

# Falun Gong Today

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## Communist China: One Country



## Two Faces

*Violence and terror against Falun Gong and others belies increasingly polished global image of CCP*

by Mengsheng Gu

With his hands tied behind his back, 36-year-old Mr. Liu Yonglai lay naked and shivering on the floor. The smell of burning flesh was in the air.

After dousing Liu with ice-cold water to intensify the electric currents, several labor camp guards shocked his body with electric nightsticks - each of which emits a 36,000-volt charge - targeting sensitive parts of the body such as the mouth, neck, anus and genitalia.

In the hallway just outside, other victims lay moaning or vomiting from similar torture.

On the other side of the camp, 60-year-old Ms. Fu Shuying, 27-year-old Ms. Chen Hui, 30-year-old Ms. Sun Yan and others are tied up in a spread-eagle position as torturers repeatedly thrust long rods into their vaginas causing severe inflammations and bleeding. Other women suffer similar tortures with toilet and shoe brushes.

All the while, loudspeakers blare out fierce propaganda, aiming to unseat the victims' personal beliefs and instill in them the Party line.

The combined methods of extreme violence and constant shaping of thoughts are what the torturers call "re-education."

Several have already died here from this "re-education." More will surely follow.

And what is this grisly scene? Early 1950's

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### CBS Health Watch

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## How to Cultivate Yourself: Falun Dafa

by Lara C. Pullen, Medical Writer

"My doctor can't believe how much it has changed my health."

With these words Gail Rachlin, a 50-something New York City Falun Dafa practitioner, enthusiastically begins her description of the positive impact that this new interpretation of the ancient Chinese practice of Qi Gong has had on her well-being. Her exuberant response is echoed in the voices of other practitioners, many of whom claim medical cures that border on miraculous.

Unlike many forms of alternative healing, which frequently involve a treatment that is administered by one person to another, Falun Dafa is a method of self-cultivation, according to practitioners.

Closely related to Qi Gong is Tai Chi, a series of ballet-like movements that hone balance and strength. If you have visited any Chinese community anywhere around the globe you have prob-



Falun Gong meditation: morning group practice in the park

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## Misled?

*Are your Chinese colleagues unwittingly spreading Beijing's lies about Falun Gong?*

by Levi Browde, with Li Ding

Anne Yang, 25, sat staring at the news displayed across her computer screen. Then, quietly—lest her coworkers hear—she began to cry.

It was at that moment that she realized she could no longer deny what many of her American friends had told her.

The Chinese government had been lying to her, and Yang now knew it. Lying to her, that is, her entire life. But most alarming of all, Yang recalls, was that she had unwittingly become part of the lie.

Despite a privileged, university-level education in China and much exposure to the outside world, Yang was still misled by her government as to basic realities of history and the world today. And, emboldened by a sense of nationalism,

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# Communist China: One Country, Two Faces

[ Continued from Page 1 ]

China, perhaps, when the newly victorious Communist Party sought to seize property by killing the landlords, and often, their entire families? Or maybe 1960-70's China during the Great Cultural Revolution where the Communist ideal of "social struggle" was transformed into the torture and murder of millions?

In fact, this is 21<sup>st</sup> Century China. Spring of 2003, to be exact, at the Dalian Forced Labor Camp, one of hundreds throughout China where police and guards are under orders from the Communist Party's highest authorities to use "any means necessary" to coerce practitioners of the traditional Chinese meditation, Falun Gong, to renounce their faith, and swear allegiance to the Party line

## A Change, or a Face Lift?

Many would argue that today China is different, or at least, changing. Admittedly, the PRC as we view it today looks nothing like that of Maoist China. Shanghai's skyline rivals that of any international city. The Olympics are coming to Beijing. And nobody is waving Mao's little red book anymore. Instead the nation's leaders sit on the UN Security Council, negotiate WTO tariffs, and travel the world "spreading China's historic culture." Indeed, now we often consume images of a timeless, rustic, pagoda-dotted landscape said to be China.

By many accounts, and so we would like to believe, China is every day a more "normal" nation. With this peace of mind we can vacation there, consume her goods, and invest our hopes (and capital) in her future. All of which makes for "healthy" Sino-U.S. ties.

Yet the persecution of Falun Gong—told here in surrounding pages—speaks in dramatic terms otherwise. The facts

dog us, one might say, complicating such a rosy vision. They argue, in terms sometimes graphic, always tragic, that much in China has *not* changed. Or at least in terms of China's CCP. The brutality and state-wrought violence befalling Falun Gong is but the latest chapter in a cyclical history of CCP murder, torment, and terror.

While the CCP has put on a very different garb, its essence remains in remarkable ways the same.

## Violent Intolerance

Perhaps little in history has the CCP disliked so much as dissenting opinions or beliefs. Violent intolerance defined much of Maoist China (1949-76). Constant CCP political "campaigns" were launched to inspire people to "struggle" (i.e., ostracize and assault) against some designated pariah group. That group could be intellectuals, "counter-revolutionaries," capitalists, or religious groups, among others. None were safe from the Party's caprice. All dissent was met with an iron fist. Differences were tolerable only to the extent that they didn't threaten the CCP's totalitarian ambitions.

In the years following Mao's death in 1976, reforms and economic liberalization led most of the world to believe violent purges were a thing of the past. Normalcy and democracy appeared the inevitable course, and momentum seemed to build in that direction as the 1980's progressed. Stability finally seemed at hand.

On June 4, 1989, however, the world got a bitter taste of just how little China's CCP rulers had changed. That day Party elders ordered the murder of hundreds—or perhaps thousands—of students on Tiananmen Square in an orgy of mili-

tary violence. Those students, perhaps much like us in their hopes and naiveté, thought the regime had changed.

They, like so many of us, *wanted* to believe.

Merely ten years later, in July of 1999, the vow of CCP authorities to "eradicate" and "crush" the Falun Gong was thus (however inane) hardly out of character. The victim's fault, this time, was to represent not change but rather traditional culture, ironically. In the value it placed on honesty, virtue, spiritual tenets, and meditation, the Falun Gong embodied all that the CCP was not.

The CCP regime, built on control and coercion, felt threatened by the Buddhist practice.

Just consider the revealing words of China's own state press. "In fact, the so-called 'truth, kindness, and tolerance' principle preached by Li Hongzhi [Falun Gong's founder]," Xinhua proudly declared in 1999, "has nothing in common with the socialist ethical and cultural progress we are striving to achieve."

So there you have it: a regime that wants nothing to do with values like truthfulness, kindness, and tolerance. Such is the CCP's notion of "progress," apparently.

That notion has been at work since the beginning of Chinese Communist rule. It typically goes as follows: the leadership realizes tyrannical rule isn't exactly loved by the people; it decides to cut some slack; people eagerly seize on that; hopes begin to rise; people decide to exercise their alleged freedoms; only to have violent crackdown ordered by a nervous CCP.

China scholars have described this as a cycle. Few of China's leaders have managed to escape it. (*See box at right*)

Meanwhile the intolerance, some

China analysts suggest, is strategic.

Stephen Gregory, of the University of Chicago, explains that "the Communist Party has always had a '5% rule.' At any time, it selects 5% of the population for persecution. The other 95% see those 5% being persecuted. The 95% will do anything to escape the Party's terror, and willingly accept whatever the Party says so long as they can avoid joining the 5%. The Party thus gains power over everyone in China."

And thus 95% of a population, wishing merely to live in peace, free of terror, and enjoy some version of prosperity, is turned into an obedient thing.

Falun Gong, when it was targeted for annihilation in 1999, had grown to slightly over 5% of China's population.

Others not subscribing today to the CCP regime's program of thought and politics meet with similar oppression. AIDS activists, democracy proponents, Roman Catholics, Tibetan monks, and Party whistle-blowers often meet with arrest and even torture or enslavement in forced labor camps.

## Little Value Placed on Life

While the 1989 Tiananmen Massacre is well known in the West, and indicates the low esteem in which CCP rulers hold life, it is but one episode of many.

According to *The New York Times* and other sources, a mind-boggling 15,000 some persons are executed each year in China. In one year, that is more executions than the rest of the world combined over the span of a decade. Capital offenses, of which there are 68 in China, include "tax evasion" and "stealing cultural relics."

Many trace the alarming execution rate to an equally unseemly practice: "organ harvesting." That is, the removal

## An Execution by Any Other Name... *The CCP still kills—and a lot—only the look has changed*



### 1949-1976: Raw Killing, as Terror

China in the Maoist era of CCP rule witnessed countless millions of innocent lives executed. Their arbitrariness as well as graphic, public, violent qualities created a climate of terror that reinforced CCP power and authority. Victims included land owners, businessmen, intellectuals, and artists. In just over one year alone some 800,000 landlords were murdered by CCP authorities.



### 1980s & 90s: Ritual Killing, as Lesson

Though less raw and unpredictable, killing in post-Mao CCP China continued to factor importantly into state power. Massive public "sentencings" and executions (pictured here), held in packed sports stadiums, came to typify this period. "Organ harvesting" began in this era. Victims included student democracy activists, corrupt officials, tax evaders, and Tibetan Buddhists.



### 2000–present: Quiet Killing, as Business

Ritualized public executions gave way to quiet, closed-door killings as CCP leaders grew more conscious of their international image. Telling is the "Mobile Execution Van"—exposed by Amnesty International in 2003—that Chinese authorities now use. The ultimate in efficient killing, the vans allow authorities to quickly snare victims, execute them out of sight, and remove their organs en route to the hospital where they will be sold for profit. The CCP now executes as many as 15,000 a year.



**To learn more on this topic**  
Read the groundbreaking book that has sent shockwaves throughout China: *Nine Commentaries on the Chinese Communist Party*. Available online for free download at:

<http://english.epochtimes.com/jiuping.asp>

and sale of internal organs from executed prisoners. Several Chinese doctors have testified before the U.S. Congress about this allegedly rampant practice.

Lest all the bullets, firing squads, and messy execution grounds sully China's international image, CCP authorities recently began using "mobile execution vans." (See photo) Now it's possible to take life (and with a lot less gore) while en route to the hospital to deliver fresh organs.

The new image-savvy CCP has learned to sanitize its killing.

That as many as an estimated 7,000 Falun Gong adherents have been killed by Chinese authorities comes then as little surprise in this context. How many more might have perished we might only guess; as many as 3 million are reportedly held in jails and concentration camps at this time.

And much like those involved in the Tiananmen massacre, the perpetrators here, too, have thus far gotten off scot-free. The CCP has effected zero accountability in the prisons and torture cells. Quite to the contrary, reports tell of bonuses and promotions being meted out for exceptional cruelty. CCP leaders somehow see in the acts of barbarity loyalty to the Party. To themselves.

Scholars estimate that between 65 and 80 million people have died unnatural deaths at the hands of China's CCP rulers. And this, within less than one century of rule.

#### Deception, Thought Control

When Zhang Zhixin, herself a Party member, spoke her mind in 1969 about Mao's mad Cultural Revolution she was swiftly arrested and sentenced to life in prison. There guards stripped her naked on numerous occasions, handcuffed her hands behind her back, and threw her in male prison cells where she would be gang raped. (Notably, this tactic has been

used in recent years on women adherents of Falun Gong.) Zhang eventually went insane from the torment.

On April 3, 1975, Zhang was sentenced to death. After declaring her guilty, CCP guards held her down and, without anesthesia, cut a hole in her trachea. They then jammed a small plastic tube into the hole. Thus Zhang could breathe but not speak. The following day, at the Dawa execution grounds, she stood mute as the firing squad gunned her down.

Her silence loudly told all present what consequences await those with dissenting opinions.

Would Zhang—whose crime was to tell her opinion—have fared differently today, then? Many would like to say "yes," given the past twenty years of reforms. But the answer in fact depends. If she were part of the targeted 5% at any given moment, as she was then, probably not.

Just ask Falun Gong practitioners and supporters, thousands of whom have been arrested for acts as innocent as expressing their thoughts in public, writing letters of appeal to authorities, handing out leaflets, or trying simply to visit human rights Websites. Many who have sent letters or photos overseas disclosing torture or maltreatment have been charged with "leaking state secrets" and "subversion"—crimes punishable by death.

Yet still, to date over 42,000 accounts of Falun Gong adherents being tortured and abused in Chinese custody have been documented. The actual figure is probably staggering.

Little resembling freedom of the press, or even speech, has come about in China over the past two decades. Government censorship is outdone only by self-censorship; many in media get their positions through the Party, and all know the price of dissent.

An enormous range of books are

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## CCP PERSECUTION: THEN AND NOW

*How much really has changed? The violent suppression of Falun Gong speaks volumes.*



A rag plugs a young man's mouth, rendering him unable to defend himself as he is denounced in the Cultural Revolution. A few days later he was shoved out a third-story window. Red Guards called his death a "suicide."



A Falun Gong practitioner, arrested on Tiananmen Square, silenced in similar fashion. Human rights groups have documented many cases of CCP officials still using "suicide" to cover-up the murder of Falun Gong practitioners.



In the madness of the Cultural Revolution authorities spurred Chinese to hold public burnings to destroy books and articles the CCP deemed "counter-revolutionary." Included were many thousands of Buddhist and Christian scriptures, statues, and works of art.



In recent years CCP authorities have raided homes and staged identical, mass public burnings of Falun Gong literature and prints. Citizens who refuse to participate are often labeled "suspicious" and "unpatriotic," and subject to coercion or punishment.



A student, mauled by Chinese military on Tiananmen Square, June 4, 1989. Thousands of peaceful demonstrators like him were murdered by CCP authorities. Many photos are too horrific to show. The CCP denies killing students or doing any wrong.



A Falun Gong practitioner, tortured to death by Chinese authorities. Thousands of Falun Gong like him have died of torture, starvation, and violence at the hands of the CCP. Most corpses are incinerated to destroy evidence. CCP authorities, yet again, deny any wrongdoing.

## Why is Falun Gong Persecuted in China?

**1. Chinese Communist leaders broadly suppress freedom of religion and thought:** Christians must join official, government-run "patriotic churches," or risk persecution. Baptism and Roman Catholicism are illegal. Uncensored versions of the Bible are illegal and designated "evil cult materials." (Although many Americans do not know this, it is indeed true.)

**2. Top communist leader grew resentful of Falun Gong's widespread popularity.** Falun Gong was taught for free and spread by word of mouth. Its health benefits appealed to people of all walks of life and ages. By 1998, some 100 million were practicing. All of this proved irksome for Chinese leader Jiang Zemin. He saw in Falun Gong and its popularity a challenge to his moral authority over the Chinese people—the practice was rooted in people's hearts

and history, unlike communist doctrine. Whereas Jiang demanded that people attend "ideological sessions" to study his own theories, Falun Gong was something people all across China were doing of their own choosing. The contrast wasn't lost on Jiang. "This is obviously very personal for Jiang," one Party official told the *Washington Post*. "He wants this organization crushed."

### Chinese Government Insiders and Overseas Scholars Identify Two Reasons Why a Faction in the Chinese Leadership Targets Falun Gong

## Communist China...

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currently banned in China, as are most foreign media—be they television or print media. Mostly safe (or “healthy,” as authorities there call it) news that fits the CCP’s agenda is allowed.

In a throwback to the feverish Cultural Revolution and its campaigns to “denounce Confucius,” CCP authorities have raided homes to seize Falun Gong books and materials. Large-scale book burnings typically follow in scenes eerily reminiscent of Ray Bradbury’s *Fahrenheit 451*.

The Internet has proven little more of a refuge, though it does offer hope. The CCP rulership has labored to develop Internet monitoring software and surveillance technologies in stride with cyberspace’s evolution. Internet cafés that don’t install the mandated high-tech are promptly shut down. Meanwhile, countless Websites (10% according to Harvard Law School’s Berkman Center for Internet and Society) are blocked in China. According to CNN, China employs a whopping 100,000 “cybercops” who police Internet activity there.

If there is a lack of independent news and information in China, that void has been aggressively filled with a rather sordid substitute: CCP engineered “news.” An enormous array of media vehicles exist in China to inculcate in people the Party line.

In this context it might come as little surprise that the CCP over the past five years has, according to one recent analysis, run or aired over 300,000 stories villainizing and denouncing the Falun Gong. In that same time it has not allowed so much as one single story in the entire country to report positively—or even neutrally—on the practice or its people. A stark contrast to media representations outside of China.

Foreign journalists in China who try to report on the Falun Gong are often harassed, interrogated, arrested, or even physically abused. Many are threatened with the loss of press credentials and expulsion. To report on Falun Gong journalists must first apply for permission from CCP authorities.

China’s education system has fared little better: schoolchildren study the writings of Mao Zedong, Marx, Lenin, and Stalin—not the likes of Confucius or Lao-tsu. Textbooks now teach kids to hate Falun Gong and other segments of society.

### The PRC Learns PR

In 1952, Father Raymond J. De Jaeger published a book *Enemy Within* chronicling the rise of the Communist Party before and after seizing power in 1949. In one disturbing episode, Father De Jae-

ger relays how the people of a small village, including school children escorted by their teacher, were brought to a public square. As they gathered, a Communist official read aloud charges being brought against thirteen men, and then signaled the teacher to begin leading the children in patriotic songs. As the children sang, thirteen men were brought out on a stage, and, one by one, an executioner chopped off their heads.

The children’s singing gave way to screams and crying. Some bent over vomiting. All the while, the teacher strove to keep tempo and urged the children to continue singing as the executions proceeded.

Once all thirteen men were dead, Communist soldiers cut out the hearts of the slain men and began to eat them.

On the way back to school, the teacher scolded the children for their behavior during their lesson in Communist state “justice.”

Today, in 2005, China’s CCP rulership is unlikely to behead thirteen people on a public village square. But, to the extent that this is true it is a reflection of a new cunningness rather than a change of heart or nature.

The killing instead takes place behind closed, guarded doors. Bodies are “harvested” now for their organs, rather than mutilated in public displays.

The PRC, you could say, has learned the art of PR. And not just figuratively. When China’s leader visited New York in September 2000 the regime plunked down over \$2 million for public relations. They even hired public relations firms to help stigmatize Falun Gong in the West; the label “evil cult,” for example, was reportedly arrived at only after help from a Western consultant.

(Somebody must have realized the label “heretical sect,” attempted at first, would only go so far in the West... especially coming from an atheist state.)

The Chinese government knows that to control its image on the international stage is to ensure continued foreign investment, legitimacy, diplomatic ties, and a steady flow of tourists. In a word: money and power.

In a June 2003 TV program broadcast over state-run media in Dalian City, a Dalian Forced-labor Camp official, joined by a group of labor camp “educators,” attested to the aim of “educating” and treating Falun Gong practitioners with “compassion.”

“There is absolutely no such thing as persecution here,” they tell the TV audience. The TV station also showed the staff in the labor camp singing, dancing, and playing in a yard that was full of flowers and grass.

In sharp contrast, of course, to the scars – both physical and mental – born by those who lived through the camp to tell their stories, and to the death certificates issued for those who did not.

All of this is to suggest a gaping discrepancy between the “China” the CCP would have us imagine and the China they rule.

Things like the deadly 2003 SARS cover-up, the volumes of executions, and the intolerance driving Falun Gong’s violent suppression are in this light not, as we might wish, but flukes or stumbles on

an otherwise unfaltering march towards normalcy. Much less, as some would like to imagine, mere potholes in the road to democracy.

Rather, they are the telltale signs that some things haven’t changed.

### Did You Know?

## The CCP: A History of Violence

From the time the Chinese Communist Party came to power in 1949 up through today, between 65 and 80 million people have been killed or died unnatural deaths at the hands of China’s Communist Party. The following summary highlights several notorious CCP campaigns.

### (1) Land Reform, Suppression of Counterrevolutionaries Campaigns

(1950–1952; 2.4–5 million killed)

Under the guise of “land reform” and suppressing “reactionaries,” within two short years Chinese authorities killed 2.4 million people, according to the CCP’s own figures. Some put the figure at 5 million. With its violence the CCP achieved three goals: 1) the total elimination of village leaders, who were replaced with CCP authorities; 2) obtaining, from those killed, massive personal wealth; and 3) instilling deep, lasting fear of the CCP.

### (2) Five Anti’s Campaign

(1/1952–10/1952; tens of thousands killed or driven to suicide, hundreds of thousands imprisoned in forced labor camps)

Using the pretext of “financial reform,” the CCP regime targeted capitalists and business owners across China in a show of force and terror. Victims were often forced to pay arbitrary “taxes” that well exceeded total holdings. Tens of thousands were killed outright, with thousands more being driven to suicide by the trauma of arrests, social ostracism, brainwashing, and punishment.

### (3) Great Leap Forward

(1959–1961; 30–40 million dead)

In an terribly ill-conceived plan to double China’s steel production, the CCP essentially turned the nation into one large labor camp. The fanatical drive required all Chinese to take part in steel-making. Farmers, forced to participate, abandoned their crops to rot in the fields. Local officials meanwhile falsely reported large crop yields, further feeding the zeal. The result: over 30 million starved to death, and the country was plunged into economic depression. In the aftermath CCP propagandists rationalized the calamity as a “natural disaster.” No disasters, however, were recorded at the time.

### (4) Cultural Revolution

(1966–1976; 7–8 million killed or driven to suicide)

The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution aimed for nothing less than destruction of all traditional Chinese culture and values. The campaign reached such a frenzy that children would beat or even kill parents, teachers, and elders; many turned them in to authorities for torture or public humiliation. Killing became among CCP factions a way to prove one’s “revolutionary” status. So chaotic were the times that rampant cannibalism broke out in multiple regions. “The outside world obtained a glimpse of the violence,” according to China scholar Kenneth Lieberthal, only “when trussed-up corpses, many without heads, began floating down the Pear River into Hong Kong.”

### (5) 1989 Tiananmen Square Massacre

(June 4th, 1989; 600–3,000 killed)

The CCP leadership brought a violent end to months of student-led sit-ins and hunger strikes on Beijing’s Tiananmen Square by ordering armed military to take the Square by force. The unarmed students were gunned down or crushed under tanks in a horrific bloodbath. To this day the CCP has not apologized or admitted any wrongdoing in the tragedy.

### (6) “Eradication” of Falun Gong Campaign

(1999–present; 7–10,000 est. dead, as many as 3 million imprisoned)

In July 1999 then-CCP-Chairman Jiang Zemin, resentful of Falun Gong’s popularity, ordered the peaceful group “eradicated.” The ensuing campaign—violent and brutal—has been seen by many, like CCN Senior Analyst Willy Lam, as “a throw-back to the Cultural Revolution.” Some 30,000 cases of torture and abuse in custody have been documented, while as many as 3 million languish in jails and forced labor camps. Women are subjected to rape, forced abortions, and sexual violations by authorities. The campaign is believed to be the largest, longest, most systematic, and costly campaign ever against a single group of people in China.

BBC NEWS

# The Dark Side of China

by Rupert Wingfield-Hayes, BBC Beijing Correspondent

If you stroll down to the Starbucks near my flat in Beijing you will invariably find it packed with well-dressed young Chinese happily sipping their mochas and cappuccinos.

Just across the street rise the familiar golden arches of Macdonald's. It's all very comforting.

Today China is a free wheeling market economy, its top executives are educated at Harvard and Oxford.

Even its Communist leaders hobnob with Bush and Blair, and talk of free trade and the fight against terror.

Living here it is easy to be lulled in to a sense that China really has changed.

But then something happens that brings you shuddering back down to earth with a bump.

Two weeks ago I woke up to just such an event.

As I walked to work a black sedan slipped out of a side street and began crawling along a few metres behind me.

Outside the BBC office there was another.

Through its dark tinted glass I could just make out the shapes of four thickset men eyeing me closely.

## Tiananmen protest

What on earth is going on? I thought.

As the morning wore on it started to become clear.

Media reports said 14 foreign members of the Falun Gong religious sect had been arrested in a Beijing hotel.

Then came an anonymous call. "There will be a protest in Tiananmen Square," the caller said and hung up.

We leapt into the car. As we pulled out of the office not one, not two, but three black sedans swept out behind us.

On Tiananmen Square the security was like I had never seen before.

Scores of uniformed police were there, along with literally hundreds of plainclothes police - young tough looking men all with the same crew-cuts and mobile phones.

As I stood and watched small groups of foreign protesters unfurled banners and began chanting: "Falun Gong is good! Stop the repression!"

From the four corners of the square, hundreds of police began

running.

In minutes it was over, the protesters tackled to the ground and hauled away to waiting police vans.

I began walking back to the BBC car to file my report.

## Police interrogation

But as I passed the huge Stalinist history museum on the east side of the square a police car squealed to a halt beside me.

Two men and a woman leapt out.

"What are you doing?" They demanded.

"Nothing," I said.

"You must come with us," they insisted.

"Why?" I asked, my hackles beginning to rise. "I haven't done anything".

"It doesn't matter. You must come with us."

I was taken to a nearby police station and frog marched in to an interrogation room.

Several other foreign journalists were already there. I began chatting to one.

"Stop talking," one of the policemen shouted.

"What do you mean?" I said. "You can't order me to stop talking."

"I can tell you what I like," he shouted back. "I am the police!"

I told him he was being stupid - probably not the most sensible thing to do.

He strode up grabbed me by the throat and shoved me against the wall glowering.

My stomach tightened. For a moment I really thought he would hit me.

"Who are you calling stupid?" he sneered, his face inches from mine.

"You have carried out an illegal activity.

"Did you apply to go to Tiananmen Square? Why were you there? Who told you to go?"

The barrage of questioning continued for two hours.

## Intimidation

They tried to get me to sign a confession admitting I had broken China's laws by going to the square.

I refused. Eventually I was allowed to go.

Outside the BBC office the black sedans were back in place.

For the next few days they followed me everywhere I went - to



A Canadian Falun Gong practitioner is tackled to the ground. He was one of 35 Western practitioners who travelled to Beijing in 2001 to draw world attention to the persecution of Falun Gong.

Starbucks for coffee, even when I went to the park with my son.

The thickset men were never far away. They made no attempt to hide - if anything they did the opposite.

The idea was to intimidate, to prevent me doing my job as a journalist.

It was a minor irritation, and after a few days they went away - at least for now.

But the incident said much about the nature of China's system.

## Secret files

Chinese who dare to criticise or

challenge the government face it every day.

One prominent dissident I know has had a team of police watching her for 10 years.

Wherever she goes, whatever she does, they are always there in the background.

But it is not just dissidents. The system of control goes deeper.

The Chinese state holds a personal dossier on every single one of its citizens—its called a Dang An.

You can never see it—you don't know what it contains—but it can control your destiny.

A black mark against you—a

bad school report, a disagreement with your boss, a visit to a psychiatrist - all can travel with you for the rest of your life.

One person I know once caught a glimpse of her Dang An.

In it was a pink slip of paper she recognised as coming from her Primary school.

Things she had done as an eight-year-old child are still following her more than 20 years later.

Until that changes, the fancy coffee shops and skyscrapers of Beijing will remain a veneer for a police state that relies on coercion and fear to maintain control.

## Did You Know?

### Repression of Journalists

Chinese government efforts to prevent Western media from reporting on its repression of Falun Gong prove shocking:

- **TIME magazine was taken off of all Chinese newsstands following coverage of Falun Gong and its plight. BBC television was later blocked in China under the same circumstances.**
- **In a period of two years, some twenty reporters of Agence France-Presse were arrested for trying to cover Falun Gong activities in Beijing.**
- **Reuters, AP, and CNN have all been more or less violently ejected from Tiananmen Square or taken into police vans for attempting to report on Falun Gong protests there.**
- **A Sydney news organization refused to report on a Falun Gong torture story because it did not want its journalists barred from China during the 2008 Olympics.**
- **If foreign journalists are found filming a Falun Gong event in China, they are detained and their equipment, film, and press passes confiscated.**
- **Many Falun Gong followers in China who have told international media of their persecution have been arrested, and some have been tortured to death.**
- **The above information was obtained from some of the named news sources, individuals, and a press freedom organization called Reporters Sans Frontieres (Reporters Without Borders).**

# Women and Girls Tortured

In its efforts to force Chinese women and girls to give up Falun Gong and to fall in line with the Communist Party, the Chinese government has used particularly cruel and sadistic means.

Thousands of personal and eyewitness accounts from China tell wrenching tales of rape, gang rape, forced abortions, and sexual and other torture at the hands of guards and police. The victims range from 9-year old girls to women in their late sixties.

Guards and police carry out

these violent acts under orders from the central Government that “no measures are too excessive” to eradicate Falun Gong.

To date, 785 women of Falun Gong are documented to have died from torture, abuse, and other maltreatment inflicted by their captors; the number of actual deaths is probably several times higher. Reports indicate that not a single police officer, guard, or government official has ever been punished for these violations.



The beating and torture of women who practice Falun Gong is rampant throughout China and horrific.

## Women Hung Spread-Eagle, Sexually Assaulted with Sticks

In June 2003, state-run media in Dalian City, China, broadcast a rather disturbing TV program.

The guests on the program were a Dalian “Re-education” Camp official and a group of labor camp “educators” who spoke about their efforts to “educate” Falun Gong practitioners in the camp. They underscored that they always treat the practitioners with “compassion.”

“There is absolutely no such thing as persecution here,” they told the TV audience.

The TV station also showed footage of people in the labor camp singing, dancing, and playing in a yard that was full of flowers and grass.

Eyewitness accounts from the Dalian Re-education Camp, however, detail a different, darker reality.

Under the direction of police, women detainees at the camp have been hung spread-

eagle from the ceiling as sticks and pepper oil are shoved into their vaginas—a torture technique known as “hip-splitting.”

Sixty-year-old Ms. Fu Shuying was tied up spread-eagle, while a torturer violently inserted a long rod into her vagina, causing severe inflammation and infection. Twenty-seven-year-old Ms. Chen Hui and thirty-year-old Ms. Sun Yan were also tied up in a spread-eagle position as torturers repeatedly thrust long rods into their vaginas. The blood ran down their legs.

Three other women suffered similar torture with chili pepper sauce shoved into their vaginas, while in three additional cases toilet and shoe brushes were used, which made the women bleed profusely.

After the torture, one woman couldn’t walk properly for over a year, and another couldn’t lie down for three months. Accord-

ing to the reports, the torturers frequently told the women “we represent the government in transforming you,” or, “it means nothing if you die here.”

Several Falun Gong followers in the camp have been tortured to death or to permanent physical disability.

*In order to meet the government’s required quota for the number of “transformed” Falun Gong practitioners, labor camps throughout China are under orders to extract signed “repentance statements” from Falun Gong practitioners in which they renounce the practice.*

*The daily techniques used at the Dalian Reeducation Camp go beyond the above to include “reeducation” videos denigrating Falun Gong played around the clock, sleep deprivation, freezing, beatings, burning, force-feeding torture, and electric-shock torture.*

### Did You Know?

## Methods of Torture and Abuse Used on Women

The following are examples of torture and abuse that Chinese guards and police inflict on women imprisoned for practicing Falun Gong.

- Electric shock clubs used on sensitive body parts such as the genitals, breasts, mouth, head, and anus.
- Piercing through the fingertips with sharp bamboo sticks or through the nipples with wire.
- Objects such as broomsticks, brushes, poles and chili powder forced into the vagina.
- Filthy objects stuffed into mouths, such as used sanitary napkins, cleaning rags, dirty socks.
- Public humiliation by being stripped and forced to stand naked in front of onlookers.
- Forced abortions, even in the late stages of pregnancy.
- Rape, gang rape, and sexual assault.
- Being stripped and locked into male jail cells for male inmates to do with as they please.

### Killed for Their Beliefs



36-year-old Ms. Zhengshu Cui was an ethnic Korean living in northeastern China. She died on August 12, 2003 from extended torture and abuse sustained while imprisoned for her beliefs in a forced-labor camp.



After ten months of severe torture, 42-year-old Ms. Shiyong Deng died in a prison camp on July 19, 2003. During her imprisonment, Ms. Deng was repeatedly subjected to electric shock torture, tied down to a metal bed for extended periods of time, beaten with rubber tubes, and violently force-fed.

# Ms. Chen Zixiu, age 58

## Tortured to Death

The world stared wide-eyed when in 2000 a tenacious *Wall Street Journal* reporter uncovered the story of Ms. Chen Zixiu.

Ian Johnson's series of investigative reports—for which he later won a Pulitzer—told in depth of the capture, torture, and finally death in police custody of the factory worker and grandmother.

Ms. Chen was arrested simply for practicing Falun Gong. Her story represents those of the many like her who have been tortured to death in China. It has been cited by Amnesty International, the United Nations Committee Against Torture, the U.S. Department of State, *The Boston Globe*, and others.

The following is an excerpt from that story.

### WALL STREET JOURNAL

by Ian Johnson

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

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

### Carte Blanche

Ms. Chen was taken back into the room. After again refusing to give up Falun Gong, she was beaten and jolted with the stun stick, according to two prisoners who heard the incident and one who caught glimpses of it through a door.

Her cellmates heard her curse the officials, saying the central government would punish them once they were exposed. But in an answer that Falun Gong adherents say they heard repeatedly in different parts of the country, the Weifang officials told Ms. Chen that they had been told by the central government that “no measures are too excessive” to wipe out Falun Gong. The beatings continued and would stop only when Ms. Chen changed her thinking, according to two prisoners who say they overheard the incident.

Two hours after she went in, Ms. Chen was pushed back into her cell on the second story of the main building, an unheated room with only a sheet of steel for a bed. Her three cellmates tended to her wounds, but she fell into a delirium.

One of the cellmates remembers her moaning “mommy, mommy.” The next morning, the 20th, she was ordered out to jog.

“I saw from the window that she crawled out with difficulty,” wrote a cellmate in a letter smuggled out by her husband. Ms. Chen collapsed and was dragged back into the cell.

### Denied Treatment

“I was a medical major. When

I saw her dying, I suggested moving her into another [heated] room,” the cellmate wrote in her letter. Instead, local government officials gave her “sanqi,” herbal pills for light internal bleeding.

“But she couldn’t swallow and spat them out.” Cellmates implored the officials to send Ms. Chen to a hospital, but the officials—who often criticize Falun Gong practitioners for forgoing modern medical treatment in favor of a superstitious belief in their exercises—refused, her cellmates said. Eventually they brought in a doctor, who pronounced her healthy.

But, wrote the cellmate: “She wasn’t conscious and didn’t talk, and only spat dark-colored sticky liquid. We guessed it was blood. Only the next morning did they confirm that she’s dying.” An employee of the local Public Security Bureau, Liu Guangming, “tried her pulse and his face froze.” Ms. Chen was dead.

That evening, officials went over to Ms. Zhang’s house and said her mother was ill, according to Ms. Zhang and her brother. The two piled into a car and were driven to a hotel about a mile from the detention center. The hotel was surrounded by police. The local party secretary told them Ms. Chen had died of a heart attack, but they wouldn’t allow them to see her body.

After hours of arguing, the officials finally said they could see the body, but only the next day, and insisted they spend the night in the heavily guarded hotel. The siblings refused and finally were allowed to go home.

### A Bag of Clothes

On the 22nd, Ms. Zhang and her brother were taken to the local hospital, which was also ringed by police. Their mother, they recalled, was laid out on a table in traditional mourning garb: a simple blue cotton tunic over pants. In a bag tossed in the corner of the room, Ms. Zhang said she spotted her mother’s torn and bloodied clothes, the underwear badly soiled. Her calves were black. Six-inch welts streaked along her back. Her teeth were broken. Her ear was swollen

and blue. Ms. Zhang fainted, and her brother, weeping, caught her.

That day, the hospital issued a report on Ms. Chen. It said the cause of death was natural. The hospital declines to comment on the matter. Ms. Zhang said she challenged officials about the clothing she had seen, but they told her mother had become incontinent after the heart attack and that was why her clothes were soiled.

Ms. Zhang and her brother tried filing a lawsuit, but no lawyer would accept the case. Meantime, her mother’s body lay in refrigeration, until the threatened litigation was resolved.

Then, on March 17, Ms. Zhang received a letter from the hospital saying the body would be cremated that day. Ms. Zhang called the hospital



Ms. Chen Zixiu

The room where Chen was beaten to death

### The Wall Street Journal reported:

“The day before Chen Zixiu died, her captors again demanded that she renounce her faith in Falun Dafa...Two days of torture had left her legs bruised and her short black hair matted with pus and blood.”

This and related WSJ reports on Falun Gong won a Pulitzer in 2001

to try to prevent it, but she said officials didn’t give her a clear answer and said they would have to call her back. They didn’t. Ms. Zhang never saw her mother’s body again.

The rest of the story: In a later article Johnson reported, “the three officers who oversaw Ms. Chen’s interrogation have since been pro-

moted.” And what became of Ms. Zhang, her daughter? As a means of silencing her, police sent her without trial to three years in a forced labor camp.

(To read the full series of Johnson’s award-winning articles, visit [www.pulitzer.org](http://www.pulitzer.org), under 2001 international reporting.)

## New Yorker’s Mother Tortured

### A Daughter Speaks Out

Christina Chai never expected that the mother she originally shared Falun Gong with would one day be tortured for doing the peaceful practice.

But her mother, a medical technician who lives in China, disappeared two years ago. Family later learned she was being held in a government-run slave labor camp. And tortured.

Christina, a Chinese immigrant, Harvard graduate, and now financial analyst in Manhattan, says her mother was stripped and submerged in feces or sewage water up to her chest for several days—a torture technique known as the “Water Dungeon.” Some have died under such conditions or been driven insane.

Additionally, Christina’s mother, Benlan, was shocked with electric batons and forced—daily—to watch videos and read material that demonized Falun Gong, Christina says. The rest of her time was spent doing

hard labor with only five hours a night allotted for sleep.

“They drove her to the brink of what a human being can endure,” remarks Christina. “The trauma was unimaginable.”

Christina worked consistently for her mother’s and others’ freedom, despite many challenges.

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

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

But Christina only grew more determined to get the word out. Then finally, to the family’s great relief, her mother



New Yorker Christina Chai holding a photo of her mother, who suffered extreme torture in a Chinese labor camp for her practice of Falun Gong.

was released last November.

Despite the positive turn of events, though, Christina vows not to stop exposing her mother’s horrific experience and working for the many others who still suffer in China.

She won’t leave them behind, and she hopes the rest of the world won’t, either.

# Misled?

[ Continued from Page 1 ]

she was led to promote her government's political propaganda abroad, in America.

What makes Yang's story so important is that it could be the story of many Chinese-Americans. And indeed, that story has played out many times across New York City.

## A Massacre Masqueraded

Anne Yang came to the United States on a scholarship in 1997 following study at Fudan University in her native China. Extremely bright, creative, and good-humored, Yang represented a new generation of urban, cosmopolitan Chinese. She was China's Internet generation, after all.

"Or supposedly, at least" Yang says, looking back with a leery grin.

Yang was eager to share her culture with American classmates. But time and again discussions would take a turn for the awkward when one particular topic was broached.

"Tiananmen Square—1989," Yang recalls.

The 1989 Tiananmen Massacre was still vivid in the minds of Yang's American classmates. Many were just coming of age when chilling images flooded the news in '89 depicting innocent Beijing student demon-

strators being gunned down and crushed—literally—by Chinese army tanks. As many as 3,000 were murdered that fateful day in June.

Chinese soldiers. Her textbooks told of soldiers being cruelly burned by students, while state-run television even supplied footage of burning tanks and soldiers who were killed or severely burned by the "rioting" students. News reported that the Chinese regime "wisely" and effectively "restored order."

And so each time the topic of Tiananmen arose in conversation, Anne would dutifully explain to friends that they were "misled." Americans, she insisted, had been deceived by "hostile anti-China forces" and U.S. "imperialist propaganda."

No massacre ever took place, Yang insisted to any who would listen. "The government handled the whole matter in a 'humane' and 'benevolent' way, we were taught," Yang explains today. "We never knew anything about the truth. In college, even, I never learned otherwise."

"Looking back, it's incredible that the whole world could know the truth and we, in China, who were closest to those events knew nothing of reality. Even years later."

Yang would eventually discover the truth about Tiananmen, but not until yet another, similar, tragedy befell China. This time, it was closer to home. Close enough that Yang knew better.

And so it was that tears streamed down Yang's cheeks that day in July, six years ago, as she sat in the computer lab. She was reading headlines com-

ordered the practice banned and launched a nation-wide campaign to "eradicate" it. Systematic brainwashing, arrest, and torture of adherents came to define the violent suppression. Some 100 million people overnight became "criminals" in China simply by virtue of their popular, peaceful beliefs.

But violence was only one weapon in the government's assault. Spearheading the campaign was China's state-run media, which churned out a nearly-endless stream of programs and articles vilifying Falun Gong. They labeled it "evil" and "anti-China," calling its practitioners "rats" of society, "criminals," or worse.

Soon, in a move reminiscent of the Cultural Revolution, authorities in China began utilizing nearly every institution possible with the aim of mobilizing China's populace against Falun Gong.

School textbooks and exams—from primary schools to universities—began to include anti-Falun Gong content, which students must "learn" in order to advance. "Transformation" (brainwashing) sessions were set up in every workplace throughout the country, and all



Many Chinese people, like Anne Yang (above), learn only upon living outside of China that much of the history they were taught was fabricated by their government.

Falun Gong adherents made to attend. Nothing less than total thought control was the government's goal.

Mechanisms were quickly put in place to carry out the mandate. A Gestapo-like agency, the "610 Office," was created with the task of overseeing Falun Gong's "eradication" and given power over the courts and police, among other entities. Personnel were stationed in nearly every government office and police station. All the while, state media continued to churn out falsified reports, painting Falun Gong as a threat to society—a threat the "great and glorious" Communist Party would defeat, restoring "social order" in China. Echoes of Tiananmen reverberated.

The parallels didn't escape Anne Yang that painful day as she read the headlines. It was the same thing, only in a different guise, she realized. Instead of student activists, now it was peaceful meditators.

"But how many others would see through it?" Yang pondered. And especially, how many Chinese-Americans like herself?

Unwitting Distributors in NYC

China's tawdry campaign, with the passage of time, began to slowly remold public opinion on Falun Gong to a certain degree. That proved especially true among Chinese communities abroad. To some extent it had to do with lack of exposure. When China's regime launched the suppression many Chinese in America and the West weren't all that familiar with Falun Gong. The practice hadn't caught on yet like it had in China, where every morning parks were filled with people practicing Falun Gong. Many thus never got to know Falun Gong firsthand or on their own.

Chinese authorities seized on that fact and quickly stepped in. It had just the vehicle it needed: international Chinese media.

According to the Jamestown Foundation—a Washington DC foreign policy think-tank—three of the four major Chinese-language newspapers in the U.S. are "either directly or indirectly controlled by the government of Mainland China." The fourth, meanwhile, has "recently begun bowing to pressure from the Beijing government."

Using these channels, the propaganda campaign regularly landed on the front pages of Chinese-language newspapers across America. In New York City alone, for example, one such

Chinese newspaper ran over 300 falsified articles in three years' time. These "news" stories portrayed Falun Gong practitioners as "criminals," "murderers," "scum," and so on.

That rhetoric began to sink—or seep—in over time. With their native country engulfed in anti-Falun Gong propaganda, and Chinese print media and TV here marching in step, many Chinese in the U.S. came to adopt strong, negative opinions about Falun Gong. For some it went as far as hatred. Most surprising, perhaps, was that well-educated Chinese-Americans, much like Yang before them, fared little better than their kin in sorting out the news from the nonsense. And so it was that China's Communist Party wormed its hatred into homes and workplaces right here, in New York City.

Just ask Scott Chinn. The tall, broad-shouldered Caucasian American is hardly the picture of China's "public enemy #1." Yet such was Chinn made to feel last fall. That was when a Chinese colleague at the New York media company where he worked learned of his practicing Falun Gong.

While Chinn was having lunch one day with colleagues, the conversation turned to Falun Gong. At the other end of the table, Jane Zhu (pseudonym), a contractor working on Chinn's team, exploded. Zhu yelled, "What?? You practice *that*?? I can't believe it!" Her face flush with anger, she stood up and stormed out of the café, leaving behind a table stunned into awkward silence.

"Everyone was pretty shocked by her reaction," Chinn recalls, "but I'd actually seen this kind of thing before. I've done a lot of volunteer work to stop the human rights abuses against Falun Gong in China, and I would come across people who think of themselves as patriotic Chinese, and, because of that, detest Falun Gong."

"What's key to understand," Chinn explains, "is that the Chinese government has not only made up a lot of stories to demonize Falun Gong, but also done a lot to blur the concept of 'China' with the idea of 'the Chinese Communist Party,' and that way whenever the Party attacks somebody or some group as an 'enemy,' people think that group is China's enemy, and by extension, their own enemy."

Having someone in the office angry at him because of his spiritual practice was troublesome, but Scott says his main concern was for Jane herself.

She had been taught that it was, incredibly, students who did the killing on Tiananmen. "Rioting students" had overtaken the Square and attacked "innocent" Chinese soldiers... state-run television even supplied footage of burning tanks and soldiers who were killed or severely burned by the "rioting" students.

ing out of China which said, this time, that the Falun Gong meditation group was now banned for being a "menace" that "threatened social stability."

But Yang remembered—or imagined—the event quite differently. Her education in China, just as with media portrayals there, had told her something to the contrary.

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## A Campaign of Disinformation

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“Imagine hating someone because of their spirituality, and doing so simply because Government propaganda convinced you to,” Scott explains.

“What’s really sad is that, as far as I know, Jane had never even met a person who practices Falun Gong... she had never read the Falun Gong books, and she certainly never talked to me about it... all that hate and anger... where does it come from? It was entirely based on what the Chinese Government had propagated.”

A second incident was revealing. While Chinn was at a bar with project teammates celebrating a recent product launch, the topic of Falun Gong came up again. This time when Zhu overheard the conversation, she hollered at the group, “Falun Gong is evil!” and marched out of the bar.

The looks on her coworkers’ faces must have had an effect. For the next day an embarrassed Zhu approached Chinn and apologized. She confided, “I don’t know what came over me... I know that’s all just Communist propaganda.”

Yet so deeply embedded in Zhu’s mind was the Party’s line on Falun Gong that she couldn’t hold back. It still came out, almost with a life of its own. Even though on some level she knew better the hatred was still there, embedded in her thoughts.

“You can just imagine, then, how some Chinese-Americans react when they *don’t* know better, when they don’t know it was propaganda they took in,” Chinn says.

#### Outburst on the Trading Floor

Kent Konkol, a 34-year-old portfolio manager for a midtown investment bank, can identify with Chinn’s experience.

In the spring of 2001, Konkol received an acerbic e-mail from his Chinese co-worker, Charles

Liu (pseudonym). The e-mail’s contents attacked Falun Gong, reiterating many a label used in Chinese government propaganda. Konkol later learned that the e-mail had been sent to their entire team. It was Charles’s response to another co-worker’s inquiry about the suppression of Falun Gong in China.

Despite the email’s negative slant on the practice, Konkol took an interest in Falun Gong



New Yorkers like Scott Chinn (above) are often shocked to see the difference between what their Chinese coworkers say about Falun Gong and what they know to be the reality.

and looked into the discipline further, learning the exercises and reading about it.

It was not until the spring of 2004, however, that a conversation between Konkol and Liu turned to the topic of Falun Gong. Konkol informed his co-worker that he had taken up Falun Gong and found it very beneficial.

Konkol says Liu, though polite, expressed strong opinions against the practice. “He was very much against what he believed were tenets of the practice,” Konkol recalls. “But it was pretty clear to me that he didn’t

know much about it. He had, either consciously or unconsciously, taken in and believed what the Chinese Government propagated about Falun Gong.”

Soon after, Liu’s strange dislike of the practice would come to a head, this time for their whole trading floor to see. The trigger was as unlikely as it is indicative.

Konkol had been setting out a free, startup newspaper inside his company that reported often on China issues, including the suppression of Falun Gong. The paper had won Konkol’s admiration with its frank reporting.

Liu, however, saw the gesture in a different light. He proceeded to confront Konkol at his desk.

“He thought, since the paper reported fairly on Falun Gong, that this was some kind of plot or something. He went on to express a barrage of negative opinions about Falun Gong that were pretty off base,” Konkol recalls.

Liu’s anger was visible. So much so, in fact, that their boss later called Liu, and then Konkol, in to his office to see what had so upset Liu.

“The issue was resolved amicably,” says Konkol, “but I think the episode demonstrated just how far and wide propaganda from China’s Communist regime has reached... and to what extent it can affect Chinese people’s thoughts about Falun Gong—even here in New York City.”

#### A Hope for Dispelling Hate

The current Chinese leadership has done quite a job spreading its message of hate here in New York. It has organized rallies in Chinatown, run seminars, erected propaganda displays in its consulate, bought up and pressured Chinese-language media, and even done mailings to local government officials. All meant to denigrate Falun Gong.

Yet Anne Yang remains hope-

ful through it all.

Yang says she sees herself—the self of five years ago—in the many Chinese around her who are misled about Falun Gong.

“They are like me to a T,” says Yang. And though it’s not about Tiananmen this time, Yang adds that, “It’s as if we’re following the exact same script, and I guess, in a sense, we are: it’s the CCP’s [Chinese Communist Party’s] script.”

She remains hopeful, though, in that her fellow Chinese here in the U.S. have ready access to a wealth of information. “Information,” Yang declares, “that is blocked in China.”

“My advice to everybody is simple: look into the issues for yourselves,” she says.

“Here, you can.”

#### Did You Know?

### History According to the Chinese Communist Party: Top Five Lies (that many Chinese believe)

#### 1) The “Liberation” of Tibet

According to Chinese textbooks and media outlets, China’s invasion of Tibet in 1949 brought “peaceful liberation” to an oppressed people. The people, they say, had been suffering under the “brutal totalitarian reign” of, guess who? The Dalai Lama. Chinese authorities have now killed over 1.2 million Tibetans (a quarter of the entire population) and destroyed some 6,200 Buddhist monasteries.

#### 2) 1989 “Riot” in Tiananmen Square

Ever since the Chinese army opened fire on and literally crushed civilians and students in Beijing’s Tiananmen Square in 1989, the government and government-run media have put a disturbing spin on the story. And to this day many Chinese believe it—that the students were “rioting” in Beijing and that troops were merely called in to “restore order,” during which time some soldiers were attacked by students and killed or severely burned.

#### 3) “Self-immolation” of Falun Gong Practitioners

In January 2001, 5 individuals reportedly set themselves on fire in Tiananmen Square. Immediately following, Chinese authorities flooded state-run media with grisly footage of the event, claiming the victims were Falun Gong practitioners. However, information gathered by a *Washington Post* reporter stationed in Beijing along with numerous other facts uncovered by investigators indicate the incident was staged, by the government.

#### 4) Three Years of “Natural Disaster”

Between 1959 and 1961, 30 – 40 million people starved to death in China as the CCP forced farmers to abandon their crops and join the effort to double China’s steel production, in a single year. But to this day, the Chinese Government claims China merely suffered three years of famine. How, then, do they claim the famine came about? Because of “sabotage” of food stores by “anti-revolutionaries” and because of “natural disasters,” even though no natural disasters of any sort were recorded in China during that period.

#### 5) The Long March to “Defeat” Japan

Chinese textbooks and media outlets in China say that the “Long March” was a highly successful northbound military operation against the invading Japanese, which ultimately led to Japan’s defeat in World War II. In reality, the March was nothing more than the retreat of Chinese Communist forces northward to the Soviet Union border after several defeats, and it was the United States who defeated Japan at the end of World War II.

#### Did You Know?

### Control of Communities in NYC

According to *Newsday*, Chinese Government officials have appeared at “seminars” in Manhattan to vilify Falun Gong:

“In one session, the consul-general told his audience that immigrants who have not become U.S. citizens were expected to obey Chinese laws, which ban Falun Gong. Further poisoning the atmosphere for local Falun Gong practitioners, powerful organizations in Chinatown – which had expressed no concern about Falun Gong before the [Chinese] government crackdown started in July 1999 – began holding countermarches against the group, their charges echoing the government’s virulent accusations. ...It is a highly unusual attempt by a foreign government to tackle a spiritual movement within U.S. borders – complementing a campaign inside China that the State Department and human rights monitors say includes widespread brainwashing and torture.”

## CBS Health Watch

# How to Cultivate...

[ Continued from Page 1 ]

ably seen Tai Chi practiced by the older people in the parks at daybreak.

The Falun Dafa organization estimates that there are now 75 million practitioners in China and 25 million elsewhere in the world, including the United States.

So, what exactly does this movement involve?

Above all, Falun Dafa emphasizes the cultivation of three fundamental principles:

Truthfulness. Compassion. Forbearance.

The belief system is explained in two books that can be downloaded for free from the Falun Dafa Web site. Many of the themes will seem familiar to first-time readers, because they reflect common messages found in Christianity, Buddhism, and Taoism.

The philosophy of Falun Dafa is accredited with promoting a good heart and healing the individual, emotionally and spiritually. The exercises, or Falun Gong, are aimed at reinforcing the messages of the book through training the body.

In general, the exercises involve holding the body in positions that are said to aid the movement of energy into the body. The positions are thought to promote contemplative thought and strength. Some of the exercises may be difficult at first, but these exercises are performed successfully and routinely by young and old individuals alike.

In addition to spiritual and physical healing, Falun Dafa is said to cultivate a sense of community.

While study of the book and practice of Falun Gong can be performed alone, practitioners believe that group practice aids in the momentum of the practice and accelerates the healing process.

One more thing: Falun Dafa is free. As many practitioners explained to me: If money changes hands, it is not Falun Dafa.

**A Very Alternative Approach to Healing**

Dr. Jingduan Yang may or may not be joking when he explains the rates that he will charge his future patients. Dr. Yang's background is unusual in that it includes an MD (he is currently a psychiatry resident at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) as well as training and experience as a practitioner of Chinese medicine. He claims that once he opens his own private practice he will have three different fees.

He will charge individuals who want Western treatment and pharmaceuticals \$200. He says this is justified because they will be depending entirely upon him for their treatment.

If a patient comes to him seeking acupuncture or other traditional medicine, he will charge them \$100. Dr. Yang justifies this by saying that the patient will be shouldering half the responsibility

for their own wellness by watching their diet and making prescribed changes to their lifestyle in order to heal.

If, however, a patient visits him and wants to learn Falun Dafa, Dr. Yang will teach for free, for however long it takes, because he knows that the patient has assumed complete responsibility for his or her own health and is on the road to wellness.

Dr. Yang agrees that "the medical healing power produced by Falun Gong is hard to understand because it belongs to another paradigm." He explains, however, that the cultivation of mind and spirit that Falun Dafa teaches is consistent with the modern understanding of health.

Few practitioners of modern, scientific medicine would dispute one of Falun Dafa's central premises—that to be truly healthy, you must be healthy biologically, psychologically, and socially.

Sen Yang (unrelated to Dr. Yang), a 39-year-old Chicagoan, was faced with a similar health reality when he was diagnosed 20 years ago with serious, chronic hepatitis that required him to suspend his schooling for a year. He explains: "A doctor told me directly, 'There is no way to really cure your disease. You will have it for the rest of your life.'"

Today, a healthy-looking Yang regularly attends Falun Dafa meetings with his 9-year-old daughter. He began practicing in 1995 and perceived "a warm current moving in his body" after reading books on Falun Dafa. This physical sensation encouraged him to continue with the exercises and the philosophy, and his health improved rapidly. He recalls: "At the beginning my physical condition changed very fast. When walking, I felt [that] my body was so light that I could almost float up."

Two years ago, Yang's blood was checked during a regular physical exam, and all of the 32 test results came back normal, including four that were specifically designed to test liver function.

When asked about these apparent "miracle cures" that are so common among Falun Dafa practitioners, Dr. Yang discourages the line of questioning by saying: "It is very wrong to think that Falun Gong is designed to help heal an illness."

While he concedes that many practitioners are initially drawn to Falun Dafa because of a health problem he emphatically states that a miracle will not occur with all people. He likens Falun Dafa to a school full of students. Some students learn faster than others and will get better grades, but like any good school everyone should improve.

**Seeing Falun Dafa Up Close and Personal**

After recently spending 2 weeks researching the wildly popular form of Qi Gong known as Falun Dafa, I decided that I should see a meeting for myself. I



*"The increasing popularity of this movement is notable, but what most impressed me during my research were the people I interviewed... this had to be the nicest group of people I ever had the pleasure of talking to."*

convinced two of my friends, Mary and Martha (all of us 30-something), to join in this excursion to Chicago's Chinatown.

The increasing popularity of this movement is notable, but what most impressed me during my research were the people I interviewed. From Gail Rachlin on the East Coast to Zhi Ping Kolouch on the West Coast and Sen Yang in the Midwest, this had to be the nicest group of people I ever had the pleasure of talking to. They always returned my calls and emails promptly and were warm and enthusiastic.

In addition to their attitude, I was intrigued by their stories. Gail Rachlin, 50-something, claims that Falun Dafa allowed her to go off of antidepressants. Zhi Ping Kolouch, 43, credits it with maintaining her jet-black hair and healthy heart. Sen Yang, 39, says it cured his chronic hepatitis.

At 2 in the afternoon on New Year's Day, I met Warren Tai and his wife, Maria, in the parking lot behind a bank in Chicago's Chinatown. I left my coat downstairs where the rest of the Falun Dafa practitioners were gathering and headed upstairs with Warren, my arms full of rugs for kneeling. We were joined by my friends Mary and Martha, as well as a pleasant Chinese man whose English was poor.

As the five of us (four beginners and Warren) sat on our rugs, Warren began to explain the principles of Falun Dafa and to patiently teach us the exercises. The first was a meditation exercise that required sitting in the lotus position. Martha could barely do a complete lotus position; I could barely do a half-lotus; and Mary could barely cross her legs. Despite our humorous inadequacies, Warren did not smirk.

Warren told us that with time we would all be able to do it, but that the effects of the meditation could be felt just by sitting cross-legged. He slowly guided us through simple hand movements that involved moving the arms around the body as if defining a circular space.

**Easy to Learn**

We could hear the sound of traditional Chinese music coming from downstairs as we stood up and began to learn the standing exercises.

The movements were soothing and easy to learn. From the excited look on Martha's face, I could tell that she was just as eager as I was to join the rest of the group and do the exercises with the music.

The main group had already done the sitting exercise and was ready to start the standing exercises. Warren placed himself in front of us to guide us. The

## Falun Gong: A Brief Look

Falun Gong is a unique way to improve the body, mind, and spirit. It consists of exercise, meditation, and teachings that are rooted in ancient Chinese culture.

The practice is best known for its slow-moving, relaxing, Tai-chi like exercises called Qigong. Falun Gong's exercises, though simple and gentle, often have amazing effects on health. Stories abound of Falun Gong helping people to get well, lick stress, sleep better, and become happier all around.

A second component of Falun Gong is its self-improvement teachings. This component, thought of in traditional Chinese culture as the Tao, or "Way of Nature," is explained in the books Falun Gong and Zhuan Falun. While the teachings are rich and dynamic, at their core are the three simple virtues of truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance. Students of Falun Gong strive to live by these values and put others first.

Falun Gong is always taught free of cost and open to everyone. It was first taught publicly in China in 1992, and has since been taken up by some 100 million people in 60 different countries.

The practice is also known as "Falun Dafa."

To learn how to get started practicing Falun Gong and to find a location in your area, visit [www.falun-ny.net](http://www.falun-ny.net) or email: [info@falun-ny.net](mailto:info@falun-ny.net). If you do not have internet access, please contact:

Manhattan:	Scott	347-524-8160
	or Ben	917-385-6950
Bronx:	Kent	917-826-5778
Brooklyn:	Clearine	718-230-5626
Queens:	Cindy	917-622-0058
Staten Island:	Jerry	646-321-5133
New Jersey:	Gregory	908-288-0307

## The Exercises of Falun Gong



**Buddha Displaying a Thousand Hands:** Using gentle stretching movements, the exercise opens all of the body's energy channels, creating a powerful energy field.



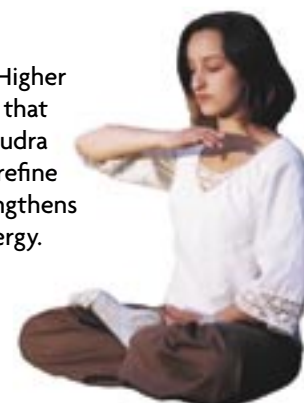
**Falun Standing Stance:** Comprised of four still positions that can be held for several minutes each, the second exercise boosts energy levels and awakens wisdom.



**Penetrating the Two Cosmic Extremes:** With its gentle hand-gliding movements, this exercise purifies the body using energy from the cosmos.



**Falun Cosmic Circuit:** By gently tracing the hands over the body, front and back, the fourth exercise rectifies abnormal conditions in the body and circulates energy.



**Way of Strengthening Higher Abilities:** A meditation that incorporates special mudra and hand positions to refine body and mind, it strengthens higher abilities and energy.

traditional music started and we began to move our hands.

When it was over, we all were quiet, seemingly basking in the feeling of the exercises. Warren then shepherded us upstairs for the English-speaking discussion of the Falun Dafa book. Warren had water for everyone and extra copies of the book for us to use in reading along. The books were for sale, but Warren was emphatic that there was no need to buy the books because they could be downloaded for free from the Falun Dafa web site. One of the principles of Falun Dafa is that the teachings are priceless and therefore no price should be attached to them. All aspects of Falun Dafa can be had for free.

I left the meeting feeling energized and content. When I checked in with my friends the next day, they agreed that it was a wonderful experience and one well worth repeating.

We discussed the simplicity and energizing quality of the exercises and Mary added: "My thighs got a major workout and I don't even know why."

Lara C. Pullen is a freelance medical writer.

## What People Are Saying About Falun Gong

We asked four people, "Tell us about practicing Falun Gong." Here's what they said:



**Eliana Chinn, 36, M.B.A. Student**  
"After studying different methods I finally found what I had been searching for all along: a way that truly helps me let go of my negative habits and emotions. Now, each time I am able to do it, I discover a happier, kinder, and more balanced part of myself. The last few years of my life have been by far the most wonderful!"



**Kent Kokol, 34, Portfolio Manager**  
"The principles of truthfulness, compassion and forbearance really appealed to me, and allowed me to get rid of a lot of emotional baggage. This practice has brought out a more dignified and noble side of me that I didn't know was there."



**Warren Tai, 66, Bank Vice-President**  
"I developed a bleeding ulcer early in my adult life. After adopting the teachings in Falun Gong of looking inward for solutions to conflicts rather than blaming others, and doing the five exercises everyday, in just six months I was well again."



**Ping Yi Lee, 32, V.P. Strategic Planning**  
"Last year I had a lower back injury. When I was doing the exercises, I could feel heat around my lower back, and I felt much better and the pain was relieved after a very short time. The teachings help you to focus on understanding yourself, the meaning of life, and how to improve yourself as a person. I think it's a great practice for people who live a modern life."

# A Parade of Culture

*Through Falun Gong, people are rediscovering their heritage, and finding joy in sharing it.*



by John Augustyn

## A Deepening of Roots

Parades. Antiquity. And a meditation called Falun Gong.

The connection weaving the three together might not be that obvious. But in their mixture lies a fascinating tale of hope and renewal.

It's a tale told, in a sense, by the smile on Tracey Zhu's face today. She's performing a Chinese "fan dance" in the annual Chinatown New Year's parade, seemingly impervious to the nipping winter cold that has others bundled in layers of down and wool.

Zhu's smile, like the dance, runs deep.

"When I'm performing, I really enjoy sharing with people the beauty of ancient Chinese traditions," she shares. "From practicing Falun Gong I've come to hold them dear to my heart."

"It's not just about doing some dance, but an act of sharing. I want to share that dignity, grace, and harmony with the audience."

For many Falun Gong practitioners like Zhu, cultural performances like today's bespeak of a renewal. Of a return.

"Learning Falun Gong, I came to value my own culture more,"

says Ying Chen, a systems director from Marlton, New Jersey. "I was born in China right during the Cultural Revolution and never had much of a connection to Chinese culture."

"It was Falun Gong that did it," Chen says. "After practicing it a while I discovered that I was getting more in touch with my roots, and I've felt empowered by this connection. It not only allows me to excel here in America, but to do so as a Chinese-American who is grounded in my own culture's traditional values."

"It's the best of both worlds." Chen took up her flute again a few years back, having felt the energy of reconnecting. Others, like Zhu, have found new meaning in arts they had long since dropped, such as dance, calligraphy, music, and even poetry.

But this time around, the performance is different they say. It's not so much about "self" anymore, but giving—something they attribute to doing Falun Gong. The basis, and quality, is different.

And that, Zhu says, is what makes their arts so different.

"Before when I performed

I didn't really have soul... Now, when there are deeper, traditional values behind it, the performance really has heart."

"People feel that."

## Bridging Hearts, Cultures

Here in New York the Falun Gong has swelled in popularity over the years. That's how some 400 practitioners came to march in this year's Chinatown parade.

But things haven't always been easy.

"We realized a few years back that many people in Chinatown didn't understand us. They had read and heard too much nonsense from China's government, which is trying to wipe out Falun Gong," says Ms. Yun Song of Manhattan.

"I think they were confused, and led to think Falun Gong was something weird, or bad. They lost sight of the ancient culture that it comes from."

In that past culture, however, lay the answer to present tensions.

"So we wanted to show people the beauty and depth of Falun Gong, and that it's a part of our shared culture. Parades were a nice, friendly setting to do that."

And so it was that the two parties' shared heritage proved just the right bridge. Importantly, that heritage is what Falun Gong is all about.

"The practice is deeply rooted in the ancient Chinese world," offers Erping Zhang, a Mason Fellow at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. "The idea that a person can do 'self-cultivation' to physically and mentally remake himself into someone more whole, healthy, or enlightened—that idea is very basic, very key, to Chinese culture."

Many have made the same connection. Irwin Cotler, Canada's Minister of Justice and Attorney General, declared once that, "Falun Gong represents the very best of Chinese culture and values."

But tragically, before Falun Gong came along, much of that traditional culture was lost, Zhang explains. Beijing's Communist

rulers felt threatened by it.

"They wanted to do away with tradition and Chinese heritage, because to them it undermined or competed with their [European] Marxist ideology, which was not in any way Chinese."

## A Lost Splendor Renewed

The parades began with drum troupes, one interviewee recalled. Waist drums, dating back several millennia in China, were a natural choice: they resonated with people.

Soon, along came traditional dress and costume, with styles tracing back to China's legendary Tang Dynasty—a period of tremendous cultural ferment. Their colors and elegant cuts stir not just onlookers, participants admit.

Dance, often choreographed by the performers and rehearsed for weeks, was a natural extension.

With time many in New York's Chinatown and beyond have come to see their Falun Gong compatriots anew. Not only fellow Chinese seemed to appreciate the rich cultural performances. So too did Americans.

"This group is bringing the entire parade to a much higher level. They're bringing the whole thing up," said one African-American spectator recently.

Another parade-goer mirrored that sentiment. "They're bringing people together, to be peaceful... the world needs more of this."

Perhaps the most unlikely affirmation, though, has come in the form of accolades. Close to thirty times now Falun Gong groups have won parade honors. From first prize in San Diego's St. Patrick's day parade to "best art design" in Boston and multiple awards in Minnesota, the support has been a welcome surprise.

"What's really meaningful about it," says Song, "is that it says we're part of this [American] culture too, and have something to share with it as Chinese, and as Falun Gong, I think Falun Gong has made us all more giving, and people can sense that energy."



Chinese-style waist drum troupe



Traditional fan dancers in formation



Chen Xiaoping, next to her work, "In Harmony"



Playing the Chinese Erhu

## A Word From Our Hearts...

We put this paper together, just a few regular New Yorkers, with our own resources and time because we share one deep feeling: that something tragic is happening in China, and we've got to help get the word out. If you choose not to keep this newspaper, please kindly pass it along to another person. Thank you so much.

## Making a Difference: How to Help Stop the Persecution of Falun Gong

NY-11

1. Tell two people you know about the persecution in China – public awareness puts pressure on the perpetrators to stop.
2. Ask your Congresspersons to take action: visit [www.congress.org](http://www.congress.org) or check your phone book.
3. Tell the White House you're concerned: email <[president@whitehouse.gov](mailto:president@whitehouse.gov)> or call 202-456-1414.
4. Invite a Falun Gong volunteer to speak in your community or organization: email <[contact@faluninfo.net](mailto:contact@faluninfo.net)> or call 888-842-4797.
5. Call your local newspaper or radio and TV stations to ask for more coverage of this important issue.
6. Join Friends of Falun Gong, an independent, non-profit organization: [www.fofg.org](http://www.fofg.org), or 1-866-FG-FRIEND.
7. Stay informed by visiting [www.faluninfo.net](http://www.faluninfo.net) for new media reports, to download materials, or to subscribe to a news bulletin.