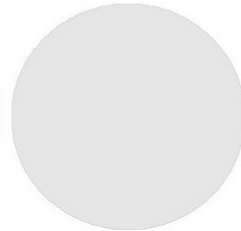
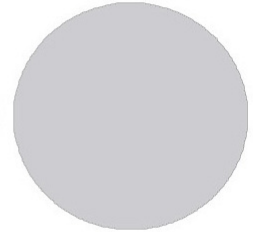
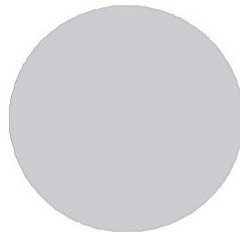
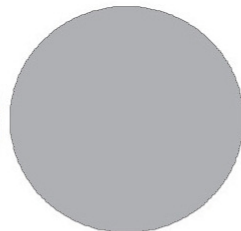
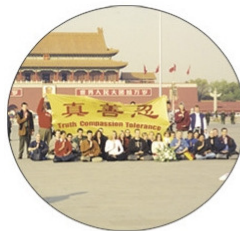


# Clearwisdom Digest

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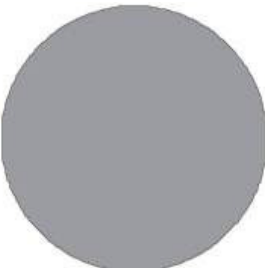
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# News and Events from Around the World



## *Parliamentary Friends of Falun Gong (PFOFG) Founded in Ottawa*

Parliamentary Friends of Falun Gong (PFOFG) was founded in Ottawa by an all-party group of senators and members of Parliament concerned about adversities facing followers of Falun Gong. It is the first such group of parliamentarians in the world lending focused support to the practitioners of Falun Dafa, that has suffered a decade of persecution in communist China.

"Our first goal is to make sure parliamentarians are better informed about issues related to Falun Gong," said PFOFG chair Bill Siksay. "One of the key purposes of [PFOFG] is to encourage respect for fundamental human rights in China." The founding PFOFG membership comprises two senators and eighteen MPs from all parties represented in Parliament.

Mr. Siksay said the group's first step is to meet with the Falun Dafa Association of Canada (FDAC). Future activities may include sponsoring programs and events with FDAC on Parliament Hill such as the May 27 China human rights forum hosted by MP Scott Reid, a PFOFG director.

"We are extremely delighted to learn that this group has been formed," said FDAC president Li Xun. "The concern by parliamentarians sends a strong indication of the significance of the matter. It will send an encouraging message to the practitioners in China."

Ten years ago, Canada also took the lead as the first country to publicly condemn the persecution. Canada filed an official protest with the Chinese foreign ministry shortly after mass arrests and detentions of practitioners began on July 20, 1999, as reported by *The Globe and Mail*.

Parliamentarians' efforts and Canadians' concerns over the years have led to the release of practitioners in China and compelled former prime ministers Jean Chrétien and Paul Martin to raise the issue of the persecution with Chinese leaders.

Support has continued despite ongoing attempts by the Chinese Embassy and Consulates to vilify Falun Gong, including displaying hate materials in their visa offices, controlling Chinese-language media to turn public opinion against the practice, and pressuring Canadian officials not to support practitioners.

Mr. Li believes the PFOFG "will play a significant role in the Parliament" as it reflects the wish of Canadians as well as advances Canada's leadership role taken as early as 1999 when the persecution began.

"Canadians who practice Falun Gong have asked for our help," said Mr. Woodworth in a news release. "The very least parliamentarians can do is stand up for human rights whenever they are called upon to do so."

### *Shen Yun Eagerly Anticipated in Hong Kong*

Shen Yun Performing Arts, an artistic performance group that has swept the world, is scheduled to perform in Hong Kong in January 2010. People from all circles are looking forward to seeing the Shen Yun shows, and an increasing number of politicians in Hong Kong are taking note of the upcoming show and are interested in seeing it. They are beginning to encourage the people in Hong Kong to seize this rare opportunity to attend.

Established in the United States and aiming to restore classical Chinese culture, Shen Yun Performing Arts presents programs of pure compassion and beauty. Three performing companies and two orchestras have toured North America, Europe, Asia, Australia, and South America and performed more than 300 shows to more than 800,000 audience members from December 19, 2008, to October 15, 2009. The number of shows each year has increased, from 81 in 2007, to 215 in 2008, and over 300 in 2009.

After the sponsors of Shen Yun in Hong Kong announced the upcoming shows on October 4, many members of the Legislative Councils have expressed their great enthusiasm and best wishes.



*Member of the Legislative Council Mr. Ho Chun Yan*

Mr. Ho Chun Yan, member of the Legislative Council and chairman of the Democratic Party said, "I am looking forward to Shen Yun's arrival and wish the shows great success!"

Mr. Li Wah Ming, member of the Legislative Council said enthusiastically, "It is a rare opportunity! I sincerely wish the shows great success and look forward to the great joy and surprise they will bring the people in Hong Kong!"

Mr. Leung Yiu Chung, member of the Legislative Council said, "I wish the shows great success and hope they will bring Hong Kong a great message of the culture for the nation, and great attainment in these areas."

The politicians are highly recommending the Shen Yun shows and encouraging everyone to take advantage of this opportunity. Mr. Ho said, "The Shen Yun Performing Arts shows will provide the people in Hong Kong with a wider view. It is great! The art group has toured around the world and been warmly received all over. I believe it is a world class art performance!"



*Mr. Li Wah Ming, member of the Legislative Council*

Member of the Legislative Council Mr. Li Wah Ming said he had heard about the Shen Yun Performing Arts world-class shows. "It is a rare opportunity for Hong Kong. It is a great achievement to have presented so many shows in so many countries around the world. I hope the people in Hong Kong won't miss this opportunity!"

The Legislative Council members were happy to help spread the news about Shen Yun. Mr. Leung said that coordination with local organizations will help spread the news to more people. He said he would be glad to help.



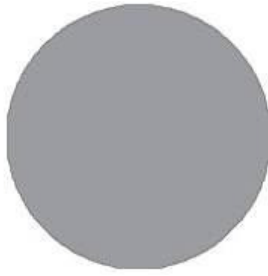
*Member of the Legislative Council Mr. Leung Yiu*

Mr. Ho expressed hopes that bringing Shen Yun to Hong Kong would proceed without incident. He said Hong Kong is a place of freedom, and various arts groups should be respected. "As a member of the Legislative Council and an attorney, I will do my best to ensure Shen Yun's freedom and right to perform in Hong Kong."

The Shen Yun Performing Arts website is [ShenYunPerformingArts.org](http://ShenYunPerformingArts.org)



## Facts of the Persecution



### *Ms. Tang Haihua Dies in Custody, Body Immediately Cremated*

**Name:** Tang Haihua

**Gender:** Female

**Age:** 53

**Address:** Xinhui Town, Chifeng City, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region

**Occupation:** Medical PhD Student at Jilin University

**Date of Death:** Before October 9, 2009

**Most Recent Place of Detention:** Aohan Detention Center

**City:** Chifeng

**Province:** Inner Mongolia

**Persecution Suffered:** Illegal Sentencing, Imprisonment, Torture, Home Ransacked, Detention

On July 6, 2007, the police arrested Ms. Tang and other Falun Gong practitioners, detained them in Aohan Detention Center, and did not allow their families to visit.

At the beginning of January 2008, Ms. Tang and three other practitioners were each sentenced to three years in prison. They were taken to the Hohhot City Women's Prison in March 2008. There is no information on when or why Ms. Tang was taken back to the detention center or if she was ever accepted by the prison.

At 8:00 p.m. on October 9, 2009, her family received a notice saying that she was dying. They rushed to Aohan Detention Center. Upon entering the women's ward, they saw Ms. Tang's body, which was frozen hard in the freezer.

The detention center guards did not allow her family to inquire about the cause of her death, and they even threatened them, "No discussion. Her body must be cremated!"

Her family was not allowed to go near her body. The center called for transport from the crematory to take her body away and told her family that they had to pay for it.

Ms. Tang's family had to stand 1 meter (about 3 feet) away as the detention center personnel put clothes on her. Although they could not examine her closely, they still saw that her head, back, and chest were covered with purple bruises. Her wrist seemed to be fractured, and she had no shoes on.

### *Mr. Guo Huisheng Dies as a Result of Persecution*

**Name:** Guo Huisheng (郭会生)

**Gender:** Male

**Age:** Unknown

**Address:** Unknown

**Occupation:** Staff member of the Legal System Office in Jiahe County, Hunan Province

**Date of Death:** October 12, 2009

**Date of Most Recent Arrest:** August 6, 2009

**Most Recent Place of Detention:** Local detention center

**City:** Jiahe County

**Province:** Hunan Province

**Persecution Suffered:** Beatings, Home Ransacked, Detention

Mr. Guo Huisheng was a member of the staff at the Legal Office in Jiahe County, Hunan Province. His wife Ms. Li Jumei works for Zhuquanwan Elementary School. They wrote a letter to Xi Xiaogang, chief of Lanshan County Police Department, to request the release of Falun Gong practitioner Ms. Xiao Silan. As a result, they suffered brutal persecution from the local [610 Office](#) and the police.

On the night of August 6, 2009, they were arrested by a group of police officers. Mr. Guo's hands were handcuffed behind his back, and he was held to the ground and beaten by Hu Yonghui, political instructor of the Domestic Security Team, and another three officers. When he was brought to the police station, there was blood all over his head and face. Their home was searched twice when no one was home.



*Mr. Guo Huisheng (alive and well before detention)*



*Mr. Guo Huisheng in hospital*

On October 6, 2009, he fell into a coma in the detention center, and was taken to the People's Hospital in Jiahe County. After brain surgery, he remained in a coma. He had a faint heartbeat.

It has been confirmed that he passed away at 5:00 a.m. on October 12, 2009. His wife is still being detained.

People involved in persecution:

Hu Yongui, Political Instructor of the Domestic Security Team of Lanshan County Police Department: 86-13973546350

Xi Xiaogang, Chief of Lanshan County Police Department: 86-13974683966

## *College Student Mr. Ge Kun Sentenced to a Nine-Year Prison Term*

**Name:** Ge Kun (葛坤)

**Gender:** Male

**Age:** Unknown

**Address:** Apt. 301, Unit East, Building 1, Zhonghe Street, Guanxi Zone, Weicheng District, Weifang City.

**Occupation:** Student, Department of Architecture in a University in Tianjin City

**Date of Most Recent Arrest:** July 9, 2008

**Most recent place of detention:** Weifang City Detention Center (潍坊看守所)

**City:** Weifang

**Province:** Shandong

**Persecution Suffered:** Electric Shock, Sleep Deprivation, Forced Labor, Beatings, Hang Up, Imprisonment, Solitary Confinement, Torture, Force-Feedings, Extortion, Expelled from School, Physical Restraint, Home Ransacked, Interrogation, Detention

**Key Persecutors:** Mou Aiping, Lv Baoqing, Li Hong

**Defense Attorney:** Wu Jiangtao

At 8:30 a.m. on October 18, 2009, Mou Aiping, the chief judge, and two alternate judges Lv Baoqing and Lihong from Hanting District Court in Weifang City, Shandong Province sentenced Mr. Ge Kun to nine years in prison.

Mr. Ge Kun was arrested on July 9, 2008, one month before the Beijing Olympic Games. He was imprisoned and tortured for more than a year. Mr. Ge Kun, who was a very healthy young man, is now emaciated and physically weak.

Mr. Ge Kun was a student majoring in architecture at a university in Tianjin City. He is very honest, simple and kind. Anyone who knows him will attest to that. Because he went to Beijing to appeal for justice, the police stabbed him with a knife, then the college detained and expelled him. He was harassed frequently by CCP agents. Therefore, he couldn't live a normal life and became destitute.

At 6:00 a.m. on July 9, 2008, the Domestic Security Team of Weifang City Police Department arrested Mr. Ge Kun at Datuo Dormitory, Kuiwen District, Weifang City. They took him to Weifang City Detention Center and refused family visitation. The police ransacked his dormitory and confiscated his desktop computer, cell phone, digital camera, his mother's jewelry, bank book and other personal property valued at 35,000 [yuan](#).

Mr. Ge Kun went on hunger strike. After six days, he was force fed and tortured. He was tied to a cross for six days. The cross was supported with iron pipes. His hands were stretched out and strapped to the cross. He suffered excruciating pain.

Guards interrogated him almost daily. They forced him to sit on an [iron chair](#) and interrogated him for four days and nights. He suffered sleep deprivation for five days. In December 2008, the police interrogated him again. Mr. Ge Kun's family visited him at Changle Detention Center and brought with them some cotton clothes and a feather jacket. The guard refused again family visitation and did not accept the clothes.

Mr. Ge Kun was cruelly tortured and suffered physically and spiritually. His face looked sallow and swollen. He was weak. Despite his condition, he was forced to work overtime daily.

His parents had hired Wen Haibo, a human rights lawyer from Beijing as he was innocent. On January 5, 2009, Wen Haibo went to Hanting District Procuratorate to look through the files, but the officials refused to hand them over. At the end of May 2009, because the CCP's Justice Ministry had confiscated Wen Haibo's law certificate, Mr. Ge Kun's family hired Wu Jiangtao, a lawyer from Beijing Xinnuo Law Firm, to defend Mr. Ge Kun.

On July 31, 2009, judges in Hanting District Court, Weifang City put Mr. Ge Kun on trial. When Wu Jiangtao went to review the files, the officials only let him review a little of Mr. Ge's case. They didn't allow the lawyer to copy the files. In court, the judges interrupted Wu Jiangtao many times when he tried to defend Mr. Ge Kun.

On October 18, 2009, the judges from Hanting District, Weifang City held a court session to charge Ge Kun for a second time and sentenced him to a nine year prison term.

## *On Hunger Strike 19 Days, Ms. Zheng Yuling Dies in Custody*

**Name:** Zheng Yuling

**Gender:** Female

**Age:** In her 50s

**Address:** Unknown

**Occupation:** Employee of Chibi City Trade Bureau

**Date of Death:** September 28, 2009

**Date of Most Recent Arrest:** August 6, 2009

**Most Recent Place of Detention:** Hubei Province Women's Forced Labor Camp

**City:** Chibi

**Province:** Hubei

**Persecution Suffered:** Forced Labor, Brainwashing, Beatings, Torture, Detention

Ms. Zheng Yuling was arrested on the night of August 6, 2009 while she was posting a banner at the dormitory building of Chibi City Police Department. She was sentenced to one year of forced labor and taken to the Hubei Province Women's Forced Labor Camp on August 25, 2009, which is located in 1-Mahu Community, Hongshan District, Wuhan City.

Ms. Zheng's husband rushed to the labor camp on September 29, 2009. Her body had been dressed and her face made up, but he could still tell that her nose was deformed and there were many needle holes in her hand.



*Ms. Zheng Yuling*

The camp administrator told him that Ms. Zheng began a hunger strike on September 9 and died at noon on September 28.

He asked the guards, "She was on a hunger strike for 19 days before she died. Why didn't you tell me earlier?"

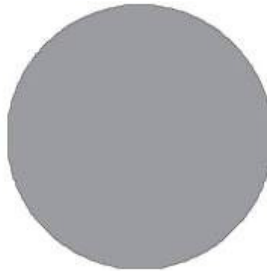
The guards had no answer.

Ms. Zheng's body was cremated on September 30, 2009 at a crematory in Wuhan City. The authorities deprived her family's right to hold a funeral for her, and forced them to cancel the funeral arrangements.

Her ashes were taken to the city crematory by agents from the provincial 610 Office and the forced labor camp on October 11, 2009. Ms. Zheng's family was not allowed to bury her ashes in her hometown in the countryside.



## Voice of Justice



***Large Numbers of Falun Gong Practitioners Targeted for Persecution and Arrest in 2009, Says Congressional-Executive Commission on China  
(Excerpt)***

New York--In its 2009 Annual Report released last week, the U.S. Government Congressional-Executive Commission on China thoroughly documents the continued and intensified targeting of Falun Gong practitioners by the Chinese security apparatus over the past year. The section on Falun Gong cites, in particular, the involvement of top Chinese Communist Party officials in directing a "strike hard" campaign against Falun Gong, as well as the robust activity of the extralegal 6-10 Office in carrying out such directives.

According to the report, "The government maintained its longstanding ban against the Falun Gong spiritual movement [in 2009]. Viewing the 10th anniversary as sensitive, the central government held fast in 2009 with its 2008 pre-Olympics efforts to ferret out and punish Falun Gong practitioners."

"Authorities conducted propaganda campaigns that deride Falun Gong, carried out strict surveillance of practitioners, detained and imprisoned large numbers of practitioners, and subjected some who refuse to disavow Falun Gong to torture and other abuses in re-education through labor facilities. International media and Falun Gong sources also reported deaths of practitioners in Chinese police custody in 2008 and 2009."

The Congressional-Executive Commission on China is a special joint body of the U.S. House of Representatives, Senate, and executive branch established in 2000 to monitor human rights and the development of rule of law in China. Its 400-page annual report, released on October 10, covers in detail a wide range of issues, including freedom of religion, freedom of expression, and the functioning of the judicial system. The research on Falun Gong draws on official Chinese documents and websites, reports by international media and human rights groups, and testimony from Chinese rights lawyers and former prisoners of conscience.

**Key Findings and Evidence**

Four key conclusions emerge from the CECC's research insofar as it relates to the current persecution faced by Falun Gong practitioners in China. Following the abbreviated list below is a more extensive explanation citing samples of the relevant evidence provided in the report. For a full compilation of Falun Gong-related excerpts, see CECC 2009 Annual Report (excerpts):

1. Advancing the CCP's decade-long persecution against Falun Gong was a key priority in a nationwide crackdown in 2009. The crackdown was led by top Party leaders--

including Vice President Xi Jinping and Politburo Standing Committee member Zhou Yongkang--and carried out by the public security bureau (PSB) and local Party branches throughout the country.

2. Large numbers of Falun Gong practitioners nationwide continued to be subject to surveillance, detention, "re-education through labor" and abuse in custody, leading sometimes to death. During the year, concerns of organ harvesting from nonconsenting Falun Gong prisoners of conscience continued to arise, including from the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture.

3. Extensive efforts were made, led by the 6-10 Office, to vilify Falun Gong practitioners amongst Chinese citizens and mobilize the public to contribute to the arrest of practitioners--including via special school lessons and offers of monetary rewards to informants.

4. The CCP and 6-10 Office continued to use political control over the court system, legal profession, and law enforcement agencies to systematically deny Falun Gong practitioners their basic rights to due process, fair trials, and access to counsel. These efforts included direct instructions to judges on how to decide Falun Gong cases and an escalation in the assaults and harassment of Chinese lawyers seeking to defend Falun Gong clients.

## **KEY FINDINGS AND EVIDENCE FROM CECC REPORT**

**1. Advancing the CCP's decade-long persecution against Falun Gong was a key priority in a nationwide crackdown in 2009. The crackdown was led by top Party leaders--including Vice President Xi Jinping and Politburo Standing Committee member Zhou Yongkang--and carried out by the public security bureau (PSB) and local Party branches throughout the country.**

- PSB directives: "The high priority that Party leaders place on the 'struggle' against Falun Gong was demonstrated by its inclusion as a principal target for a 'strike hard' campaign in a [February 2009] directive that set the agenda for public security bureaus (PSB) nationwide this year" (pg. 353)

- Project 6521: "Chinese authorities placed the anti-Falun Gong campaign prominently on the agenda of a special public security task force called 'Project 6521,' which reportedly was established to maintain 'social stability' during four sensitive anniversaries in 2009, including the 10th anniversary of the April 25 Falun Gong silent demonstration near the Party leadership compound in Beijing." (pg. 121)

"The presence of two of China's top leaders at the helm of Project 6521, Vice President Xi Jinping and Zhou Yongkang, indicates the importance that the Party assigns to its political 'struggle' against Falun Gong... Provincial and municipal governments were

reportedly required to set up temporary 6521 taskforces led by the local deputy Party secretary and public security chief while county and township authorities were instructed to report their implementation of Project 6521 to the municipal and provincial taskforces." (pg. 353)

**2. Large numbers of Falun Gong practitioners throughout the country continued to be subject to surveillance, detention, "re-education through labor" and abuse in custody, leading sometimes to death. During the year, concerns of organ harvesting from nonconsenting Falun Gong prisoners of conscience continued to arise, including from the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture.**

- Surveillance: "The 6-10 Office and public security bureaus throughout China surveilled and monitored communities, residences, and workplaces in order to identify and isolate Falun Gong adherents.... In June 2009, Jiujiang City officials in Jiangxi Province described a surveillance system focused on a group of 829 'key figures,' composed primarily of former Falun Gong prisoners. In July, authorities in Shandong Province's Zibo City placed nine practitioners under a 'system of 24-hour monitoring and control.'" (pg. 122)

- "Re-education through labor" (RTL): "Chinese authorities continue to employ an extrajudicial system of incarceration known as 're-education through labor' (RTL) to punish multitudes of Falun Gong practitioners... In 2008, the Beijing Women's RTL Center reportedly held 700 Falun Gong practitioners compared to only 140 prisoners accused of other crimes. In February 2009, more than half of the 13 former RTL inmates interviewed for one study--none of whom were practitioners--noted that Falun Gong constituted one of the largest groups of RTL prisoners and that they are singled out for harsh treatment." (pg. 123)

- Widespread arrests: "As security intensified ahead of the 10th anniversary of the ban, the 'strike hard' campaign resulted in widespread detentions and imprisonment of Falun Gong practitioners. In the first half of 2008, Harbin municipality authorities in Heilongjiang Province placed 53 Falun Gong practitioners in criminal detention, 23 in administrative detention, formally arrested 23, and ordered 19 to serve RTL." (pg. 123)

- Torture and deaths in custody: "Cases of torture and death of Falun Gong practitioners in official custody, both confirmed and alleged, continued to surface in the past year... In March 2009, a public security officer at the Shibe District Liaoyuan Road PSB station in Qingdao reportedly beat Lu Xueqin, a Falun Gong practitioner, for nine days until she was permanently paralyzed from the waist down. In July 2009, a 45-year-old practitioner named Yang Guiquan was reportedly declared dead upon arrival at the Fuxin City Mining Corporation General Hospital in Liaoning Province after being held for 16 days by police and reportedly beaten with electric batons and force-fed." (pg. 124)

- Organ harvesting: "In the past year, allegations of organ harvesting from nonconsenting Falun Gong prisoners have emerged again, further raising concerns about possible abuses in China's organ transplant industry... In December 2008, the UN Committee against Torture (UNCAT) indicated in its report on China that the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Manfred Nowak, had noted 'an increase in organ transplant operations coincides with the 'beginning of the persecution of,'... In an August 2009 interview, Nowak noted that it remains to be seen how it could be possible that organ transplant surgeries in Chinese hospitals have risen massively since 1999, while there are never that many voluntary donors available.'" (pg. 188)

**3. Extensive efforts were made, led by the 6-10 Office, to vilify Falun Gong practitioners amongst Chinese citizens and to mobilize the public to contribute to the arrest of practitioners--including via special school lessons and offers of monetary rewards to informants.**

- Public propaganda campaigns: "Xuanwei authorities also authorized a 'powerful political offensive' in all villages and neighborhoods involving mandatory resident participation in a propaganda campaign to 'effectively frighten' Falun Gong." (pg. 122)

- Anti-Falun Gong lessons in universities and elementary schools: "The 6-10 Office focuses on public schools and universities as venues for spreading its message... In May 2009, the Xinjiang Agricultural University initiated a 10-month campaign to 'build a durable ideological line of defense' to 'guard against and resist'... Falun Gong. In July, elementary school students in Leshan City, Sichuan Province, attended a 'lively' speech from the local Party secretary and viewed an 'anti-cult warning film.' The principal instructed students to study 'anti-cult' materials during the summer, take notes or write a comic book to illustrate lessons learned, and return a form with a parent's signature to verify completion of the assignment." (pg. 123)

- Paid informants: "Identification and monitoring of Falun Gong practitioners is also accomplished through the 6-10 Office's cultivation of paid informants... The 6-10 Office in Liuyang, a county-level city under Hunan Province's Changsha municipality, launched a 24- hour hotline for informants in March [2009] and announced rewards of between 50 and 1,000 yuan (US\$7 and US\$146)... Authorities in Anhui Province's Bengbu City credited an informant's call for facilitating the capture of a 50-year-old disabled Falun Gong practitioner named Yu Xiaoping who was distributing leaflets." (pg. 122)

**4. The CCP and 6-10 Office continued to use political control over the court system, legal profession, and law enforcement agencies to systematically deny Falun Gong practitioners their basic rights to due process, fair trials, and access to counsel. These efforts included direct instructions to judges on how to decide Falun Gong cases and an escalation in the assaults and harassment of Chinese lawyers seeking to defend Falun Gong clients.**

- 6-10 Office interference in judicial proceedings: "The Party's 6-10 Office reportedly has interfered in the adjudication of Falun Gong cases. In November 2008, defense lawyers for two practitioners on trial at the Jiguan District People's Court in Jixi City, Heilongjiang Province, challenged the court's independence when the presiding judge was seen meeting with 6-10 Office agents during a court recess. In February 2009, the Xi'an District People's Court in Liaoyuan City, Jilin Province, reported that when preparing for a trial involving Falun Gong ..., the court must first 'petition' the municipal 6-10 Office, and only after receiving an affirmative response is the court then permitted to hear the case." (pg. 126)

- Other forms of obstructing justice: "In the past year, trials of Falun Gong practitioners continued to display procedural irregularities and violations, while justice bureaus took actions that subverted ordinary legal protections. In October 2008, the Wuhou District People's Court in Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan Province, sentenced 11 Falun Gong practitioners to between three and seven years in prison. The court reportedly barred family members from attending the trial and prohibited the defendants' lawyers from speaking. More than 15 lawyers joined together to appeal the ruling, but the appeals court attempted to obstruct their access to court records. The Harbin Municipal Justice Bureau issued a directive in October requiring attorneys who defend Falun Gong practitioners to report to and receive pre-trial 'guidance' from the government-controlled lawyers association." (pg. 126)

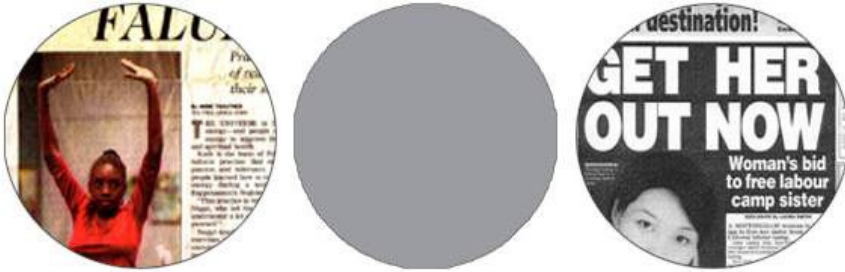
- Physical assaults and detention of lawyers: "In the past year, security officials in southwest China reportedly assaulted attorneys who attempted to defend Falun Gong clients facing charges in China's judicial system... In 2009, authorities in northeastern China reportedly detained at least four attorneys on account of their defense of Falun Gong clients... On May 13, 2009, more than 20 officers from the Jiangjin District Public Security Bureau (PSB) in Chongqing municipality reportedly physically assaulted attorneys Li Chunfu and Zhang Kai at the home of Jiang Xiqing, a Falun Gong practitioner whose death in custody they were investigating. Officers took Li and Zhang to the PSB where they hung them inside iron cages, interrogated, and beat them. Police reportedly told Li and Zhang that "you absolutely cannot defend Falun Gong; this is the situation in China." (pg. 124)

- The torture and disappearance of Gao Zhisheng: "The Chinese Government's harsh treatment of lawyers who defend Falun Gong has been most severe in the case of Gao Zhisheng, a prominent human rights attorney who was last seen being forcibly taken from his hometown by public security officials on February 4, 2009. When public security officials abducted Gao in September 2007, Gao was tortured in a secret location outside Beijing for more than 50 days. Gao's account of the abduction describes how he was repeatedly struck with electric batons all over his body, including his genitals, and subjected to other forms of torture. Gao recounts how his tormentors admitted that Falun Gong practitioners were indeed tortured, as Gao had previously alleged: "You are

not incorrect in saying that we torture Falun Gong followers. That's right, we do. The 12 courses we're serving you were perfected on the Falun Gong followers." Gao was also warned that he would be killed if he told anyone about being abducted and tortured. He has not been seen since February." (pg. 125)

- Harassment and loss of license: "In cases where authorities did not physically assault or detain attorneys who defend Falun Gong, officials often harassed and intimidated them... As of early September 2009, at least 21 rights lawyers had not passed the "annual assessment and registration." Rights lawyers and NGOs believe that authorities are punishing the lawyers for taking on cases the government deems sensitive or controversial, such as cases involving Falun Gong... In late March 2009, Jiang Tianyong and Tang Jitian--two of the human rights lawyers whose licenses to practice law were not renewed by the May 31 deadline this year--were prevented from meeting their detained client, Ge Hefei, a Falun Gong practitioner, in Hebei Province." (pg. 104)

## Media Reports and Opinions





## *An Underground Challenge to China's Status Quo*

Washington - The lead image on the Sept. 27 edition of the Jinzhou evening newspaper was hardly unusual. In anticipation of the 60th anniversary of Communist Party rule in China, it featured a street lined with enormous red flags beating in the wind.

It would have been nearly indistinguishable from any other Chinese state-run newspaper that day but for one important detail. In the bottom left corner of the photo, scrawled on a bike rack, were eight tiny but clearly visible characters: "Heaven condemns the Communist Party; denounce it and be blessed."

Similar writings that dare to challenge the divine mandate of China's rulers appear regularly across China, hanging as banners in city parks, posted on Internet forums, or handwritten on paper bank notes. It is all evidence of a movement that has silently swept the nation. Called Tuidang, which translates simply as "withdraw from the party," the movement encourages people to publicly renounce their membership in Communist organizations. The implications are manifold. This is the first time since the 1980s that China has seen such a large, organized dissident movement—if an underground one.

The day after the image ran, the Jinzhou newspaper came under investigation by the government. Its website was shut down, and the paper taken out of circulation.

The incident represents a fitting analogy for the state of the Communist Party today. Beneath the pomp and power lie resentment, discontent, and questions. In 60 years of Communist rule, China has endured political and social upheaval that has left deep psychic wounds.

But in the country's totalitarian climate, the people have few avenues to openly discuss their country's history or to make peace with their own role in it. Since China has not had its opportunity for truth and reconciliation, its citizens are finding their own ways to do this.

Perhaps that explains the extraordinary appeal of the Tuidang movement, which organizers say has more than 60 million participants. It began in late 2004, when New York-based Chinese dissident newspaper DaJiYuan (Epoch Times, affiliated with the spiritual movement Falun Gong) ran a series of polemic editorials detailing the history of the Communist Party in China. They also proclaimed that the country would not truly be free or prosperous until it was rid of the party, which, it argued was at odds with China's cultural and spiritual values.

Millions of copies of the articles found their way into mainland China through e-mails, faxes, and underground printing houses. Some Chinese readers say the articles finally

confirmed what they suspected all along—about the Great Leap Forward, the Tiananmen massacre, and the Cultural Revolution. This offered recognition that their memories were real and their suffering was shared.

But despite appearances, this is not a political movement in the conventional sense. Unlike the student movement of 1989 or the more recent Charter 2008 manifesto—both of which embraced the language of Western democracy—the Tuidang movement employs distinctly Chinese language and meaning. More Confucian than humanist, it often makes its points by drawing on Buddhist and Daoist spirituality.

Denouncing the party is thus not simply political activism, but takes on spiritual meaning as a process of cleansing the conscience and reconnecting to traditional ethics and values.

In December 2004, one month after the articles were published by the dissident newspaper, its editors started receiving statements from readers declaring their wish to disavow membership in the Communist Party, the Communist Youth League, or the Young Pioneers, sometimes after their memberships had technically expired. Today, statements representing some 60 million people have been sent to the newspaper, which posts them to an online database.

The authenticity of the declarations is impossible to independently verify. Most people sign them using aliases to protect their safety, and there are no provisions to prevent fraudulent postings.

But the numbers are really not the point. For those who do send in their statements disavowing the party, the postings offer a rare platform to vent frustrations, discuss ideas, share stories of suffering, or find forgiveness.

Many relay tales of personal victimization under the Communist Party. Take, for instance, Ding Weikun, a 74-year-old veteran party member from rural Zhejiang Province. In 2003, his town's government colluded with private developers to seize the land of local farmers. The farmers protested, Mr. Ding wrote, and armed thugs were brought in to suppress them. "I witnessed the killing and injuring of dozens of villagers, on the spot," he noted. The old man tried to pursue justice by appealing to the local government, but he was arrested and sentenced to prison by the very party that he had served for 40 years.

While some write of their personal suffering, others speak of their crimes. For them, withdrawing from the party is about seeking absolution.

"I have always thought that I was a good man, but looking back I realize that I had gradually lost myself," wrote Xiao Shanbo, a former party member from China's

northeastern Liaoning Province. "My mind and heart slowly became corrupted. I declare invalid all the words and deeds I have done in the past. These were decisions that I made out of ignorance due to the lies and propaganda of the [Communist Party]."

Mr. Xiao never specifies his crimes, but closes his posting with a plea for forgiveness: "God, please give me this chance! I have gone through much arduous soul-searching, and I intend to change my ways and make up for what I have done."

The Communist Party has reacted to the phenomenon with predictable disdain. Terms related to the movement are among the most vigorously censored on the Chinese Internet, and at least 71 people have been imprisoned for possessing movement literature or propagating its spread. That means that, if found, the activist who vandalized the bike rack in Jinzhou city will be in serious trouble.

The party may have good reason to be anxious. For decades, its power has relied on an ability to censor information, control public memory, and suppress dissenting views. The statements of participants offer a rare glimpse and great insight into the sources of discontent in China.

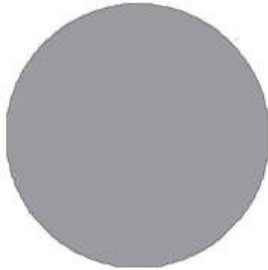
The Tuidang movement also shows the manner in which Chinese people understand human rights, civil liberties, and democracy, and how they might reconcile these ideas with a more traditional Confucian worldview. It could perhaps even serve as a precursor for another democracy movement.

But one way or another, the movement certainly challenges the popular view that most Chinese people are satisfied with the status quo. As President Obama prepares for his November visit, it is reason to consider engaging more with the Chinese people, and not only with their government.

Today, as more and more Chinese citizens are remembering their past, they may well change China's future, too.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2009/1021/p09s01-coop.html>

## Falun Gong Practitioners' Personal Experiences



## *Falun Gong Made Me Walk Again*

*By a Falun Gong practitioner from Jiujiang City, Jiangxi Province*

I started to learn Falun Gong on October 17, 1997, when I was suffering from sciatica, bedridden, and totally dependent on others for help. The extreme pain made me wish to die as soon as possible. Especially the pain in my left foot was excruciating. I had not had a good night's sleep for nearly two months and I thought about committing suicide. When my husband found out about this, he told me not to think this way because someone would come to rescue me. He also told me that he and our two children were glad to have me with them.

On October 17, 1997, my husband's prediction came true, because a relative came to our home to rescue me by advising me to practice Falun Gong. He told me how wonderful Falun Gong is. At the time, I knew nothing about it and was a little hesitant to practice. That afternoon, when my husband came home and heard about what the practitioner had told me, he persuaded me to try it. After supper, my husband carried me to the exercise site and I began to learn the five sets of exercises. When I started to learn the second set (Falun Standing Stance) and after I had closed my eyes, I suddenly felt something coming out of my left foot and the pain disappeared at once. I did not realize then that Teacher had purified my body because I had not yet read [Zhuan Falun](#). After finishing the exercises my husband prepared to carry me home, but I said that I could walk by myself. He did not believe it until I started to walk in front his eyes and returned home. It was really marvelous!

The next day I even shouldered about 15 loads (each weighing around 160 pounds) of coal using a pole and two baskets. Early in the following morning, I went to the exercise site by myself to practice. Then I threw away all the medicines I had. Since then I have never taken another pill and my body has remained healthy and strong. In addition, my whole family benefited from my practicing Falun Gong. My two kids used to suffer from all kinds of diseases before, but after I started practicing Falun Gong, none of them have suffered illnesses since.

Many other miraculous events happened after I started practicing Falun Gong. Soon after I started to practice, I learned to drive a motorized tricycle to make money. I once gave a ride to two persons to the Jiujiang Railway Station. On the way down a hill my bike was hit by a large bus; it was thrown from the road into a 7-8 meters deep ditch. I was not frightened at all, and it felt as if the motorbike was held up by some force and then touched bottom lightly. Nobody was injured. Later, when I thought about it, I got so scared that my knees buckled. It was exactly as Teacher has described it.

Once, I took a customer to a bank to withdraw cash. I later noticed that he had carelessly left his bag of cash in my tricycle, which amounted to tens of thousands of

[yuan](#). I went to a lot of trouble to find the owner. When I finally handed the bag to him, he had not even noticed yet that he had lost it. He was astounded and wanted to sincerely thank me. I told him that it wasn't necessary because I am a Falun Gong practitioner. I told him that he should thank my Teacher who requires me to be a good person according to Truthfulness, Compassion, and Forbearance. Following this incident, everyone realized that I was a good person, and my business improved.

## Glossary

**Falun Gong** (also called **Falun Dafa**) is an ancient form of *qigong*; the practice of refining the body and mind through special exercises and meditation. Like *tai chi*, *qigong* is a vital part of many people's lives in Asia; almost every Chinese park is brimming by the break of dawn with people practicing these arts.

Only a few years after its public introduction in 1992, Falun Dafa quickly grew to become the most popular form of *qigong* ever in Chinese history. The major reason for this is that Falun Dafa distinguishes itself from other *qigong* practices by emphasizing not only physical cultivation, but also cultivation of one's moral character in daily life according to higher principles taught by Mr. Li Hongzhi, Falun Dafa's founder. The practice involves slow, gentle movements and meditation. It is easy to learn, enjoyable to practice, and free of charge. Its principles are based on Truth, Compassion, and Tolerance. Falun Gong is practiced by over 100 million people in 60 countries. The main works of Falun Gong are available in over 30 languages.

**Zhuan Falun**: This book comprises the principal teachings of Falun Dafa.

**"April 25"**: This refers to the "sensitive" anniversary of April 25, 1999, on which date ten thousand Falun Gong practitioners peacefully gathered outside the Zhongnanhai compound (China's central government building) and successfully appealed for the release of forty-five practitioners who had been illegally arrested in Tianjin City.

**Clarifying the Truth**: Because of the persecution in China and the unrelenting hate campaign carried out by China's state-controlled media, Falun Gong practitioners have been actively "clarifying the truth" -- explaining to the public the facts about Falun Gong and exposing the persecution. Truth clarification activities include face-to-face conversations with people, posting notices and posters, handing out flyers, and hanging banners. Outside of China, where Falun Gong is freely practiced, practitioners further expose the persecution through anti-torture reenactments, art exhibits, Internet websites, books, magazines, newspapers, movies and letter writing. The goal of clarifying the truth is to help people understand Falun Gong, to dispel the lies of the communist regime in China and to raise public support to end the persecution. (Variations: "clarifying the truth", "truth clarifying", "truth-clarifying", "truth clarification", "truth-clarification", "clarifying the facts", "clarified the truth", and "clarified the facts")

**Nine Commentaries on the Communist Party** is a series of essays published in late 2004 that reveal the true nature of the Communist Party. The *Nine Commentaries* have led millions of people to renounce their membership in the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). It is "A book that has shocked all Chinese around the world. A book that is disintegrating the Communist Party." (<http://ninecommentaries.com>)

**The 610 Office** is an agency specifically created to persecute Falun Gong, with absolute power over each level of administration in the Party and all other political and judiciary systems. It was established on June 10<sup>th</sup> hence it's name.

**Illegally arrested:** Contrary to what former Chinese leader Jiang Zemin, who initiated the persecution, and the Chinese Communist Party would like the world to believe, practicing Falun Gong is NOT illegal in China. Although the Public Security Department issued an unconstitutional set of restraints on the practice at the onset of the persecution in 1999, no laws have been passed by the only legislative body in China, the People's Congress, banning Falun Gong or granting the police the authority to arrest Falun Gong practitioners for practicing the exercises or distributing flyers.

**Death Bed torture:** A practitioner is tied to a bed with his hands handcuffed above his head to the bed rails, and his legs tied with thin nylon ropes. The rope is then tightly wrapped around the practitioner's body and the bed, from his legs to his chest. The rope is wrapped so tightly that the practitioner has difficulty breathing and eventually loses consciousness.

**Tiger Bench:** Prisoners are forced to sit on a small iron bench that is approximately 20 cm (6 inches) tall with their knees tied together. With their hands tied behind their backs or sometimes placed on their knees, they are forced to sit straight up and look straight ahead without movement for long periods of time.

**“Reform or Transform”:** Implementation of brainwashing and torture in order to force a practitioner to renounce Falun Gong. (Variations: "**reform**", "**transform**", "**reformed**", "**reforming**", "**transformed**", "**transforming**", and "**transformation**")

**Three Statements:** Practitioners are coerced under brainwashing and torture to write a "Repentance Statement," "Guarantee Statement" or "Dissociation Statement" as proof that they have given up their belief. In the statement, the practitioner is forced to admit remorse for practicing Falun Gong, promise to give up Falun Gong, and never again associate with other practitioners or go to Beijing to appeal for Falun Gong.

**Collaborators:** Former practitioners who have turned against Falun Gong under brainwashing and torture. They are then made to assist in brainwashing and torturing practitioners.

**Sensitive Dates:** National holidays or political meetings, or dates that hold significance to Falun Dafa; the authorities are afraid that practitioners will publicly appeal on these dates.

**Yuan** is the Chinese currency; 500 yuan is equal to the average monthly income of an urban worker in China.