

Clearwisdom Review

An Update on Falun Dafa Worldwide

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Human Rights Torch Lighted in Athens To End the Persecution

(Clearwisdom.net) On the evening of August 9, 2007, the Global Human Rights Torch Relay was launched on Syntagma Square, in front of the Hellenic Parliament buildings in Athens, Greece. Representatives of the Coalition to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong (CIPFG) from four delegations in Europe, Asia, North America and Australasia, and other supporters observed the grand occasion at the birthplace of the Olympics, one year ahead of the Beijing 2008 Olympics. The ceremony launched the year-long "Global Human Rights Torch Relay." The torch relay will travel through 100 cities around the world. The purpose of the relay is to call on the international community to focus on the brutal violations of human rights and the Olympic spirit by the Chinese Communist regime (CCP), in order to prevent the 2008 Olympic Games, which symbolize peace and freedom of humanity, from becoming the "Bloody Harvest Games" (a reference to the CCP's crime of harvesting organs from Falun Gong practitioners).



On the evening of August 9, 2007, the "Human Rights Torch" was lit in Athens, Greece (Left). Secretary-General of Interfaith International, Dr. Charles Graves gives the first speech (Right)

Dr. Charles Graves, leading CIPFG member and Secretary-General of Interfaith International headquartered in Switzerland, introduced the original intention of the torch relay, and said that modern civilized countries cannot repress the torch of religious beliefs and at the same time hold the torch of the Olympics.

The CIPFG announced over three months ago that if the Chinese Communist Party would not make a satisfactory response to the three demands raised by the CIPFG by August 8, 2007, the CIPFG would gather righteous strength around the world to boycott the Beijing 2008 Olympics. The three demands are: 1) Stop the persecution of Falun Gong immediately and release all Falun Gong practitioners; 2) Stop the persecution of friends, supporters and defense lawyers of Falun Gong practitioners; 3) Hold discussions with CIPFG to arrange details of the opening up of forced labor camps, prisons, hospitals and related facilities for inspection by CIPFG independent investigators.

As of today, the CCP has not made any explicit response regarding the three demands; instead, it refused to issue visas for CIPFG members who wanted to enter China to conduct an investigation.

Introduction to Falun Dafa

Falun Dafa, also known as Falun Gong, is a practice for benefiting physical health and elevating the mind. Introduced by Mr. Li Hongzhi in China, the practice consists of five gentle exercises including meditation, and diligent effort on the part of practitioners to follow the universal principles of Truthfulness-Compassion-Forbearance in daily life. Falun Gong is not only beneficial to one's own health and well-being, it also benefits others. Although the practice originated in China, today it is practiced throughout the world by people of all races and walks of life. In the face of the most brutal and vicious persecution perpetrated on them by the Chinese Communist Party, Falun Gong practitioners have found the spiritual strength to resist peacefully and tirelessly by upholding the principles of Truthfulness-Compassion-Forbearance.



About Clearwisdom

Clearwisdom.net is the most authoritative source of information about the practice of Falun Gong and about the persecution of Falun Gong in China, reporting timely news and events happening inside China as well as from the more than 70 countries around the world where Falun Gong is practiced. Clearwisdom responsibly publishes the experiences and understandings of practitioners themselves, who submit the majority of the articles.

Mr. Li Enying Died as a Result of Police Brutality in Hebei Province

(Clearwisdom.net) Falun Gong practitioner Mr. Li Enying from Tanghai County, Tangshan City, Hebei Province, passed away on July 29, 2007, after being tortured at the Shijiazhuang Forced Labor Camp. His family noted large bruises on his back and behind his ears and went to the Tanghai County Police Department to demand an explanation. The police were quite afraid and tried to evade responsibility. They sent officers to monitor Li Enying's family near their home. Li Enying's family is destitute as a result of long-term persecution. They could not afford a storage fee for the body and other costs, so they cremated the body on the morning of August 1, 2007.



Practitioner Mr. Li Enying died as a result of police brutality (Left). Mr. Li before the persecution (Right).

On October 11, 2006, four officers from the Political and Security Office and the Fifth Farm Police Station arrested Mr. Li Enying while he was working, and detained him in the Tanghai County Detention Center. Mr. Li escaped from the detention center and left town. However, he was arrested on January 19, 2007, at a fellow practitioner's home in Beiqingtu Village, Tangshan City. Twenty police officers were involved in the illegal arrest. They sentenced Mr. Li to forced labor in the Shijiazhuang City Forced Labor Camp on January 25, 2007.

Mr. Li was savagely tortured in the Shijiazhuang Labor Camp, including being beaten and forced to sit on a small stool for a long time. He was not allowed visitation rights. On June 20, 2007, Mr. Li started to experience discomfort, and he was diagnosed as having tuberculosis. The camp released him on bail for medical treatment on July 17, 2007. Upon returning home, Li Enying continued having difficulty eating, walking, and breathing. He was confused, was unable to lie down, and his whole body was swollen. He coughed up a lot of mucus. Mr. Li Enying died on the afternoon of July 29, 2007.

Clarifying the Facts at the Tall Ships Races in Szczecin, Poland

(Clearwisdom.net) Falun Dafa practitioners from Poland and Germany participated in the Tall Ships Races 2007 in Szczecin, Poland from August 3 to 7. The Tall Ships Races are a major annual event for large sailing ships, and the organizers expected around 1.5 million visitors.



(Left) Practitioners demonstrated and taught the exercises to visitors at the Tall Ships Races 2007.

Practitioners performed and taught the Falun Gong exercises. They started performing in a space just below the Maritime Museum, beside the Provincial Building, and just above the mooring of one of Poland's most famous sailing ships, the Dar Młodzieży (Gift of Youth). Many people were moved by the exercises, as well as by the traditional-style dances performed by practitioners.

Practitioners distributed thousands of informational flyers among the spectators. The effect was powerful, and many people were happy to accept flyers. Many wanted their picture taken with the practitioners.

Police Department Head No Longer Persecutes Falun Gong

In November 2006, a Falun Gong practitioner in her seventies from Hubei Province went to a local police department to distribute Falun Gong informational materials. A policeman handed her over to the associate head. He told her, "I don't think you are a bad person. I'll let you go." The associate police department head was also in charge of the 610 Office, whose duty was to persecute Falun Gong. However, he treated practitioners with kindness because he had learned the facts.

Now he is no longer involved in persecuting Falun Gong. More people in China are coming to understand Falun Gong and the wrongness of the persecution.