343-7436 (Toll Free)