

Clearwisdom Digest

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News and Events from Around the World

Stories of Truth-Clarification in Manhattan

More Western people yearn to know the truth

Recently, more people have begun accepting truth-clarification literature, especially Westerners. Some look at poster boards and stand for quite awhile listening to practitioners explain the facts. In the morning, practitioners hold a banner in front of the World Trade Center area that reads, "Many of your Chinese colleagues are deceived, and are helping spread the Chinese Communist Party's lies. Don't be misled by their words. Learn Falun Gong's true story yourself." Almost all Western people stop to look when passing by, and many accept the truth-clarifying literature.

Two Chinese university students

More Chinese people are accepting the literature as well. For example, two women university students were initially reluctant to take the literature. A woman practitioner talked with them and answered many questions, which were all related to the Jiang faction's slander and lies. They asked, "Why did you conduct self-immolation in Tiananmen Square? Why don't you practice at home?" etc.

The practitioner told them with patience, "We follow the principles of 'Truthfulness, Compassion, and Tolerance.' How can we commit killing or suicide? You see so many people practicing Falun Gong around the world. As Chinese people we should be proud of it. Take a look at [*Zhuan Falun*](#). Perhaps you have a predestined relationship. If you do, you will continue to read and look for a practice site to learn Falun Gong. If you don't, you will benefit from reading the book as it tells you how to be a good person." In the end, they accepted the literature and said, "Upon listening to what you have said, we will read *Zhuan Falun*."

Western people with righteous thoughts

One day, two Westerners came up to a practitioner who was demonstrating the torture methods used in China to force practitioners to give up their beliefs. Upon listening to the practitioner explain the facts, they shed tears and asked to have a group photo taken beside the practitioner showing the torture method. Another day, two passersby saw the anti-torture exhibition, and one of them pointed at the practitioner who was playing the roll of a Chinese guard, "How can you torture them so much?" The other person stepped forward wanting to hit that practitioner.

One time a Western woman asked a practitioner, "What do you expect to accomplish with this?" The practitioner told her, "First, we hope more people will stand up to help end the persecution in China because the persecution is against humanity. Secondly, we have obtained many Americans' support by their signing our petitions or writing letters. They tell their friends and family members about the anti-torture exhibition, which leads more people to have kind thoughts. This benefits society. Kind hearts and a willingness to help are badly needed in our society." After listening, she appeared to understand and nodded her head.

Beijing Official Liu Qi Found Guilty in U.S. Court for Role in Persecution of Falun Gong

At noon on December 23, 2004, Falun Gong practitioners from Northern California and Executive Director of the San Francisco-based Center for Justice & Accountability Ms. Sandra Colliver held a press conference in front of the Federal Court San Francisco. They announced that former Mayor of Beijing and current Communist Party Secretary of Beijing Liu Qi had been found guilty by the court for his role in the persecution of Falun Gong. Human rights lawyers stated that this verdict has important significance in protecting human rights and deterring crimes against humanity.

On June 11, 2003, the local federal court found Liu Qi guilty and denied diplomatic immunity. The verdict was sent to a higher-level court. On December 8, 2004, Judge Wilkin of the United States District Court, Northern District of California affirmed a magistrate's ruling that Beijing Communist Party Secretary Liu Qi is liable for the crimes of torture and crimes against humanity carried out by police under his administration in the persecution of Falun Gong.

Ms. Colliver said that this was an important case after the United States Superior Court reaffirmed that the Alien Tort Claims Act in 2002. She said that the ruling could be a precedent used by future cases.

Colliver said that the court first determined that the torture and sexual assault committed against Falun Gong practitioners by Beijing policemen violated international human rights treaties. The executor of the persecution policy Liu Qi should be held responsible. He knew that his subordinates tortured Falun Gong practitioners, but he didn't stop or punish the torturers.

Colliver also mentioned that the State Department sent two letters to the judge, asking for the case to be dismissed, saying that the verdict would interfere with foreign policy. The Judge declined the request and stated that the criminal evidence was clear and sufficient. It will not interfere with U.S. foreign policy because the court is defending the principles of the United States in protecting human rights.

Chairman of the Center for Justice & Accountability Joshua Sondheimer wrote a letter to the press conference. In the letter, Mr. Sondheimer stated that Liu Qi, as the Mayor of Beijing, clearly knew that his policemen were torturing Falun Gong practitioners, so he must be held responsible for it. He also said that people should not keep silent in face of the persecution of Falun Gong. To protect human rights and stop crimes against humanity, people must speak up to stop the persecution.

Liu Qi received the subpoena in San Francisco while on his way to Salt Lake City to attend the Winter Olympics as the director of the Chinese Olympic team in 2002. He was charged with the crimes of torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, arbitrary detention, crimes against humanity, and interference with freedom of religion and belief. The six plaintiffs were two citizens of China, two Swiss citizens, one French and one American who were beaten in Beijing.

Falun Gong Spokesman Adam Leining said that the verdict pointed out that China's government was perpetrating crimes against humanity but denying the human rights violations. Their actions were violating China's own laws.

The Falun Gong practitioners said that they held the press conference to publicize the information and send out an important message to those who persecuted Falun Gong: They will be brought to justice and held accountable for their crimes.

Indonesia: Textile Factory Workers Practice Falun Gong

In Solo, Indonesia, there is a textile factory with about 200 workers who have been practicing Falun Gong since 2001. They exercise together and read Falun Gong books every morning on workdays. According to one of the practitioners there, before learning Falun Gong, many workers took medicine like candy, often taking two or three doses a day. After three months of practicing Falun Gong, the workers experienced significantly fewer illnesses. The medicine stock in the factory now lasts longer than ever before. The atmosphere throughout the factory has changed. The environment has become cleaner, and some employees have even stopped smoking. The whole factory's productivity has improved significantly.

One factory worker said, "I formerly had a hot temper. After practicing Falun Gong, I always remember the principles of Truth, Compassion, and Tolerance in my everyday work and life. My inner heart has become peaceful and enriched. My family is surprised at the change in me."

Some employees have experienced significant changes. One worker said, "I had a kidney stone. After two years of practicing Falun Gong, I no longer had to take medicine. My doctor was very surprised because he did not find the stone anymore. Now I can even drive by myself at night."

The employees learned about Falun Gong for the first time from the director of the factory, who heard about it from TV reports about the April 25, 1999 appeal outside Zhongnanhai in Beijing. He went to a local bookstore to find the book *Falun Gong* and other related information. After studying, he decided to practice Falun Gong. After becoming convinced that Falun Gong was good, he introduced the practice to all the other employees.

Some workers who practiced the Falun Gong exercise and realized the benefits of the practice taught the exercise to their families at the villages they came from. Group practice sites sprung up in many villages in Solo. Some sites see dozens of people, from the very young to the elderly, practicing the exercises together every night. After practicing the exercises, they often share cultivation experiences with each other. They have all benefited from the exercise, and Falun Gong is very popular in this region.

Hong Kong High Court Agrees to Hear Falun Gong Practitioners' Appeal in Obstruction Case

The Hong Kong Court of Final Appeals approved Falun Gong practitioners' appeal against the remaining convictions of eight Falun Gong practitioners. Falun Gong practitioners welcomed the court's decision and said they would continue to clarify the truth as the case progresses to help more people learn about the vicious nature of Jiang's group. The following is background information:

On the morning of March 14, 2002, to protest the Jiang regime's "shoot to kill" and "kill without pardon" orders, sixteen Falun Gong practitioners, including four Swiss practitioners, started a three-day hunger strike in front of the China Liaison Office in Hong Kong. Under pressure from the China Liaison Office, Hong Kong authorities deployed a large number of police to forcibly remove and detain all 16 practitioners. The practitioners were falsely charged with "public obstruction" and "obstructing and assaulting police." After more than two years of legal proceedings, a Hong Kong Court of Appeals overturned all obstruction convictions but upheld five other charges including "assaulting police;" therefore, the practitioners will continue to appeal. On December 22, 2004, Andrew Li Kwok-nang, Chief Justice of the Court of Final Appeal Committee and other committee members listened to the practitioners for over three hours. In the afternoon, permanent judge Kemal Bokhary announced that the practitioners will be allowed to appeal. The committee stated that the practitioners' claims of being illegally arrested by the police and the 14-month delay in the High Court's verdict are both worthy of discussion by the Court of Final Appeals, which is why the practitioners' request to appeal was approved. The initial hearing will be held in April or May of 2005.

Paul Harris, the practitioners' attorney said three things in court: 1. The legitimacy of the arrest is doubtful. 2. The judge who convicted the practitioners didn't consider the issue thoroughly and only took into account the rights of the pedestrians, not the rights of the appellants. 3. The practitioners appealed to the High Court and received a result 14 months afterwards, which is too long, and therefore unjust for the appellants. The court should consider compensation for the plaintiffs, including overturning the charges. The Court of Final Appeals accepted the first and the third point.

Attorney Paul Harris said that anyone who witnessed the arrest would not consider it legitimate. He proposed that abuse of power was involved in the arrest.

The practitioners welcomed the decision from the Court of Final Appeals. They said some Hong Kong government officials slandered the practitioners, some police officers gave false witness accounts, and the judge made an unjust decision, favoring the police. What they did is very similar to the actions of the Chinese government in persecuting Falun Gong practitioners in China. Lu Jie, one of the plaintiff practitioners said, "Jiang used villainous propaganda, slander, and lies that are ingrained in the Party to incite hatred among people. We want to expose the Jiang group's crimes because they are harming people and corrupting society's moral values. It is very dangerous if morality no longer exists in our society, because then no one will be safe."

On the morning before the hearing began, about 50 Falun Gong practitioners marched through *Charter Garden*, and then quietly sat outside the Court of Final Appeals to protest the persecution by Jiang's group until the court reached a decision in the afternoon. The practitioners said this case involves not only Falun Gong; it also has a significant impact on rule-of-law and human rights conditions in Hong Kong, both of which are of great concern for Hong Kong's citizens. Under a just legal system, the practitioners should eventually win the case.

UK: MP Visits Anti-Torture Exhibition to Show Support for China's Persecuted Falun Gong Practitioners

On the 18th of December, in the Peace Garden outside Manchester Town Hall, Falun Gong practitioners from the Manchester area displayed pictures of the torture inflicted on their fellow practitioners in China and talked to passersby about the Chinese communist regime's persecution of the practice.

After hearing about this event, Member of Parliament Patsy Calton and her assistant went to the town centre especially to express their support. Ms. Calton said to a TV reporter, "I think that bringing up the issue of human rights in China is extremely important. I am very concerned about the sufferings that Falun Gong practitioners have been going through in China in the last few years. What I want to say is, we are not against China and the Chinese Government, and we hope to see an increase in the flow of culture and trade with China. Nevertheless, in the meantime, we must also attach importance to human rights that everyone should have, which is to practice, at any time, this peaceful exercise that doesn't cause any threats to the government."

Ms. Calton signed a petition calling for the Chinese Government to stop persecuting Falun Gong. In order to help to stop the human rights violations against Falun Gong in China, Patsy Calton MP sponsored an Early Day Motion on the 14th of December to the UK Parliament. This proposal asks the parliament to call on China to immediately release all Falun Gong practitioners who have been detained for their peaceful beliefs, while calling for the parliament to urge China to grant an invitation to the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and the Special Rapporteur on Religious Freedom after the last invitation was retracted. There are already forty two Members of Parliament who have signed Early Day Motion

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Voices of Justice

***Massachusetts Senate and House of Representatives Recognize Mr.
Li Hongzhi and Falun Dafa***

On December 16, 2004, the Massachusetts Senate and the Massachusetts House of Representatives respectively issued Official Citations in recognition of Mr. Li Hongzhi and Falun Dafa. Below are the two citations.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Massachusetts Senate

Official Citation

Be it known, that the Massachusetts Senate hereby extends its congratulations to:

Mr. Li Hongzhi and Falun Dafa

In Recognition of:

Your contribution to improve health and high moral standards, the teaching of truthfulness, compassion and tolerance, and the uncompromising courage of Falun Dafa practitioners; and

Be it further known that the Massachusetts Senate extends best wishes for continued success; that this Citation be only signed by the President of the Senate and attested to and a copy of transmitted by the Clerk of the Senate.

By: Robert E. Travaglini
President of the Senate

Attest: William Welch
Clerk of the Senate

By: Sue Tucker
State Senator

Date: December 16, 2004

Taiwan: County Commissioner Issues Certificate of Appreciation to Falun Dafa Practitioners

On December 18, 2004, Taichung County held a community celebration and the Taiwan Falun Dafa Association was invited to showcase the practice, demonstrate the exercises and give a waist drum performance. The practitioners' performance attracted many local residents.

After giving the opening remarks, the Taichung County commissioner presented certificates of appreciation to participating groups. Practitioner Mr. Qiu received the certificate on behalf of the Falun Dafa Association of Taiwan.

Mr. Qiu said, "Falun Gong uplifts practitioners' morality and improves health. In the past several years, Taiwanese practitioners have actively introduced Falun Gong to society, so that more people can benefit from the practice. Moreover, benefits to individuals are sure to transform into benefits to entire families and thus making our society more harmonious."

Meanwhile, Mr. Qiu also expressed his sorrow at the fact that Falun Gong is being brutally persecuted in Mainland China while the rest of world welcomes the practice. He said that he felt fortunate to be living in Taiwan, where he can enjoy freedom of belief. He expressed his concern for practitioners in China, and said he hoped that the persecution would end soon so that practitioners in China can also once again practice freely.

Spokesperson for "Attorneys to Bring Jiang Zemin to Justice" Speaks at the Rally in Front of U.N. Headquarters on World Human Rights Day

Theresa Chu

Every year on Human Rights Day we mark the adoption of the United Nations (UN) Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which has become a universal standard for defending and promoting human rights. It has been over 50 years since the Universal Declaration (1) was signed by most governments in the world, and yet the abuses continue to grow (2). Today, on behalf of the "Attorneys to Bring Jiang Zemin to Justice" I would like to bring your attention to the most severe persecution against good people in China since the Cultural Revolution, and also the biggest collaborative legal efforts in peace-time since the Nuremberg Nazi trials.

For the past five years, a hundred million Falun Gong practitioners, approximately 8% of China's entire 1.3 billion population, have been targeted for "eradication" by former Chinese leader Jiang Zemin, simply because they exercise their peaceful belief in Truthfulness, Compassion and Tolerance, principles deeply rooted in traditional Chinese culture. The annual reports from the United Nation Human Rights Commission, Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International and the U.S. Department of State verify that China's "rule of law" has become a tool in Jiang Zemin's hands to persecute Falun Gong. Thousands are reported to have been tortured to death. Most Falun Gong practitioners at present are sentenced without trial and denied legal representation.

We hope the United Nations will not condone Jiang's persecution of Falun Gong for economic or political reasons, or allow Jiang Zemin's overseas forces to harass and threaten Falun Gong practitioners in a free land, because this kind of appeasement and submission is unjust, and assists the corrupt officials in harming good people.

Ladies and gentleman, I am a survivor of the September 11th terrorist attack, having escaped from the World Trade Center building. I personally experienced how ambitious terrorists will take thousands of lives to enforce the terrorism of a dictatorship. Over these years, I have witnessed the families of victims having a difficult time dealing with the painful memories. But Jiang Zemin, to satisfy his personal political ambitions, and to fulfill his personal dictatorial will, has attempted to force up to one hundred million Falun Gong practitioners to give up their beliefs. His demand that people must pay with their lives, bodies and freedom, should be detested.

At this time, we 30 lawyers from 28 countries, including, but not limited to the US, Canada, Germany, Spain, Belgium, Greece, Austria, Russia, Portland, France, Finland, Taiwan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Bolivia and Chile are assisting Falun Gong practitioners worldwide to sue Jiang Zemin, the Vice Premier, Culture Minister, Minister of Commerce, Minister of Information, Former Beijing Mayor, Former Education Minister and 14 other high officials who have participated in persecuting Falun Gong for genocide, crimes against humanity, and torture--all serious international crimes.

Ladies and gentleman, the purpose of these criminal complaints and civil lawsuits is very pure and simple. We lawyers are calling for an immediate stop to this persecution, and in the end, we plan to bring Jiang Zemin and those other high level Chinese officials before an International Tribunal.

We believe that as we gain the support of more and more people with upright consciences, this cruel and inhumane persecution will eventually come to an end. The principles of Truthfulness, Compassion and Tolerance constitute our very humanity. No persecution could succeed against those principles without extinguishing our very being. By suing Jiang Zemin, we are affirming what is best in all of us.

Thank you and we wish you the very best.

***Speech by Unitarian Universalist Association Envoy Rich Cook at
World Human Rights Day Rally (Excerpt)***

My name is Rich Cook and I am the Envoy from the Fourth Unitarian Universalist Society to the United Nations Office of the Unitarian Universalist Association - a group of more than 1000 churches across the United States and around the world. The Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office is located just down the street at the UN Church Center, where we participate as an NGO in promoting the work of the United Nations.

[...]

Today the UU faith works hard on justice issues across the country and around the world. We at the UU United Nations Office are staunch supporters of the UN Declaration of Human Rights. And at our General Assembly held in Long Beach last June our leadership issued this Statement of Conscience with regard to the use of torture:

"To all people of conscience . . . to hold accountable any individual, group, organization, or nation that conducts, authorizes, condones, funds, or covers up the use of torture."

To that end we are outraged by the persecution of the practitioners of Falun Dafa in China that continues to this day. There is simply no room in this ever-shrinking world of ours for organized, categorical repression of thousands of people based upon their spiritual beliefs. Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, the United Nations High Commission on Human Rights, the UN workgroup on arbitrary detention, and the American House of Representatives have all condemned the repressive, totalitarian actions against the practitioners of Falun Dafa. There is something deeply sick with any government that forces its citizens into phony "mental hospitals, recovery programs and re-education" camps simply because they have chosen to practice a spiritual belief. The gruesome stories inside these prisons are of the most egregious abuses of Human Rights in the history of civilization. What kind of government subjects detainees to hours of sub-audible and electromagnetic radiation, electroshock, scalding immersions, extremes of temperature and weeks of isolation from any human contact? What justification can there be for detentions without legal representation, due process, access to family or adequate medical care? The treatment of the prisoners in the secret Chinese detention centers is a savage mockery of the words 'penal institution'. There are regular reports of endless sleep deprivation, sensory overloads, forced labor, verbal and psychological abuses and constant humiliation that destroys the heart and souls of good, spiritual people. These systems, designed to force "confessions" from

practitioners are on a par with the most heinous of war crimes committed by the Nazi regime of World War Two. *Those* crimes against humanity left their victims' bodies emaciated, broken and bruised. Do not deceive yourselves, the crimes against humanity committed in these contemporary prison camps are more brutal, more heinous and more inhumane - for they *destroy the souls* of men and women. These are crimes of the highest order and there are no reasons, excuses or mitigating circumstances to justify them. They are the reprehensible actions of people who are so deeply indoctrinated with fear and hatred that they have lost every semblance of humanity they once had. It is our sacred duty and task to bring these crimes to light, in front of the entire world and to hold those who have committed them responsible.

And so I call upon the United Nations, its member states, the Security Council and people of conscience around the world to demand an end to the totalitarian repression and torment of people of spiritual belief. We demand the immediate release of all practitioners of Falun Dafa held in Chinese prison camps, detention centers, "mental hospitals" and religious organizations. We demand an immediate end to the brutal, inhumane torture that is perpetrated on these captives day in and day out. We demand that the International Criminal Court and other courts and tribunals of competent jurisdiction accept lawsuits filed against the perpetrators and issue warrants for the arrest and prosecution of the same. We urge the European Union to withhold favored trading status and continue to enforce the arms embargo against the Chinese government.

The pressure that limited trading status and embargos have on repressive governments is one of our most effective weapons against these humanitarian abuses. We need to convert our support of new economies such as China's *from* arms, to industry, technology, education and health care. If we are to consider the family of human beings and our goal of acceptance into the larger family of man, we will need to do what the sculptors at this park have encouraged - to beat our swords into plowshares and tend to feeding rather than oppressing our people. Further we must carefully tailor our foreign trade agreements with nations that do not openly accept international standards of Human Rights. I strongly suggest that governments and the private sector take a very hard look at the cost of doing business with political regimes that repress Human Rights through detention, isolation, and torture. I ask that you consider that your business may be supporting Human Rights violations and think about how that will reflect on your government or business when the full story of Human Rights abuses comes out.

And it will come out. Because part of what we are doing here today is to make sure that repressive governments anywhere in the world are put on notice - the abuse and mistreatment of human beings will not go unnoticed. There are many

in the international community who are monitoring your actions and each prisoner who is tortured, each child who is detained, every woman subjected to abuse and humiliation - there are people making a record of it. Abuse cannot be hidden as it was in the past. It is too small a world and there are too many concerned citizens for abusive behavior to go unnoticed.

We might ask ourselves this question - if you were a foreigner visiting a new country and you were able to see the inhumane treatment of the Falun Gong practitioners by a fearful, repressive government, would you ever want to return? Would you consider that country backwards, primitive, and hostile to spiritual enlightenment? Would you consider lending them money or technical expertise while the repression and crimes against humanity continued? We think not.

For those who would argue that these are the internal affairs of sovereign nations and outsiders should not meddle in them, we have this to say to you:

The affairs of the human heart, *are the affairs of all human beings*. They know no political boundaries, nor territorial placement nor restriction upon their probity. The practice of Falun Gong is an affair of the heart. The simple notion of Truth, Compassion and Forbearance are spiritual principles that reach across all boundaries, all borders, and all political regimes. There is no argument, political, spiritual or emotional that can justify totalitarian behavior. While repressive governments may imprison the physical practitioner - they can never fully imprison their soul, or their heart or their mind. Which is why it is important for us to be out here. We, today are the physical embodiment of those captive hearts and souls. We gather here to remind the United Nations, the Chinese leaders and people around the world that persecution of good, innocent people of spiritual belief *will not be tolerated*. Totalitarian regimes that stoop to the use of torture, unlawful detention and "re-education" programs to break the free will of the people, are destined to fail. Such regimes no longer can operate in the dark - they cannot hide beneath a cloak of secrecy, or hope that their crimes will go undiscovered. Their crimes are crimes against humanity, their repressive punishments are crimes against humanity, their unlawful imprisonments are crimes against humanity - *and they will not stand!* And each day that you and I speak out against such crimes, is a day when the persecuted come closer to freedom. It is a day closer to the enlightened day when China's government will make amends for her past transgressions, and *let her people go*.

[...]

Korea: Council of Seocho-gu, Seoul, Korea Passes Resolution to Demand the Release of Ko Sung-nyo

The Council of Seocho-gu, Seoul passed a resolution on December 16, 2004 to demand that the Chinese authority immediately release Falun Gong practitioner, 28-year-old Ms. Ko Sung-nyo (Chinese pinyin: Gao Chengnu) and escort her safely out of China and back to Korea. Ms. Ko Sung-nyo, wife of a Korean citizen, Mr. Kwack Byung-ho, was abducted and imprisoned in Jiamusi Municipal Forced Labor Camp, Heilongjiang Province because of her practice of Falun Gong.

On August 24, 2004, after learning that Ms. Ko Sung-nyo was imprisoned, the "Ko Sung-nyo Rescue Committee" was formed in Korea. Since then, councils of a number of cities and counties, including Cheon An, where Mr. Kwack Byung-ho resides, Chungcheongnam-do, A San, Gong Ju, Seosan-si, Ye San, and Hong Seong consecutively passed resolutions demanding the release of Ms. Ko Sung-nyo.

At the same time, since the Nam Yang Ju City Council outside the Chungcheongnam-do first passed the resolution on December 14, 2004, Ha Nam City Council, Kyung San City Council and Seocho-gu Council in Seoul also passed similar resolutions.

On December 11, 2004, more than 400 members of the "Ko Sung-nyo Rescue Committee" from across Korea gathered together in front of the Chinese Embassy and Consulate and held a press conference. They also delivered an appeal letter to the Chinese Embassy to demand the immediate release of Ms. Ko Sung-nyo.

A member of the "Ko Sung-nyo Rescue Committee" stated that up to the present, more than 120,000 signatures have been collected on a petition in support of Ko Sung-nyo. The committee will continue to encourage organizations throughout the country to pass resolutions in support of her release. The committee spokesperson said that they are now preparing to appeal to the Korean Parliament to pass the resolution in the near future.

Facts of the Persecution

Chinese Police Arrest Falun Gong Practitioners on Tiananmen Square for Displaying Banners

At least three Falun Gong practitioners were arrested on Tiananmen Square between 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. on December 19, 2004.

The Falun Gong practitioners had sewn a strip of yellow cloth inside their coats. They opened their coats to show the yellow strip that said "Falun Dafa is Good." Policemen rushed over, grabbed the practitioners, and proceeded to beat and kick them. Their faces bled profusely. The police covered the practitioners' heads with their coats and dragged them to the police cars.

A witness said a westerner who was over six foot tall took pictures of police beating practitioners. An officer immediately struck him in the face. Blood flowed from his mouth and he dropped the camera. He did not argue, protest or seem surprised. He pulled out his cellular phone and made a call. A car from the U.S. embassy arrived to pick him up shortly after.

A woman who came from Jilin to appeal said, "In the past, nobody dared to mention Falun Gong but now everyone is talking about it. They say that Falun Gong is not like the government claims." She said she had witnessed police officers pulling practitioners' hair and beating them; however, the practitioners said nothing and showed what "Truthfulness, Compassion, and Forbearance" was all about.

Health of U.S. Citizen Charles Lee Deteriorates from Being Forced to Sit Motionless for Long Periods of Time

On December 21, 2004, it was reported that the health of Charles Lee, a U.S. citizen and Falun Gong practitioner illegally detained in Nanjing Prison, has recently deteriorated dramatically, and he has developed symptoms of shortness of breath. The prison authorities are currently monitoring his heart. To find out about Charles' situation, the reporter interviewed his fiancée, Yeong-Ching Foo.

Yeong-Ching said that she had just called the U.S. consulate in Shanghai to inquire about Charles' latest situation. According to an official there, to make Charles write a "self-criticism" report, the Nanjing Prison authorities have been forcing him to sit motionless for prolonged periods of time. He is forced to sit for a whole day or four to six hours a day continuously without being allowed to move his head even a little bit. Charles has been forced to sit this way for 43 to 48 days. He was also forced to watch CCTV programs created to defame Falun Gong. The consulate speculated that such treatments caused Charles' health problems such as shortness of breath and a heart disorder. The U.S. Embassy in China and Consulate in Shanghai have both protested to Chinese authorities over his mistreatment.

Yeong-Ching said that Charles didn't have any health problems when a reporter from Epoch Times interviewed him around Thanksgiving. In less than one month, he has developed heart problems due to mistreatment. One can thus speculate that the prison authorities must have used harsh measures against Charles, trying to force him to denounce Falun Gong and give up his belief in "Truthfulness, Compassion and Forbearance."

According to Yeong-Ching, Charles Lee drafted several reports of the abuses that he has suffered in prison; however, the prison authorities always confiscated and destroyed them.

According to a report from Radio Free Asia on November 14, Charles Lee was forced to make Christmas light decorations, which are to be exported overseas. The news was passed to San Francisco practitioners by U.S. Consuls in Shanghai who visited Charles Lee in Nanjing Prison. The U.S. diplomats also passed on the news that Charles was forced to work seven days a week, 10 to 12 hours per day.

Since being arrested in January, 2003, Charles Lee has gone through all kinds of torture, including handcuffing, beating, being forced to wear insulated jackets on hot days, force-feeding and brainwashing. Furthermore, he was forced to make shoes in an environment filled with the fumes of toxic glues. The fact that Charles recently developed heart problems at less than 40 years old is very

disturbing, and Charles' situation in the prison is of great concern. Unfortunately, Charles Lee will have to spend his second Christmas and New Year in the Nanjing prison.

State Department Consular Affairs Spokeswoman Kelly Shannon said that officials from the Consulate in Shanghai visited U.S. citizen Charles Lee, who is still detained in Nanjing Prison. The December 9 visit is the 47th meeting between U.S. officials and Charles. Kelly Shannon said: "Charles Lee appeared to be very tired. The prison currently allows Charles Lee to do some exercises. However, his condition only allows him to take some walks outside."

Ms. Sherry Zhang, the founder of Friends of Charles Lee, said: "Charles went to China to help the Chinese people learn the truth about the persecution of Falun Gong so that they won't be misled by lies and propaganda, and to help those innocent practitioners who are being brutally persecuted in China. It was a selfless, great endeavor. SARS has taught us a big lesson: The lies of the Jiang regime and the Chinese communist party do not only harm Chinese people, they also harm people around the world."

Sherry said: "I hope all kind-hearted people in the U.S. can help us rescue Charles. Meanwhile, we strongly demand that the Chinese authorities end the persecution of Falun Gong practitioners and release Charles Lee immediately."

Yeong-Ching said, "Christmas and New Year are coming, but Charles is still being detained in prison by the Jiang regime and the Chinese communist party. I urge the Chinese authorities to release Charles Lee unconditionally."

***Mr. Zhu Xizhen from Jiangxi Province Died as a Result of
Persecution in December 2004***

Mr. Zhu Xizhen, 55 years old, is a farmer from Huangma Township, Nanchang County, Jiangxi province. On September 23, 2004, while he was visiting friends and relatives, the police illegally detained Mr. Zhu at the police station in Huangma Township. Two days after he was sent back home, he lost consciousness and died on December 7, 2004.

Mr. Zhu's home was ransacked twice by the local police officers in Huangma Township, in February of 2001 and in December 2003. He was also sent to a forced labor camp in the city of Nanchang. In the forced labor camp, he suffered brutal force-feedings and other tortures. His body and mind were severely damaged.

In March of 2004, Mr. Zhu was released from the forced labor camp, but he was still monitored and harassed by the police for a long time. On September 23, 2004, while visiting friends and relatives, he was illegally detained at the police station. He died on December 7, 2004. Eyewitnesses reported seeing two police vehicles employed to escort Mr. Zhu home. The policemen told his family members, "He is all right." Two days later Mr. Zhu's mind became unclear and he lost consciousness. It is suspected that the policemen may have either put some harmful drugs in Mr. Zhu's food or injected him with some drugs while in police custody. Further investigation is underway.

Atrocities Suffered by Practitioners at the Shibalihe Women's Labor Camp in Zhengzhou City, Henan Province

The Zhengzhou City Shibalihe Women's Labor Camp confines Falun Gong practitioners to three main divisions. Newly arriving practitioners are first confined in the "trumpet" division. Assigned to monitor the practitioners 24-hours a day, two drug-addicted inmates impart frequent beatings, curses and insults. [Collaborators](#) were employed to brainwash practitioners. Their goal was to create doubt and "reform" them. If they refused to renounce Falun Gong, the drug-addicted inmates were ordered to punish the practitioners with vicious beatings, which entailed kicking, slapping, spitting in their faces, and personal insults. If practitioners cried or yelled during this punishment, dirty sanitary pads were stuffed into their mouths. Every day at seven a.m. practitioners were brought to the workshop. With the exception of a half-hour lunch break at noon, practitioners were forced to work continuously until 10 p.m. Criminal inmates tortured those who were unable to complete the assigned work after working hours.

Because practitioner Zhang Yulan could not bear the long hours of hard labor, she was punished with sleep deprivation. Other inmates were instructed to monitor her to prevent her from falling asleep.

Practitioner Ms. He Junying, over 50 years old, was punished in the "trumpet" division for two months just for writing the statement "Transformation is wrong." To avoid obvious evidence of maltreatment, prison guards arranged for several drug-addicted inmates to stomp and jump on Ms. He's abdomen. By the time she was transferred from the "trumpet" division, her internal organs had hemorrhaged and swelled up from this torture. In order to avoid responsibility in case she died, she was released from the labor camp "on bail for medical treatment."

Another practitioner Ms. Yu, over 30 years old, was brutally tortured by criminal inmates for refusing to write the [Guarantee Statement](#) to renounce the practice of Falun Gong. In April 2004, drug addicts Wang Xiaohua from Xuchang City, Wang Shan from Zhengzhou City, and Yang Mayqing from Kaifeng City forced a toothbrush inside Yu's vagina and twisted it around. Afterwards, the same toothbrush was stuck into her mouth to brush her teeth. When she refused to cooperate and started yelling out, they stuffed a used sanitary pad into her mouth to silence her protest.

Practitioner Chen Lijun was tortured in this division until her body was disfigured. She was released from the labor camp for medical treatment but died soon after.

All of these crimes committed by the prison inmates were specifically authorized by Jia Meili, the Three Main Divisions' Chief, with approval from upper management. This woman, notorious for her cruelty, was considered a "model leader" for the labor camp staff. Two other especially vicious supervisors, Hu Lina and Cui Ying, were given the task of "transforming" practitioners. Other key accomplices in the persecution of practitioners were Ren Yuanfang, the political instructor, and Hu Zhaoxia and Zheng Yufeng, the deputy division leaders. All of these people are directly responsible for the vicious persecution of Falun Gong practitioners. They consistently used isolation tactics to punish practitioners determined in their belief. Making false promises to entice practitioners to compromise and other tricks to deceive genuine practitioners were also commonly practiced.

According to the labor camp's policy, practitioners' family members are forced on visiting days to write a vile statement slandering Falun Gong and its founder.

Family Tragedy: Mr. Bi Wenming is Tortured to Death, Parents-in-law Die from the Stress of Relentless Persecution

Falun Gong practitioner Mr. Bi Wenming, his father-in-law Huang Zhiyi and his mother-in-law He Chunmei in Longxi County, Gansu Province have died from the persecution. The guards at Dingxi Prison brutally beat Bi Wenming and shocked him with electric batons, which directly resulted in his death on September 3, 2004. His body was covered with scars and bruises at the time of his death. His father-in-law, Huang Zhiyi died from persecution on January 19, 2002, and his mother-in-law He Chunmei died from grief on September 30, 2004.

Bi Wenming was 34 years old. He used to live in Dongying City, Shandong Province and later lived in the west suburban area of Gansu Province. He started practicing Falun Gong in 1998. His parents-in-law, Huang Zhiyi and He Chunmei began practicing Falun Dafa around 1998. Ms. He Chunmei was 60 years old and was illiterate and very sickly before she practiced Falun Dafa. Several months after she started practicing Falun Gong, she not only became completely healthy, but was also able to read the book [*Zhuan Falun*](#), the main Falun Gong cultivation text. In the 15 days during which Mr. Huang Zhiyi helped his wife to read *Zhuan Falun*, his post-operative wound of six years automatically healed. He was very surprised by this miracle.

After the brutal persecution of Falun Gong began, Bi Wenming, went to Beijing to appeal in February 2000. When he returned, he was illegally detained at the Longxi County Detention Center and was held there for one month. In December 2000, He Chunmei and Huang Zhiyi, along with Bi Wenming and his wife went to Beijing to appeal for Falun Gong. He Chunmei and Huang Zhiyi were sent back to Shandong Province and were illegally held at a local prison for six months. Bi Wenming was again illegally held in Beijing for one month and left home after he was released to avoid further persecution.

In an attempt to arrest Bi Wenming and his wife, the local police monitored their residence, which they shared with their parents. The officials constantly harassed and asserted pressure on He Chunmei and Huang Zhiyi, threatening to arrest them if they didn't turn in their daughter and son-in-law to the police. Due to extreme mental stress, Huang Zhiyi suffered a relapse of his old illness and passed away on January 19, 2002.

In February 2002, Bi Wenming was arrested in Lanzhou City by police officers from the Qilihe Police Department. He was illegally held at the Xiguoyuan Detention Center in Lanzhou City and was then was sent to the Longxi County Detention Center. In 2003 he was sentenced to three years in prison and was held at Lanzhou Prison. In 2004 he was transferred to the Dingxi Prison. Bi Wenming

was very determined in his belief in Falun Dafa and resisted the persecution against him and other Dafa practitioners during the illegal detention.

On September 1, 2004, Shi Wenrui, head of the Dingxi Prison, ordered Dafa practitioner Wang Peng to be shocked with numerous electric batons for a long time. On September 2, Gao, Division 3 instructor and Li, head of Division 3, led a group of perpetrators. They shocked Wang Peng from 7:50 a.m. to 1 p.m. using a dozen electric batons while beating him at the same time.

Instructors Li and Zhang Jianying shocked practitioners Bi Wenming, Jin Zhilin, Xu Feng and Wang Yuping at Division 4 with electric batons. During the morning of September 2, the guards ordered two inmates to beat Bi Wenming. In the afternoon, five or six guards dragged Bi Wenming into a solitary confinement cell and tortured him with a high-voltage electric chair. Around 5:00 p.m., Bi Wenming was carried out of the solitary confinement.

On September 3, the guards ordered the inmates to beat Bi Wenming; then they shocked him with electric batons until he died. It is said that people heard Bi Wenming shouting, "Falun Dafa is great" and they also heard the beating.

After Bi Wenming died, the Dingxi City government, the judicial bureau, the legal system, the public prosecutor and the [610 Office](#) tried to cover up the case, saying Bi Wenming died from suicide. Bi Wenming's family visited him in prison on August 30. At that time he was calm and rational. It is not credible that he committed suicide because he showed no such intent and Falun Gong teachings forbid suicide. The high public prosecutor of Gansu Province is currently involved in the investigation of this case.

After her husband passed away and her daughter and son-in-law were forced into homelessness, He Chunmei suffered tremendously from worry and grief. After she learned her son-in-law Bi Wenming was tortured to death on September 3, her condition worsened drastically and she died on September 30, 2004.

Media Reports and Opinions

***U.S. Newswire: National Press Club Rebuffs Chinese Embassy
Attempt to Squelch Press Event***

12/29/2004

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29 /U.S. Newswire/ -- The National Press Club today made public its refusal to comply with a request by the Chinese Embassy in Washington, D.C., to stop a recent press event at the Club.

"We would never bow to a request to silence anyone," said John M. Donnelly, chairman of the National Press Club Board of Governors, in a Dec. 22 letter to Chinese Embassy spokesman Sun Weide.

Weide had called and emailed the NPC ahead of a Dec. 21 press conference by the Epoch Times newspaper, calling on the Club to cancel the event [...].

Donnelly wrote to Weide that the National Press Club is interested in providing a forum for all points of view.

"We practice and defend freedom of speech, and that applies equally to all, regardless of their views," Donnelly wrote. "Whenever that freedom of speech is restricted for anyone or to any degree, it is imperiled in full. And we would never be a party to that."

The Chinese Embassy has repeatedly attempted to squelch National Press Club events that displease the Chinese government. [...]

The Epoch Times event occurred as scheduled on Dec. 21.

For nearly 100 years, the National Press Club has been an unbending advocate of press freedom at home and abroad. The National Press Club is a private organization that comprises nearly 4,000 journalists, public information officers and news sources.

Radio Free Asia: Falun Gong Practitioners Are Persecuted or even Tortured to Death in China

In China, Falun Gong is slandered and practitioners are persecuted by the regime; some have even been tortured to death. Three practitioners from Jilin Province, Yu Lixin, Liu Hongwei, and Song Yanqun, went to Beijing to appeal for Falun Gong many times. Recently, their family members said that they were either sentenced to prison or labor camps. One of them was tortured to death, one was serious ill and another one was forced to stay away from home to avoid persecution. Following is a report from Yan Ming, a correspondent of RFA.

Ms. Yu Lixin was an administrator of the Jilin City General Labor Union, Jilin Province. On Wednesday, her mother-in-law Ms. Liu Suzhen told RFA that Ms. Yu and her husband Mr. Liu Hongwei went to Beijing to appeal for Falun Gong three times. After they were taken back to their hometown, they were imprisoned many times. In 2000, Mr. Liu was sentenced to labor camp for two years and Ms. Yu was sentenced to prison for four years.

Ms. Liu Suzhen said that Ms. Yu protested torture in prison by holding hunger strikes many times and died in the prison hospital on May 13, 2002 at 37 years of age.

Reporter: Was she tortured in prison?

Ms. Liu: Yes. She was beaten. She became emaciated and weighed around 50 pounds. She went on hunger strike many times. We feel sorrow just mentioning her. The prison guards injected drugs into her and we don't know what they were. She recovered after she was released. She did not stay at home but went out to spread Falun Gong and clarify the truth.

Reporter: Did she practice Falun Gong after she returned home?

Ms. Liu: Yes. She was very diligent. She recovered from more than ten kinds of illnesses.

Ms. Yu's husband Mr. Liu Hongwei was arrested in September 2003 after being released from a labor camp. Several days later, he escaped from jail and now is still forced to stay away from home.

Who should be held responsible for the suffering of the couple?

For this, Ms. Liu said, "Who persecuted her? Jiang Zemin was head of the regime and made the decision."

Reporter: Was Jiang forced to step down?

Ms. Liu: No. He stepped down in name. Actually he still holds the power.

The 610 Office is in charge of Falun Gong-related issues. On Wednesday, this reporter called the Jilin 610 Office to ask about Ms. Yu. The staff said, "If you want to verify it, you can come here. China welcomes any reporter to China for a tour and interview."

In Shulan City, north of Jilin, Falun Gong practitioner Song Yanqun went to Beijing to appeal for Falun Gong and was sentenced to labor camp for a term of 1 year and 8 months. In 2003, She was sentenced to prison for a term of 12 years. Ms. Song's father, Mr. Song Xichun wrote to the Director of Prison Management Bureau in Jilin Province that Ms. Song had TB and was in critical condition. The conditions in prison were very poor and she was not allowed visits from family members. Mr. Song and other family members were anxious.

On Wednesday, one of Ms. Song's family members said to RFA, "On November 18, we went to the prison to see her. After that we have not been allowed to see her. We were told that we would not see her before she is transformed."

Reporter: Can Ms. Song get treatment?

Ms. Song's relative: Treatment for her is minimal. In other words, some free stuff is given to her. The hospital director said that their budget for each one was 9 or 10 Yuan, far short of what is needed, and that they could not buy other medicines for her."

Reporter: Have you told them that your family would pay for the treatment?

Ms. Song's relative: I did not mention that because she caught the disease in prison. I want her to be taken to a public hospital for treatment.

Ms. Song was an English teacher in Harbin Dade Japanese School. She started practicing Falun Gong in 1996. Her sister, Ms. Song Bin, is also a Falun Gong practitioner and was sentenced to prison for a term of 14 years.

San Francisco Chronicle: Beijing official liable in Falun Gong case

Friday, December 24, 2004

A federal judge has ruled that a high-ranking Chinese official is liable for crimes of torture and genocide against followers of the Falun Gong spiritual movement.

U.S. District Judge Claudia Wilkin ruled Dec. 8 that Beijing Party Secretary Liu Qi violated U.S., international and Chinese law, based on the application of the standard of command responsibility, aiding and abetting, and conspiracy.

The United States does not have jurisdiction to pursue Liu in domestic court, but the plaintiffs hope to bar Liu from visiting.

The Chinese government has cracked down on the Falun Gong, a movement that emerged in 1992.

Six plaintiffs from Australia, Canada, China, Germany, Sweden and the United States filed the federal lawsuit in 2002.

Liu, who was then mayor of Beijing and head of China's Olympic committee, was served with legal papers at San Francisco International Airport the same year while en route to the Salt Lake City Winter Olympics.

Both the Chinese government and State Department had submitted statements urging that the case be dismissed.

Falun Gong Practitioners' Noble Actions in China

My Family's Path in Upholding the Reputation of Falun Dafa

My family lives in a city in Northern China. Before the persecution began on July 20, 1999, seven members of my family practiced Falun Gong, including my father, who started practicing Falun Gong at the beginning of 1996. He improved greatly in both mind and body and as a result, my mother, sister, husband, two children and I also stepped onto the path of cultivation. The whole family, from my 3-year-old child, all the way up to the family members in their seventies, lived in harmony and happiness, and we forged ahead diligently on the path of improving ourselves.

Since beginning our practice, and during the persecution, we have gone through many lessons and tribulations. Hopefully, by exchanging views, we can understand the good experiences, overcome the bad parts, and walk steadily and correctly on our path.

The period after July 20, 1999, has been a life-or-death trial for everyone. The staff from the police station, residential office, and community frequently visited my residence. I clarified the facts of Falun Gong to them. Afterwards, the persecution of Falun Gong penetrated from the top to the bottom of society. At the beginning, we were forced to submit our Falun Dafa books, declare our position on Falun Gong, and write slanderous remarks against the practice. Then, we were not allowed to practice the exercises, and were abducted and deprived of our freedom. Therefore, we decided to exercise our rights as citizens to appeal. My husband, two children and I went to appeal on October 28, 1999. Our trip was not smooth at all. Full of hope, we wished to share the improvements we had experienced after practicing Falun Gong with the people in charge of the related offices, and to ask them to pass the information on to the central government leaders. However, we absolutely did not expect to be greeted by police cars and handcuffs. When we were detained in Beijing, we witnessed the police beating, harassing and torturing fellow practitioners. The police handcuffed practitioners to a stool, with their hands behind their backs. Several days later, we were sent back from Beijing. We were released because our children were young. When my husband returned to work, he was discharged from his office and disciplined severely. Facing all this, I was in pain and at a loss. When I gradually let go of my attachments, I realized that firmly believing in Falun Dafa and Teacher is necessary as a practitioner and is the basis for righteous enlightenment.

The arrival of the 2000 Spring Festival came quickly after the persecution of Falun Dafa and the slanderous attacks on Teacher had begun. As Falun Dafa practitioners, how could we spend the holiday in ease? Two or three days before the Spring Festival, my family and fellow practitioners left for Beijing to appeal for Falun Dafa. When we were sent back from Beijing, the police handcuffed my

parents together with one handcuff. They were in their seventies, and had worked diligently and done many good deeds during their lives. Now they are old, and the police treated them in this manner, simply for their heartfelt words, "Falun Dafa is good," and "Falun Dafa saved my life."

After being brought back from Beijing, my parents were released due to their old age. The others of us were still detained in the detention center. We spent the Spring Festival eating steamed corn bread with pickles and thin soup. We did not feel the hardship, instead, we gained and grew in confidence. After about 20 days, we were taken into custody one after another. During the period of administrative detention, we clarified the facts of Falun Dafa to many of the inmates. When we practiced the exercises in the morning, they got up to practice with us. That moment was unforgettable. After another 20 days, I was imprisoned in the place where prostitutes were detained. I clarified the facts of Falun Dafa wherever I went, and displayed the demeanor of a Falun Dafa practitioner. I was acknowledged by the police and inmates. After more than 5 months, under Teacher Li's gracious care, I was released with the police department's special sanction.

At the end of June 2001, I was kidnapped and taken to the local police station. By maintaining a calm mind of pure intention, and clarifying the facts of Falun Dafa to the police, I was granted release. Afterwards, I became destitute and homeless in order to avoid further persecution. At the beginning, I was doubtful as to whether I had been right or wrong. At this critical moment, Teacher's new article, "Path," was published. This awakened me to the importance of exposing the lies, and I went forth with renewed vigor. At that time, people in the remote areas had been deeply poisoned by the propaganda of Jiang's regime. They did not believe anything you told them, and just repeated the lies they had heard on TV. It was really difficult to clarify the facts to them. In that environment, I had to think independently and make progress slowly. Gradually, I accumulated experience and achieved a good effect.

Although my husband was the sole caregiver for our two children during that period, the [610 Office](#) still abducted him from his workplace and took him to the brainwashing center. He refused to be "transformed" and was released within three days by maintaining his upright mindset. During that period when the persecution was overwhelming, my father bore the pressure beyond his limits. He broke down under the relentless harassment. After half a year, illness took his life. Afterwards, my mother endured the pain of this loss with the added responsibility of taking care of my two children. The younger one was only eight and the older one has a minor disability. Even under such a difficult situation, my mother continued to clarify the facts consistently. She spread Falun Dafa

wherever she went. As a result, many people with predestined relationships came to know Falun Dafa.

On our path of upholding Falun Dafa and clarifying the facts, we encountered calamity but escaped from danger. We try to keep up with diligent study of the Fa, sending out pure thoughts to eliminate the evil factors behind the persecution, and clarify the truth to those deceived by slanderous propaganda. When circumstances permit, we clarify the facts face-to-face. In other cases we have written letters to responsible offices. As a result of these efforts, a policeman who learned the truth went to the city "610 Office" to actively help us resolve our situation. Because of this, my husband and I were able to end our years of destitute living. After returning home, my husband went back to his workplace and I remained at home to do the housework.

***A Falun Gong Practitioner Corrects a Labor Camp Guard's
Misunderstanding of the Law***

I was imprisoned in a labor camp from February to May 2001. The Unit Guard was well educated and was a smooth talker and debater. He was licensed to practice as a lawyer. He started "transforming" Dafa practitioners in his unit. I recall an incident of ideology confrontation between us.

Because this guard had an education in law, he first tried to convince me of my ignorance of the law. He explained that the law wouldn't change because of the mere will of people, that the law was very impassive and dogmatic. Then he went on to affirm that the April 25 incident was an unlawful group assembly and demonstration. I denied his allegation and told him that it was a group appeal. He replied that, although it was an incident of group appeal, it was at the same time a group assembly and demonstration.

He then took out the "People's Republic of China Statute on Assembly, March and Demonstration" and tried to show me that the April 25 incident violated the criteria of the statute. First he pointed to "Assembly," asking me whether more than 10,000 people gathering together was an "Assembly," whether staging around Zhongnanhai was "in the open," and in a "public area," whether "opinions" were declared or expressed, "whether we proposed three demands at the Appeal Office."

Although I could explain many issues clearly to achieve the result of safeguarding the Fa and demonstrate the positive image of a Dafa practitioner, I felt truly helpless when it came to the specific details of the statute. But how could I acknowledge that it was an "unlawful assembly and demonstration?" I did not budge and continued to study the statute. Later I thought to myself that I must negate his reasoning at a fundamental level. I further researched his definition. I found that the key word was "Assembly," because "Demonstration" was related to "Assembly." I carefully read about the "Assembly" several times, and finally discovered the flaw in his argument. Ours was not an "Assembly" according to the original text of the statute:

"This statute defines Assembly as - Activities of gathering in open public areas, to express, declare opinions and intentions."

The April 25 event met each criterion of the statute individually, but the article should be read as a complete sentence, expressing the idea, "Assembling in public area to express or voice opinions publicly." The law addresses activities that are carried out in the open, yet we expressed and voiced our opinions inside the State Council. It was raised by several Falun Gong representatives inside an

office, therefore it did not meet the definition of "Assembly," let alone "Demonstration."

The next day the guard reviewed my written opinion, and I discussed my thoughts with him. I also made an example of Martin Luther King's Speech "I Have A Dream" that was given in a public assembly at the Washington Mall. This expressed a joint wish of the masses, and this was a true assembly. Ours was different, and it was not an assembly. He was speechless.

Later on we had many confrontations and exchanges on this and other legal issues, but there were no loopholes that he could exploit. I summarized this experience and understood that stepping out of humanness is to fundamentally negate it. Looking back at it today, I feel that my negation was not quite thorough. Today the Fa rectification requires us to not simply safeguard the Fa, but to explain the facts and save sentient beings that have been deceived by lies. I feel that we should view the issue from the root, and fundamentally negate everything that is unacceptable.

A Small Practice Site in Mainland China: Studying the Fa and Clarifying the Truth Together

Before July 20, 1999, there were 25 Falun Gong practitioners at the practice site in our village. We would encourage each other to study the Fa and practice the exercises. Our health improved and our [*xinxing*](#) gradually and steadily improved. We felt really good.

On July 20, 1999, Jiang Zemin, out of jealousy, started the persecution to eradicate Falun Gong. We were trying so hard to be good people following the principles of "Truthfulness, Compassion, and Tolerance," yet we faced persecution. Depressed about the persecution and the slanderous propaganda against Dafa, five practitioners, including myself, decided to walk to Beijing to appeal to the higher authorities. On our way we were stopped by the County Public Security Bureau and sent back. We were detained for one day and one night. Then they transferred us to the compound of the county government, where we were detained for another several days. Each of us was fined 300 yuan before we were released.

After we came home, we were frequently harassed by local authorities. The village sent people to monitor us, and our family members also watched us closely. With our Teacher's guidance, several practitioners who lived close to each other had a discussion, "We cannot let it continue. We are Dafa disciples and will stick with cultivation practice, no matter what other people say." Soon after that, we were able to brake through these obstacles and resumed our group study of the Fa.

At the beginning, we did not have any truth clarification materials. We printed Teacher's articles and posted them up on electricity poles in the village market. Seeing that group after group of people gathered around and read the articles, we were very happy. Since then, we've made truth clarification materials ourselves. We printed them during the day and put them up at night. This continued for a year. Later, some practitioners from another village coordinated with us, and offered to make materials which we would then put up. We can cover about seven villages with our truth-clarification materials. In the villages where there are no practitioners, we post more materials.

The evil was running rampant and Teacher had not yet guided us to use our pure and upright minds as a tool to resist the persecution, but before we went out, we would always discuss and plan a different route, so that the authorities would not see a pattern. We didn't experience too much interference. Later on, when we had a good amount of truth clarification materials, Teacher told us about sending out our pure thoughts to eliminate evil. Now before going out to

post the materials, we do a brief meditation to cleanse the environment and then go in pairs to each village to distribute the materials.

Once, when one fellow practitioner and I went to hand out materials, we were identified as practitioners by someone on the street. This man took out his cell phone to call the police. I was nervous. My fellow practitioner said: "We put up the materials to help you understand Falun Gong. It is for your benefit." I did not know what to do, but I remembered what Teacher had told us about the power of our righteous thoughts, so I held up my palm in preparation to do this meditation. Soon the man said: "You can go, I think you are good people."

I was so nervous I couldn't sleep that night. At sunrise I asked myself, "How can I be so scared like this? I don't dare to make truth clarification materials any more." Then I told myself, "No, I am a Dafa disciple. I should not be afraid." The following night, my fellow practitioner and I went to another village to distribute more truth clarification materials.

During the past five years, with Teacher's guidance, we have continued with our group Fa study and sending forth righteous thoughts. No matter what the weather is, whether we were busy or not, we have continued posting truth clarification materials. When there was no electricity we would use candles, and we'd wear boots and carry umbrellas in the rain in order to continue putting up materials. Currently, there are four new practitioners in our village. With the help from fellow practitioners, quite a few veteran practitioners who were too frightened before have also stepped forward to help in the truth clarification.

Saving People Is Paramount: Establishing an Information Distribution Site

By a Falun Gong practitioner in China

I would like to share my experience and insights on how we established our local information distribution site, and how we operate it.

1. Remove the attachment of fear, abolish preconceived notions, do not wait or rely on others.

At first we distributed truth-clarifying materials obtained from other practitioners. We did not give it much advance thought, and would do it whenever materials became available. Suddenly one day we could not get the materials anymore, and even the weekly papers took a long time to reach us.

After waiting for a while I told myself we could not continue waiting like this, and the idea of getting my own computer and printer flashed through my mind. Right away I put that idea behind me, feeling it would be very risky. But through Fa study, I understood that I could not rely on others and wait for the environment to change. I realized that I must put my idea in motion, and not continue relying on and waiting for others, since that meant wasting time every day. I bought the computer and printer, overcame my own fear and became determined to get on the Internet.

After getting rid of my attachment to fear, I easily completed all necessary arrangements to get on the Internet by the second day. It only took me about 10 minutes, from setting up the computer to getting on the Internet. I used the Internet firewall security software introduced to me by other practitioners, as well as software designed to break through the Internet blockade, and I accessed the Minghui website in no time.

In actuality, surfing the Internet and downloading the files was not difficult, the difficulty was in whether we could overcome our attachments, overcome old notions, and completely deny the invalid arrangements reflected in our thoughts. Each practitioner must rise above the rigid framework within which they used to think, and act to take pressure off the shoulders of other practitioners.

In fact, I had already known how to get on the Internet, but had not made an effort to do so earlier on my own. Rather, I ended up going to another practitioner's place. This meant that I acknowledged an incorrect arrangement, and showed that I had a very selfish mind, leaving the difficult tasks to others, and saving the easy parts, the safest parts, for myself.

Next, let me go over the operation of our information distribution site.

2. Handle the finance issue seriously and leave no gaps to be taken advantage of.

After the information distribution site was established, the most critical factor guaranteeing the proper operation of the site was obtaining and handling capital. The way practitioners who are in positions of direct responsibility handle this resource is critical to the overall operation of the site. We must never be vague or careless with the money. Practitioners must set their minds right and act properly, and treat this issue very seriously. Fellow practitioners chipped in all the money for the site. They all did it well, with a heart devoted to validating the Fa. They would regularly send in the money they saved and give it to the coordinator. We must not get attached to anything, nor try to judge others. So long as we put our heart to exposing the lies to those deceived by propaganda, there should be no hurdles that we cannot overcome. At all times we must be sober-minded about the fact that the money is dedicated to saving people, and remember that the money we received carries our fellow practitioners' trust in us.

3. Maintain consistent upright thoughts, never become complacent, everyone is in charge because we are a team.

In stating that everyone is in charge, I did not mean that everyone should always try to boss others around as their superior and put himself above others. Rather, each of us must be responsible to the Fa, to our fellow practitioners, and to sentient beings, as demonstrated by our actions and thoughts. There are no role models in cultivation, and we all cultivate in our own environment and do our part well. The only difference is that we have different "assignments." Each one is indispensable, and there is no concept that someone is superior to others.

At our site, practitioners would seize every minute to study the Fa and send forth righteous thoughts after finishing the tasks. We should use the Fa as our guide and never be distracted by different phenomena taking place in the world. We always exchange and share our thoughts and experiences with fellow practitioners, based on the attitude of coordination and accomplishing the tasks well. As if in a battle, practitioners who distribute flyers are like the front line soldiers, and the practitioners who prepare materials are like the logistics and supply forces. As the saying goes, "Logistics must be in place before the soldiers can be mobilized." We could only quietly work in conjunction with practitioners who distribute the information, in order to produce good results and fully expand the effect of each Dafa particle. The more dedication we put forth in

producing the materials, the more fellow practitioners were devoted in distributing them, and the more people would cherish them.

4. Thinking that the distribution site would be the focal point of persecution would be acknowledging an invalid arrangement.

Many practitioners were afraid or unwilling to establish information distribution sites. They thought that they would become major targets of persecution once they establish the sites. In fact, entertaining such a notion meant that we completely accepted such an arrangement. The purpose of distributing truth-clarification flyers, explaining the truth face to face, and producing the truth-clarification materials is all aimed at saving people from being caught in the lies and deception. Each activity is a different aspect of the same effort. The evil factors have no standing against, nor can they persecute such an effort. The key to success was in how we divided our efforts, and the mental conditions under which the efforts were carried out.

We are Dafa disciples and we follow the path arranged by Teacher. We must maintain powerful righteous thoughts to purge our human notions because our mission is to save people. Practitioners who are producing truth-clarification materials must never acknowledge that information distribution sites are major targets of persecution -- they must not even have a single thought of this. All practitioners must rid themselves of such a notion and perception. We should all mobilize to establish more information distribution sites, and then there would be no such thing as a central information distribution site. When everybody is doing it, then there will not be any major targets.

The process of establishing the site was also the process of eradicating the evil factors and denying the incorrect arrangements. Let us all put down our selfishness, consider the big picture and the overall situation instead of focusing on our own safety. Let us fully maximize the power of each particle of Dafa, and decisively and completely expose and eradicate the evil.

An Official in the Judiciary: Writing Letters to Clarify the Truth of Falun Gong

By a Falun Gong Practitioner from Hubei Province

I am a Falun Gong practitioner, and by profession a government official in the Judiciary. I began practicing Falun Gong on June 26, 1996.

I was demoted because of my Falun Gong practice, but I felt it was important to let my former boss know that we Falun Gong practitioners were being persecuted. I wrote a nearly five thousand word letter and sent it to the Chief Procurator of the Provincial Procurator's Office. In the letter, I told my story of practicing and cultivating Falun Gong, what Falun Gong was, and how the persecution was conducted. I also hoped that he could understand the Fa, treat his staff, which had practitioners, well and tell the goodness of Falun Gong to his friends and relatives. The letter was delivered to him directly through his nephew. He accepted and acknowledged the reception of the letter.

Later, I wrote a letter of about five thousand words to the former immediate supervisor at my workplace and hand-delivered it to his office. The letter clarified that the persecution of Falun Gong practitioners was ongoing. I hoped that he could be kind to the Falun Gong practitioners on his staff and provide a good environment for practitioners, which he has really done since then.

I not only clarified the truth to the upper level officials, but also to the officials on my level by writing them letters. My colleagues worked at the Political and Judiciary Departments. They have more knowledge of law than most people and they are easy to communicate with when you link your points with the law.

Therefore, using their understanding of the law, I listed how illegal Jiang's regime's persecution of Falun Gong was, and exposed the role of the [610 Office](#) by focusing on its illegality. I pointed out in my letter that the 610 Office is the headquarters for the persecution led by Jiang's regime. It has authority over the law and every level of the government; it is a big tumor which needs to be eliminated completely. I wanted my colleagues to know the truth of Falun Gong, and that it is a righteous Fa.

I also wrote letters to my friends that I met in the military, my former colleagues, and my former classmates. I felt that they all had the chance to understand Falun Gong. Over the past several years, I have clarified the truth to them many times.

In the meantime, I continued clarifying the truth of Falun Gong to my relatives. My brother-in-law, who used to be the Deputy Division Chief, was upset about

my demotion due to practicing Falun Gong. I wrote a letter to him hoping that he could understand the real truth.

The People Awaken to the Truth

An Upright Official

Since the suppression of Falun Gong by Jiang's regime began, an official from Wei County, Hebei Province remained upright and kind. He used his conscience and wisdom to protect many Falun Gong practitioners in his work unit. At a Chinese Communist Party gathering, he talked about what he did for his close friend. His friend said, "You are doing the right thing but it's very risky. If Jiang's dogs learn what you did, you would lose your position, get sent to jail, and even your family might be implicated!"

He smiled calmly, "I know. I feel that we should all act conscientiously. The Falun Gong practitioners are kind people, and we all know that. We also know that they are key personnel in the work unit. I need them. If they really did something wrong, I would have them arrested, but they have done no such thing."

A Landlord from Hebei Province: "You Can Live Here Forever, You Don't Need to Pay Rent"

A couple in their 70s from Wei County, Hebei Province practices Falun Gong. They were forced to live on the streets and could not return home because of the persecution. After many difficulties, they rented a house and helped the landlord with maintenance.

One day, when the landlord needed to move some wood in the courtyard, the couple came to help. The lady held the lighter end while the gentleman held the heavy end of the load. The landlord tried to dissuade them from doing so, but they insisted on helping to move the wood until it was all loaded into the truck. The landlord was quite moved.

After they had lived together in the same building for a while, they started to understand and trust each other. One day, the couple told the landlord, "We are Falun Gong practitioners. We are sorry that we did not tell you before."

The landlord laughed, "You Falun Gong practitioners are kind people indeed. I guessed that myself because I am the person responsible for handling Falun Gong practitioners in my work unit. All Falun Gong practitioners are good people." He looked at the old couple and said sincerely, "From now on, you can live here without worry, and you don't need to pay any more rent."

Falun Gong Practitioners' Personal Experiences

After Practicing Falun Gong, My Incurable Illness Disappeared

By a Falun Gong practitioner from Jilin Province, China

Orphaned at twelve years old, I lived with my sixteen--year-old sister and nine-year-old brother. I suffered many hardships, and often had to borrow money for food and clothes. After I got married, my husband often gambled and did not return home at night. With the burden of supporting my family, I became ill from being overworked. I often felt pain in my chest, and ate only a little porridge for each meal. Then, after tending the fields and doing housework, I was exhausted. As my children grew up and went to school, the family expenses increased. Due to the mental pressure, I became addicted to smoking. The more I smoked, the worse my health became, and I coughed heavily.

In 1997, a sudden serious illness turned my life upside down. Large lumps grew all over my body. I could hardly bear the pain and itching, and could not sleep all night. My face was very swollen. A doctor diagnosed me with leukemia, and said it was incurable and that medical treatment could only prolong my life for several years. An ordinary farmer like me could not afford the medical fees, so I gave up, and waited to die.

When I was in despair, someone in our village held a Falun Gong class, teaching the exercises at no charge. Many students who had benefited from practicing urged me to learn. I did not think too much about it at the time. Not only did I have leukemia and a goiter, but I also had difficulty breathing. Why not try it? I walked into the class on the eighth day of the first lunar month in 1998.

As I knew only a few Chinese characters, initially I only listened to the tape recordings of Falun Gong founder, Li Hongzhi's lectures. After I finished listening for the first time, my heart suddenly became bright. From then on I quit smoking, and began following "Truthfulness, Compassion, and Tolerance," the requirements of Dafa, and constantly tried to be a good person. I stepped onto the road of cultivation practice.

When I started to read the book [*Zhuan Falun*](#), because I knew only a few Chinese characters, I asked other practitioners for help just like a grade school student. I learned how to look up words in the dictionary. Soon, I learned all the characters in *Zhuan Falun*. Whenever I held the book to read, I forgot all my pain. I quickly learned to do the exercises and enjoyed practicing. I went to practice every day. One day, a fellow practitioner asked me: "Where are the two big lumps on your neck?" When I looked, they were gone. I could breathe easily too.

This strengthened my confidence. Letting go of the concern for disease and pain, I went to labor in the fields during the day, and went home to study the principles and practice the exercises in the evening. Gradually, all the inflamed spots on my body disappeared and I felt no pain or itching. Since practicing Falun Gong, I have not needed any medicine, nor have I needed to go to the hospital even once. My leukemia was gone. It was Teacher Li and Falun Gong who saved me from the hands of death.

On July 20, 1999, Jiang's regime trampled the constitution, and began to persecute Falun Gong. Like hundreds of thousands of other Falun Gong practitioners, I suffered many tribulations due to the persecution. The village officials forced us to attend meetings from time to time. They said it was illegal to practice Falun Gong, but they could not tell which law it violated; they claimed Falun Gong was not good in certain ways, but actually, all these were fabricated rumors. Sometimes, they even came to my home, and they forcibly took my handprint.

Falun Dafa has given me a new life. The authorities forbade me to practice or study the Fa. Do they want me to die? We practice "Truthfulness, Compassion, and Tolerance," to be good people. What is wrong with this? Kind-hearted people, please think about it rationally! The Chinese Communist Party has invented one political movement after another for all these years. Who is telling the truth? Do not believe the rumors anymore. Listen to the truth of Dafa, and do not be deceived.

Falun Gong Put Me Back on My Feet Again

My name is Wei Huoqing. I am 34 years old and live in Shiqiaozi Town, Zhucheng City, Shandong Province. On January 21, 1995, I had a car accident and my leg sustained a compound fracture. The driver of the car drove off without stopping. I was only twenty-four and the sudden misfortune was a heavy blow to me and my family. Even a year after recovery, I still could not bend my right knee. In April 1997, I had another operation to remove the steel plate inserted in the initial surgery and loosen the muscle tendons. The surgeon said that because of the severity of the accident, my condition at that time was already better than expected.

Later, I could only manage to bend my leg to a maximum of 60 degrees, and no more. I had great difficulty in walking, not to mention getting a job. Young as I was, I felt that my disability had made me totally useless. I felt so helpless in meeting my future needs. In August 1997, a friend recommended a book, [*Zhuan Falun*](#), and told me that this could be the book that could help change my life.

Clinging onto a slight hope, I began reading *Zhuan Falun*. What a priceless book! Through reading, I have come to understand that all of our hurdles in life have reasons. Only through the path of cultivation can a person enrich his life and return to his true self. Since then, I started to seriously practice Falun Gong.

When I first started practicing the exercises, I encountered a lot of difficulties. Particularly in the sitting meditation, I could not fold my legs. Then, I decided to spend more time reading, as I believed my condition would improve. As expected, shortly afterwards, I could do the single leg crossing. Eventually, my other physical discomforts also disappeared and my right leg regained the same flexibility as before my accident.

My feelings of happiness were beyond expression. It was Dafa that had saved me, and I was committed to continue practicing and cultivating.

The enormous, miraculous change in my body surprised everyone around me. They all wanted to learn Falun Gong as well. Thus, the word of my recovery started spreading, and everyone began speaking highly of Falun Gong.