

Clearwisdom Review

An Update on Falun Dafa Worldwide

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 4 FEBRUARY 14, 2008

Audience Praise for Falun Gong Practitioners' Courage

(Clearwisdom.net) On January 30, the Divine Performing Arts Company held its first grand show of the 2008 *Chinese New Year Splendor* at Radio City Music Hall in New York. From "Descent of the Celestial Kings" at the opening, to "The Drummers of the Tang Court" at the end, the evening presented the grace and deep inner meaning of traditional Chinese culture.



Sheng Xue

Shen Xue, living in Canada, is a well-known Chinese democracy activist, writer, poet, and reporter. She has seen the *Chinese New Year Spectacular* every year it has been presented. Ms. Shen attended the opening show in New York. She commented, "The performance gets better every year. The content of the individual acts is deeper. The dancing, costumes, songs, and colors become more beautiful."

Asked whether she thought the dance about the persecution of Falun Gong affected the joyous atmosphere of the evening, Ms. Shen said, "Humans' joy arises from the inner heart. Inner meaning brings people true joy. Funny talk makes people laugh. But they forget it after they get home. Facing the fact that Falun Gong has been persecuted for so many years, one cannot be truly happy if he turns a blind eye to it. ...I think that even at this time of family reunions and festivities, the facts about the persecution of Falun Gong practitioners in China should be presented to everyone through graceful art, to inspire peoples' conscience."



Ameena

Ameena, who works in a bank, loves Chinese culture. Her husband is from Hong Kong, and they have traveled to Mainland China many times. Ameena and her husband responded positively to the dances about Falun Gong in the *Splendor*. One of her husband's relatives escaped China to avoid the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) persecution. Ameena said that although the CCP will hold the Olympic Games, she knows that many people in China are still suffering badly, and subjected to illegal trials. Ameena had high praise for the show. She said it was wonderful, as it displayed the beauty of the Chinese culture. She thought the drum playing was particularly powerful.



Simpo Rora

Simpo Rora, a retired teacher in Brooklyn, said she was very impressed with the dance about the CCP's persecution of Falun Gong practitioners. She could feel everything expressed through the performance. It wasn't so much sympathy that she felt – she was moved by practitioners' courage to overcome adversity in the face of challenges.

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.

Minghui School Students Perform at Tokyo Festival



Minghui School students performed onstage at a festival in Tokyo

(Clearwisdom.net) On the morning of January 27, 2008, Falun Gong practitioners in Tokyo and students from the Minghui School participated in a local festival in Meiji Park. At around 1:00 p.m., students from the Minghui School performed a traditional dance on the festival stage, accompanied by a song sung by a female practitioner. The audience applauded enthusiastically and many remarked, "They are so lovely."

Next, the Tianzi Dance Troupe performed "The Thousand Hands of Bodhisattva Guanyin," also to a receptive audience. After the dance, the practitioners demonstrated the five sets of Falun Gong exercises. When the exercise demonstration was over, the festival hosts came on stage and complimented the whole performance enthusiastically, expressing their regret at only being able to see it from the wings.

Persecution-Related Deaths of 150 Falun Gong Practitioners Verified in 2007

(Clearwisdom.net) The deaths of 150 Falun Gong practitioners as a result of Chinese Communist Party persecution were verified through non-governmental channels in 2007. 123 of those deaths took place in 2007. Between July 20, 1999, and December 31, 2007, a total of 3,121 Falun Gong practitioners' deaths have been verified.

On October 15, 2007, the European Union and China were scheduled to hold a human rights dialog. Prior to the meeting, Vice President of the European Parliament Mr. Edward McMillan-Scott sent a letter to the Speaker of the European Parliament, Hans-Gert Poettering. In the letter, he mentioned that two thirds of those detained by the Chinese Communist regime are Falun Gong practitioners. Human rights attorney Gao Zhisheng concluded that about 250,000 practitioners are still being detained.

Mr. Wu Yueqing, a practitioner in his 30s, lived in Shuangyashan City, Heilongjiang Province. In June 2000, Mr. Wu was arrested and detained in the Tiebei Detention Center in Changchun City. The guards and the prison doctor stuck a water bottle down his throat and force-fed food into his trachea, causing his lungs to become infected. In December 2001, Mr. Wu was again arrested. He was sent to the Mudanjiang City Prison. During the detention, he was sick with tuberculosis and was severely underweight, at less than 80 pounds. Around the beginning of 2007, Mr. Wu returned home, close to death. His sister, Ms. Wu Yuexia, who is also a practitioner, looked after him. On September 28, 2007, police officers stormed into Ms. Wu Yuexia's home and took her to the Jiamusi City Labor Camp. Ms. Wu was her brother's only source of support. He died on December 23, 2007, leaving a 13-year-old child to live in an orphanage.



Mr. Wu Yueqing was persecuted by the police multiple times and severely injured.

Another practitioner, Mr. Wu Jiuping, also in his 30s, lived in Tianchang City, Anhui Province. He was employed by the Tianchang City People's Hospital. At 4:00 p.m. on November 22, 2007, officers from the Tianchang City 610 Office and two police officers went to Mr. Wu Jiuping's home. Mr. Wu's neighbor on the first floor heard a loud noise outside and found Mr. Wu on the ground. The neighbor called for help and saw the four officers quickly leaving. A rescue worker rushed Wu to the Tianchang City People's Hospital. Soon after, about a dozen police officers sealed off Mr. Wu's home. Mr. Wu's bride-to-be and his family are all being closely monitored. Wu Jiuping died in the hospital at approximately 8:00 p.m. on November 22, 2007. Further investigation determined that after the police beat Mr. Wu on November 22 in his apartment, he was severely injured. The police then threw him from the fourth floor.