

Clearwisdom Digest

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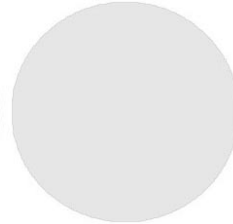
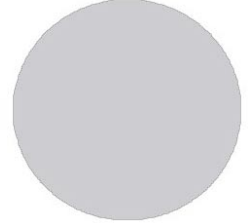
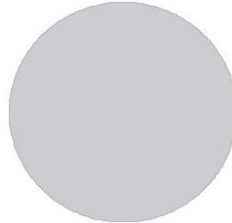
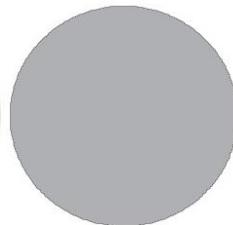
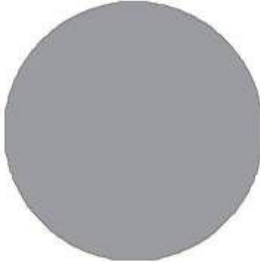


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News and Events from Around the World



Washington, D.C.: Practitioners Seek Ban on Entry of Chinese Official Sun Jiazheng

On September 27 the Falun Dafa Association in Washington, D.C., wrote to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, seeking to deny the Chinese Minister of Culture Sun Jiazheng's entry into the U.S. They also sought to prevent Sun from getting a U.S. visa. Back in late August the Association wrote to Rice to seek denial of entry to Chinese Minister of Commerce Bo Xilai. Bo eventually didn't enter the U.S. to accompany Chinese President Hu Jintao.



Practitioners call for barring entry of the Chinese Minister of Culture



Ms. Laura Hattan gives a speech

Practitioners in D.C. held a press conference in front of the Chinese Embassy on September 27 to condemn the critical role that Sun has played in the brutal persecution of Falun Gong and to urge the American government to bar Sun's entry to the U.S. According to media sources, Sun planned to come to the U.S. for the Chinese Culture Festival in October.

Request Based on U.S. Immigration Law

Practitioner Ms. Laura Hattan read the practitioners' letter to Secretary of State Rice at the press conference. The letter stated that U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Code, Item 212(a)(2)(G), stipulates that foreign government officials involved in violating freedoms of religion during the previous two years are not allowed to enter the United States.

Sun Jiazheng, as Minister of Culture, has been a major accomplice in the genocidal persecution of Falun Gong by Jiang Zemin's regime. Following the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) order to suppress Falun Gong on July 20, 1999, Sun ordered all cultural entities and audio/video administration departments to seize all Falun Gong books and audiovisual materials four days later. On July 28, the first round of the destruction of Falun Gong books on a national scale began. In addition, Sun established a large "Web Culture Engineering Program" to monitor, block and censor any truthful information

about Falun Gong on the Internet. Many practitioners were illegally arrested, sentenced or tortured to death just because they used the Internet to access Falun Gong materials.

The Falun Dafa Association in D.C. called for the American government to implement the law by denying Sun an application for a U.S. visa.

Sun Jiazhen Sued Wherever He Visited

A lawsuit was filed against Sun Jiazheng when he visited France on January 28, 2004. Senior Attorney Emmanuelle Hauser-Phelizon, representing four Falun Gong practitioners, charged him for crimes of torture. The complaint said that Sun Jiazheng, who is the China Culture Minister and co-chairman of the Web Culture Engineering Organizing Committee, incited public criticism and hatred of Falun Gong in order to eradicate Falun Gong through the use of newspapers, the Internet, and cultural exhibits. He is an accomplice to crimes of torture and is guilty of "incitement of massacre and persecution."

In July 2004, the Examining Magistrate in charge of this case sent a Commission Rogatoire Internationale (CRI) to China's counterpart department, requesting related Chinese authorities to cooperate in the corresponding investigation. It is believed that this is the first CRI sent to China in French judicial history and it is perhaps also the first in European judicial history.

When Sun participated in the Asian Culture Cooperation Forum 2004 in Hong Kong on November 14, 2004, Falun Gong practitioners in Hong Kong peacefully protested along the route of his motorcade and at the front door of Government House.

Falun Gong Seeks Ban on Entry of Sun into the U.S.

The Falun Dafa Association has requested that the U.S. Government bar Sun's entry into the U.S. due to his major role in the persecution, and in the serious violation of Falun Gong practitioners' human rights.

Following Bo Xilai, Sun Jiazheng is the second Chinese official at the ministerial level that Falun Gong has requested be denied entry. Bo's name eventually disappeared from the list of officials during Hu's visit to the U.S. Practitioners sued Bo for the crime of torture in New York on September 8. In addition, a court session was opened last week for the case in which practitioners sued former Wuhan TV Station Director Zhao Zhizheng. He was sued for making propaganda films that incite hatred, violence and genocide against Falun Gong practitioners. According to plaintiffs' attorney Dr. Terri Marsh, Zhao is responsible for raising a cry to eliminate Falun Gong with his TV program on a national station and on the Internet.

Ottawa, Canada: Practitioners, Human Rights Lawyer and MPs Call for Entry Ban for Persecutors of Falun Gong

On September 28, 2005, Ottawa practitioners held an urgent appeal to call on the Canadian government to bar Xia Deren, Dalian Mayor and Deputy Governor of Liaoning Province, from entering Canada. Xia was scheduled to visit Canada on September 30. Practitioners also held an anti-torture exhibition with live models to expose the persecution. The event coincided with the "Hands Across the Border" charity barbecue on Parliament Hill organized by the four major Canadian parties. The practitioners' appeal and anti-torture exhibition attracted the attention of thousands.



Practitioners appeal at Canada's Parliament Hill

Renowned human rights lawyer David Matas wrote to the relevant Canadian officials, including the Ministers of Public Safety, Immigration and Foreign Affairs on August 25 to ask the Canadian government to deny visas to perpetrators of the persecution. Mr. Matas pointed out that based on Canada's Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes Program, one would be denied entry to Canada if he were found guilty of crimes against humanity. He said that if such officials were allowed to enter Canada, it would be sending a message that Canada condones genocide and human rights violations. He said that Canada must act according to international human rights agreements and Canada's Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes Program. Victims of such crimes should not be left to fend for themselves.

MP Kilgour said in his speech, "There can be no doubt in anyone's mind that the Chinese government persecutes Falun Gong practitioners mercilessly across China for what is perfectly legal in virtually every other country on earth. Despite its claims that there is freedom of religious conscience in China, Falun Gong practitioners continue to be victimized across the country. I urge the government to follow the letter of its own law and respect the rights of its citizens." The MP also said: "[I]...agree fully that these

individuals should not be permitted to enter Canada on the basis of their complicity in the violation of the human rights of Falun Gong practitioners."

Liaoning Province and Dalian City are two of the worst offenders in the persecution. In June 2003, the Federal District Court of the Northern California found Xia responsible for torture, cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment, arbitrary detention, crimes against humanity, and interference with freedom of religion and belief.

By the end of January 2004, Canada's Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes Program (CAHWCP) established a list of 45 Chinese officials from each level of Party Committees, "610 Offices," local governments and forced labor camps that are responsible for the persecution of Falun Gong for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). Xia Deren was included in the list. According to Canadian laws, if anyone on the list attempts to enter Canada, a prompt investigation could take place, potentially resulting in refusal of visas to Canada, deportation, charges and punishment based on Canada's laws governing crimes against humanity and war crimes.

At the beginning of this past September, Bo Xilai, former Governor of Liaoning Province, was scheduled to visit Canada with Chinese President Hu. Bo is also on the CAHWCP's watch list. By the time of Hu's visit, Bo's name had disappeared from the delegation's list. Analysts believed that that incident was related to the strong voice of the Canadian public, lawyers, MPs and supporters of Falun Gong.

Reportedly, on July 10, a Dalian official website announced that Xia and his delegation would hold a Dalian City Job Fair in either Vancouver or Toronto on September 30. However, that web page was removed.

According to 2003 data from the CAHWCP, 581 people were denied entry to Canada from 1999 to 2000 for suspected involvement in crimes against humanity and war crimes. This figure varied from 644 for 2000-2001 and 445 for 2001-2002. An official of the CAHWCP said that Canada doesn't need to give any explanation to such individuals for denial of entry.

Paris: Human Rights Lawyers Hold Press Conference Regarding the Court Investigation of Li Lanqing and Sun Jiazheng's Crimes

Renowned French lawyer, William Bourdon, and Belgian lawyer, Georges-Henri Beauthier, held a press conference at 5 p.m. September 29th. Held at Mr. Bourdon's Paris office, the press conference exposed the Chinese authorities' refusal to cooperate on two Commission Rogatoire Internationales (CRI) issued by the Honorable Justice Noria Faucherie of the Tribunal de Grande Instance de Paris.



One commission requested the investigation of crimes committed by Li Lanqing, who is a former member of the Standing Committee of the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) Politburo, and a former Deputy Premier of the State Council. Li has also acted as head of the CCP's 6-10 Office, which was established specifically to persecute Falun Gong. The commission further demanded an investigation into the Chinese police's mistreatment of a French Falun Gong practitioner in November 2002.

The other commission asked for cooperation from the Chinese authorities to investigate Sun Jiazheng, the Chinese Minister of Culture. Sun was charged as an accomplice to torture for ordering state-controlled media, cultural institutions and the Internet to slander Falun Gong in order to incite public hatred against the practice.

In December 2002, on the request of Falun Gong practitioners, renowned human rights lawyers Mr. Bourdon and Mr. Beauthier filed a lawsuit with the French Judicial Department against Li Lanqing, who was visiting France at the time. In January 2004, senior French lawyer Emmanuelle Hauser-Phelizon submitted legal actions against Sun Jiazheng, who was attending the "Sino-French Culture Year" events in France at the time. Mr. William Bourdon provided active assistance to Ms. Hauser-Phelizon's case.

Mr. Bourdon and Mr. Beauthier represented the plaintiffs in an international lawsuit against the former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet. Mr. Bourdon was also once the Secretary General to the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH).

To date, Falun Gong practitioners have filed lawsuits in France against five CCP officials (four were high-ranking) for persecuting Falun Gong. Aside from the afore mentioned officials the other three include Political Bureau Standing Committee member in charge of propaganda and former CCP Committee Secretary for Guangdong

Province, Li Changchun, CCP Committee Secretary for Jilin Province, Wang Yunkun, and the director of Linyuan Prison Administration Bureau (in Liaoning Province) and head of the "6-10 Office" for that bureau, Li Yuanwei.

In addition to legal actions in Paris, Falun Gong practitioners in more than thirty countries have filed over fifty lawsuits against hundreds of Chinese officials holding various positions within the CCP who have actively participated in persecuting Falun Gong.

For six years the anti-persecution activities of millions of Falun Gong practitioners represent the largest, most peaceful and rational feat of its kind in history. We firmly believe that in the near future, these activities will lead to a public awakening on such a large scale that the persecutors will overwhelmingly be brought to justice.

***FDI: U.S. Opens Doors to Falun Gong Refugee
Woman Tortured in China, Settles in U.S. as UN Refugee***

WASHINGTON DC (FDI) - With assistance and support from the U.S. State Department, Members of Congress and several NGOs, Ms. Weixun Li arrived in the U.S. last week as a UN refugee. Li had fled China where she had been tortured to the brink of death.

Li's case marks the first Falun Gong practitioner without family or other ties to the U.S. granted permission to stay in the U.S. as a UN refugee, and will open the doors for others who are violently persecuted in their homeland simply because they practice the traditional meditation discipline of Falun Gong.



Brutally tortured in China, Ms. Weixun Li arrives in the U.S. as a UN refugee.

"We are grateful to the U.S. government that this channel is being opened to people who face brutal persecution in China because they practice Falun Gong," said Dr. Larry Liu, a representative of the Falun Dafa [Gong] Association in Washington DC. "The United States has always been a world leader in human rights protection, and this action is yet another example of its leadership in this area."

Human Rights workers in New York and Members of Congress in Washington had previously expressed concern over difficulties practitioners of Falun Gong may face gaining official refugee status with the UN since China, ironically, sits on the Executive Committee of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.

In a letter to the U.S. State Department dated July 27, 2005 concerning Li's case, Congressman F. James Sensenbrenner (R-WI), Chairman of the Congressional Committee of the Judiciary, wrote: "The State Department has recognized religious persecution of Falun Gong both in the Country Report Human Rights Practices for China and the Annual Report on International Religious Freedom for China every year since mass persecution began in July of 1999." Congressman Sensenbrenner continued, "As such, I believe it is important that the State Department carefully examine the refugee claims of Falun Gong practitioners for refugee processing."

The relevant U.S. Government agencies did exactly that, making way for Li to arrive in Washington DC last week as an official UN refugee with the hope of rebuilding her life that had been shattered by the Chinese Communist Party.

"Our Schindler" Gives Weixun Li a Chance at Freedom

Like millions of others throughout China, as a Falun Gong practitioner Li was harassed by police who often use arbitrary detention, extortion and torture to force Chinese citizens to give up their practice of Falun Gong. Police are given orders by leaders of the Central Government in Beijing to use "any means necessary" to force citizens to give up Falun Gong.

In early January 2002, Li was abducted by police and tortured to the point where she was unable to move her limbs, talk or eat. After repeated pleadings from her family, Li was eventually hospitalized. Despite being monitored by four police during her hospitalization, she was able to escape.

Soon after, her elder brother was able to secure safe passage for Li and several other Falun Gong practitioners to Thailand where she applied for refugee status. For his heroic efforts, Li's elder was picked up by police and sentenced to prison for 8 years where he remains today.

Li and those her brother helped escape refer to him as "Our Schindler" in reference to Oscar Schindler who saved hundreds of Jews from death in Nazi concentration camps.

Hunted in Their Homeland

On September 23, Li met with several officials at the U.S. State Department and Members of Congress to thank them for their support in giving her "a new life" in the U.S. She also encouraged them to extend the same assistance to others who continue to face persecution in China.

Describing her ordeal to U.S. officials, Li said she personally witnessed many Falun Gong practitioners being tortured by Chinese authorities.

Calling Hu Jintao's recent speech before the UN about "building a harmonious society" a "farce," Li described how countless Falun Gong practitioners throughout China are hunted by police and often must flee their homes to avoid being abducted and tortured.

Without the ability to return home or go to work, they are forced to find alternative means for securing food, shelter and other basic necessities. Most wind up in very basic accommodations unknown to police, with often a dozen or more sharing the floor of one room to sleep and live.

"It's eerily reminiscent of what I have heard about the underground network that protected Jewish people in Nazi-occupied Warsaw," says Dr. Liu. "You have a group of people that are targeted for extreme brutality simply because of their faith, and so fellow Falun Gong practitioners and other people of conscience find a way to get by,

often hiding in the homes of friends or abandoned areas where the police wouldn't know to look."

"Sadly, this is the real state of China's so-called 'peaceful rise' under the Communist regime," says Dr. Liu.

The 2005 Australia Falun Dafa Cultivation Experience Sharing Conference in Canberra

The 2005 Australia Falun Dafa Cultivation Experience Sharing Conference was held on September 25, 2005 at the Queanbeyan Conference Center in Canberra. Practitioners from across Australia and some Asia-Pacific countries attended. More than a dozen practitioners gave speeches.

Practitioners who gave the speeches shared their understandings and experiences as part of the Fa-rectification cultivation process and their experiences in validating Dafa through various means.

Among them, a practitioner who is involved in media work shared from different angles how he let go of self, worked together with others as one body, clarified the truth, and how this affected his personal cultivation and improvement.

Practitioners who have long been holding peaceful appeals in front of the Chinese Embassy and practitioners who have long been clarifying the truth to Chinese tourists at various sites also shared their experiences.

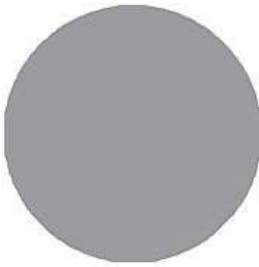
Mr. Yang, who used to be a pro-democracy activist, shared his experience of seeing through the CCP's wicked nature by reading the "Nine Commentaries on the Communist Party." He completely abandoned the CCP and took the path of cultivation that will lead him to return to his original, true self.

Practitioner Susan shared her experience. She did not complete primary school. At the beginning of this year, she did not know how to use a computer or how to get on the Internet. As time went on, she became proficient in using the computer and chatted online with people to clarify the truth to them.

A representative of practitioners who do media work shared about how they maintained righteous thoughts and righteous actions, and overcame economic barriers when holding a Mid-Autumn Festival activity this year.

The conference concluded after practitioners from the Tong Song Chorus performed the song "Ode to Lotus Flowers."

Facts of the Persecution



Mr. Gao Changying from Liaoning Province Tortured to Death

Falun Gong practitioner Mr. Gao Changying was 58 years old and an employee of Hongtoushan Copper Mine in Qingyuan County, Liaoning Province. On August 26, 2001, he was arrested and brutally beaten by Hongtoushan Police Station Head Liang Daming (male) and others all night long. He was in very bad shape. His teeth had been knocked out, and he had passed out. He was sent to Dashagou Detention Center in Qingyuan County the next day, and was sentenced to forced labor. The labor camp refused to accept him because of the condition he was in. He was then detained for five more months in Qingyuan County Detention Center, and then released home after five thousand yuan cash had been extorted from him. The authorities constantly harassed him at home, and he died on September 22, 2005.

According to a witness' statement, "One day around 6 p.m., towards the end of August 2001, we saw a police vehicle suddenly stop at the corner. Station Head Liang Daming led a group of police and others including Mine CCP Personnel Chair Geng Huiwen (male), Officer Song Chunhua (female), Yu Wenqiang (male), Service Department Meng Guangcai (male) and Wang Zhenyuan (male) and they headed straight to Mr. Gao Changying's home. Liang Daming grabbed Mr. Gao Changying, handcuffed him to the door, then ransacked his home. I was so shocked to see what a mess they made."

The witness said, "They arrested Mr. Gao and took him to the Police Station. They beat and kicked him all night causing his face to swell and his teeth were all loose. He can only eat hot cereal to this day (he could not chew). The next day, they made him burn under the hot sun the whole day. He was severely injured from being tortured for 24 hours in the Police Station. They took him home the next evening and ransacked his home again. His neighbors saw him beaten to such a degree that they all shed tears. Even a policeman who still had a conscience told his neighbors to collect a petition to have him released; otherwise Liang Daming might beat him to death."

Mr. Gao Changying was detained in the Dashagou Detention Center. During his detention Mine CCP Personnel Office Chair Geng Huiwen sent Song Chunhua and others to Mr. Gao Changying's sister-in-law and brother-in-law's homes to harass them. Several days before the Chinese New Year of 2002 (February 12, 2002) another group including Geng Huiwen and Liang Daming, went to Mr. Gao's home, and threatened his mother-in-law until she was in tears. Mr. Gao's wife was too scared to go home.

Mr. Gao Changying was sentenced to three years of forced labor, but was rejected by the Camp since he was dying. He was sent back to Dashagou Detention Center, and detained for five more months. He was released home after being extorted five thousands yuan in cash. He had been constantly harassed by lawless official in the Hongtoushan Copper Mine. Under long term persecution, Mr. Gao Changying died on September 22, 2005.

Falun Gong Practitioners Tortured in Jiamusi Labor Camp

Jiamusi Forced Labor Camp in Heilongjiang Province has a team of over 100 male Falun Gong practitioners and another team of over 50 female practitioners. Squadron 8 consists of old, weak, sick and disabled people. The practitioners are forced to sit on wooden chairs. All tables have been removed so practitioners are forced to sit upright all the time but other detainees can lie down on beds. It was policeman Liu Yadong's idea to force Falun Gong practitioners to sit in the chairs for the whole day. He has been persecuting Falun Gong practitioners over the past few years.

Squadron 7 didn't have work to do in late July. In order to allow policemen to take vacations, the labor camp forced Falun Gong practitioners to sit on chairs on the third floor every day from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., except for the time when they ate or used the toilet. In the evening, they were ordered to move to Squadron 8 on the second floor to sleep. July and August are the hottest months in China's Northeast region. Over 30 people were squeezed into one room in Squadron 7 and there were over 20 people per room in Squadron 8. The air indoors was very bad; it was stuffy and damp in the room due to continuous rain. Seven or eight Falun Gong practitioners in Squadron 7 didn't feel well and for some of them the condition persisted.

Many practitioners who had recovered from their old diseases and become healthy after starting to practice Falun Gong, had relapses or incurred new diseases including heart disease, hepatitis, hypertension and diabetes. They were not allowed to study Falun Gong and practice the exercises for a long time and they suffered from brutal torture in addition to the heavy pressure and terrible food that everyday people cannot imagine. In addition, they could not receive proper treatment. Even when some practitioners went to see doctors at their own expense, the police didn't allow them to see their own physical exam results and only told them they would not die. The police tried to shirk their responsibility.

The torture was so severe that some Falun Gong practitioners were injured, crippled and even paralyzed, and could not walk anymore. Yet the police still forced them to go with the other detainees. The police forced Falun Gong practitioners to help them walk or drag the injured practitioners to whatever they were suppose to be doing whether it was working, eating, washing, or going upstairs or downstairs (many times the police forced the healthier practitioners to drag the incapacitated practitioners). No matter what the age or physical condition of the other Falun Gong practitioners, they had to shoulder them whenever the police ordered them to do so. Some Falun Gong practitioners became worn out and developed new diseases. If practitioners made small, careless mistakes and didn't meet the policemen's requirements, the policemen would curse them right away.

On August 9, when policewoman Li Xiujin was on duty, she forced practitioners to do walking drills. She said, "If you march well, you can finish after practicing a few times. If you cannot do well, you'll have to walk until 8:00 p.m. and then go to bed directly without washing. Then you have to continue marching tomorrow, and if you still cannot do well, I will tell the next guard to monitor you to walk for a whole day, exposing you to strong sunshine." Police team head Wang Xin and Yu Wenbin forced Falun Gong practitioners to do these walking drills.

On August 10, policeman Zhang Miao was on duty. In the morning, a practitioner in Squadron 8 needed to go to the toilet but Zhang Miao refused to give permission. That practitioner said he could not wait any more, so Zhang Miao woke everyone up to go to the toilet together and also cursed the practitioners. When Zhang Miao woke up everyone, he accused the practitioner, "Everyone had to get up just because of you. If there are any complaints, you should be the one receiving them." He tried to cause dissention this way.

On August 12, the labor camp posted polite language for police on the wall, but they still continued using dirty language. For the past few years, Li Xiujin has kept persecuting Falun Gong practitioners. Policewomen Ying Hong, Zhang Miao, Mu Zhenjuan, and others often cursed and even beat Falun Gong practitioners. Polite language was almost never heard.

On August 14, policewoman Li Xiujin was on duty. Falun Gong practitioner Ms. Li Xiuyun wrote down her true thoughts when filling in the form to complete the forced-labor term. When Li Xiujin was about to sign the form, she asked Ms. Li Xiuyun, "Do you still want to go home?" and then she started to curse Ms. Li and tried to intimidate her into changing what she had written. Otherwise, she would not sign the form and Ms. Li Xiuyun would not be allowed to go home. Falun Gong practitioner Li Xiuyun told her, "It is you who are scared." Then policewoman Li Xiujin said many curse words.

Since the kitchen of the labor camp cooked a mouse in the soup in May, many practitioners didn't want to eat any more. The labor camp was afraid that this might affect production, so they improved the food a little bit for a time. Now the food every day is oily vegetable soup with flies landing on the steamed buns. The tables are dirty and people are not given a chance to wash their hands before eating. Almost every dinner consists of leftover food, which sometimes smells sour.

In the past few years, the convenience store in the labor camp has participated in persecuting Falun Gong practitioners and has sold merchandise of poor quality at high prices. The current boss of the convenience store is Shen Li. The labor camp doesn't allow families to bring any food during family visits and only allows them to buy from the convenience store. The persecution has caused many practitioners to lose their jobs,

their spouses, their children, and their family members, and to have a difficult life. In the past, the labor camp still gave them a little bit of money for "hygiene expenses," but now practitioners are forced to work without any pay at all. Falun Gong practitioners can only count on their families' support and savings to give them some money to buy basic necessities. Under such circumstances, the convenience store still utilizes this to make exorbitant profits. The prices for many foods are much higher than the market price.

Falun Gong practitioners detained at Jiamusi Labor Camp should be bailed out for medical treatment or even be released based simply on their physical condition. Yet the labor camp still detains Falun Gong practitioners using all kinds of excuses.

Thirteen Types of Torture Used on Falun Gong Practitioners at Gaoyang Labor Camp

Listed below are 13 types of torture used on Falun Gong practitioners at the Gaoyang Labor Camp in Hebei Province.

1. Shocking with electric batons: Involves the simultaneous use of up to eight electric batons to shock the soles of the feet and the center of the palms. Practitioners made to endure this torture are pulled outdoors, placed in a forested area (in order to conceal the crime), and forced to sit on the icy cold ground with both hand outstretched. The practitioners are then shocked all night long.
2. Handcuffed to poles: An iron pole is secured on either side of the body and the hands are handcuffed to the poles.
3. Hanging legs: A deep hole is dug. The practitioner is then made to sit on the edge with both legs hanging down. Next, a big stone is tied to a rope, and the other end is tied to the practitioner's legs. The big stone is then thrown into the pit. The pain of this torture can hardly be imagined.
4. Sleeping at the flagpole: The hands of the practitioner are handcuffed to a flagpole with feet not touching the ground. The back of the practitioner must rest on the very narrow flagpole, with the head and feet hanging and dangling..
5. Filled with hot pepper water: The police fill practitioners' noses with hot pepper water. Sometimes they pick up dirty sanitary napkins from the restroom and stuff them into the practitioners' mouths.
6. Buried in snow: The practitioner is covered with snow so that only the head is exposed.
7. Buried in earth: The practitioner is buried in the ground so that only the upper part of the body remains free.
8. Exposed to mosquito bites: Practitioners are forced to stand under big electric bulbs at night so that mosquitoes will come and bite them for hours on end.
9. Forced to run: Two criminals will force practitioners to run. When the criminals become too tired to move any further, another two take over and continue to force the practitioners to keep running.
10. Denying use of the restroom: Practitioners are prevented from going to the restroom. Some are forced to relieve themselves in their pants; yet the police beat and scold them for it.
11. Shocking with electric wires: When police use electric batons to shock practitioners, the electric currents on the batons have sometimes shocked the police instead. The police pass it off by saying that the electricity of the electric batons leaked out. Then they tie the electric wires to the hands of practitioners. This way, as soon as the baton is switched on, the practitioners are shocked so much that their bodies literally jump.

12. Left to bake in the sun: Dafa disciples are exposed to the baking sun until their skin is burned and badly blistered.
13. Scalding: The police open the shirt collar of a practitioner, and then pour a bowl of boiling liquid onto the body of the practitioner.

What Is the Guangdong Law Education Center?

The Guangdong Law Education Center (formerly known as the Guangdong Law Education School) is really a brainwashing center. It is located next to Guangdong Province Women's Forced Labor Camp in Sanshui District, Foshan City. This brainwashing facility is a large complex next a lake that looks like a resort village from the outside. However, many Falun Gong practitioners are savagely tortured there. According to staff, the central and provincial governments spent a huge sum of money to build the center to specifically persecute Falun Gong practitioners. The center is governed directly by Guangdong Province 6-10 Office. The central government occasionally sends agents to the facility. The center's administrators maintain close ties with the 6-10 Offices throughout Guangdong Province, and persecution orders are issued from the center. The brainwashing center has two divisions.

When practitioners are arrested by a local 610 Office, some of them are forcibly brought to the lobby of the brainwashing center. Policemen from each division then take practitioners to their individual cells deep in the center, where they feel oppressed with a sense of gloom. The lake below the center makes the air ice-cold.

Practitioners are monitored by one or two people all the time. The monitors live and eat with the practitioners. They normally have some relationship with either the policemen or the officials of the center. For example, policeman Lu Jinhua got his older brother and two cousins jobs there. His wife is the head of the first division.

The monitors attend the brainwashing sessions themselves, making them even more willing to help persecute practitioners. They record every word and action of the practitioners around the clock and report any infractions to the policemen on duty. The policemen then decide which persecution methods to use, and the monitoring staff helps the policemen with the persecution.

Practitioners are forced to pay a fee for their stay. For some practitioners, the fees are paid by their local governments or their work units. Some local governments force practitioners' families to pay the fee. The brainwashing classes last three months and cost 3,000 yuan. The persecution methods include the following:

One or more policemen bombard individual practitioners with propaganda during brainwashing sessions. Sometimes they take practitioners out for a walk to the exercise room. This is to create a more relaxed environment to confuse practitioners and entice them to give up their practice.

The policemen force practitioners to watch videos that slander Falun Gong, sometimes for hours on end.

When practitioners are steadfast in their belief and "softer" measures do not work, the policemen use force. They force practitioners to stand, squat or sit on small stools for long periods of time. They show practitioners fabricated videos at high volumes. They verbally threaten practitioners. In winter, they turn on air conditioners and turn the thermostat to the coldest setting while forcing practitioners to wear very thin clothing.

Guards deprive practitioners of sleep, as they take turns keeping practitioners awake day after day. They yell at practitioners and force them to stand, and they sometimes do not give practitioners anything to eat for one or two days. If practitioners close their eyes, they are sprayed with water, pinched on the arms and ears, pulled by the hair, hit on the head or brought into the restroom, where policemen pour water over them. According to the guards, these are the "rules" at the center.

When practitioners go on hunger strikes to protest the persecution, the facility doctor and policemen work together to force-feed and torture the practitioners.

Heizuizi Women's Labor Camp Forces Practitioners to Produce Artificial Butterflies for Export

The Heizuizi Women's Labor Camp not only tortures Falun Dafa practitioners but has also forced them to do hard labor for 16 to 18 hours a day, making artificial butterflies and birds for export and making large profits of foreign currency for the labor camp. The photos below are examples of the feather butterflies made by the Falun Dafa practitioners.



The white feathers used to make the butterflies are dyed different colors. Sometimes, the workload cannot be completed on time because the foul smell from the stored feathers causes nausea and headaches. The noxious feathers also cause rashes, itching, and swelling of the face, hands, and body.

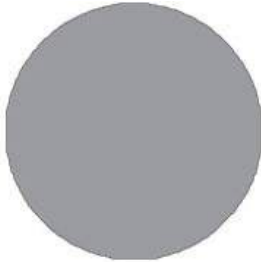
In 2004, the second and fifth divisions of the labor camp brought in various colored feathers from different birds and forced Falun Dafa practitioners to make artificial butterflies. The dyes that came off the feathers had a very bad smell. After breathing in the dust from the dyed feathers, practitioners' spit turned red. The dust caused nausea, headaches and vomiting, and the practitioners' urine even had a slight red color. Because the butterflies were made for export and they feared being exposed, the authorities assigned practitioners to wrap the butterflies in small boxes. Only the large boxes were addressed. Practitioners were not allowed to pack the large boxes. When packing the small boxes, practitioners placed a piece of truth clarification material in nearly every box. Overseas practitioners and people with righteousness, please pay attention to these products. They are evidence of forced labor.

In the last six years, Heizuizi Women's Labor Camp of Changchun City has illegally detained several thousand Falun Dafa practitioners. It has employed inhuman and despicable means to torture determined practitioners, including: shocking them with 10,000 volt electric batons, sleep deprivation, allowing no bathroom time, no visitation from family members, and forbidding writing letters home or calling home.

Often, five or six people took turns punching and kicking practitioners. Practitioners were forced to watch videos and read books that slandered Falun Dafa. Some practitioners were locked in solitary confinement. Some were forced to sit on a small stool for 17 or 18 hours with a fixed posture. Many people's buttocks were sore and bleeding and their legs were paralyzed from sitting on the small stool.

Under the brutal torture of prison guards and the "collaborators", some practitioners became mentally unstable, sick, disabled, or even died.

People Awaken to the Truth



A Change of Heart by Criminals Condemned to Death

This is a true story from Baishan City. A practitioner was arrested and taken to the city detention center and detained in a cell where the cell leader was a criminal condemned to the death. (This criminal killed a person, chopped up the corpse, and was sentenced to execution. Because he had several cases still pending, he had been held in the jail for four years at the time). The criminal tortured this practitioner under the supervision of policemen. This practitioner had a compassionate heart and clarified the truth to them, but he was tortured till he vomited blood and was sent to a hospital.

The detention center did not stop its torture of this practitioner. The next day the police sent him to a cell for sick people, where the leader was another criminal condemned to death. This criminal asked him several questions, after which he understood instantly that the Chinese Communist Party had lied, and that Falun Gong had been wronged. Seeing this practitioner not give up even at the verge of death, and without resentment toward his captors, he was very touched.

He told the practitioner frankly, "Three days before you came, I was told they would send a Falun Gong person here. They told me to treat you viciously if you were not dead already. Now I realize Falun Gong teaches people to be good and is righteous. I can tell you I have done all kinds of bad things, but I will not take part in persecuting Falun Gong. I would not be where I am today if I had known about Falun Gong earlier. If I had a chance, I would learn Falun Gong, and I would also be a good person."

Upon seeing that this practitioner was not persecuted by his inmate guard but instead treated with respect, the other criminals listened to him clarify the truth and talk about the meaning of life. Many people said they wanted to learn Falun Gong if they were released. The police were frightened by this situation and moved the practitioner to a different cell.

Because the first inmate had followed the instructions of the police and persecuted practitioners, the police sent another practitioner to this cell.

Surprisingly, one day this person asked suddenly, "What are the facts of the Tiananmen Square self-immolation?"

The practitioner told him that the Falun Gong books clearly state that practitioners cannot take lives, and to kill others and to kill oneself are both sinful. Real practitioners would not do such things. It was a lie.

The practitioners continued to point out fallacies in the set-up, "People with a little common sense should also realize that a burned patient cannot be wrapped with cloth, since that would cause infection in the wound area. How could it be possible that the

patient was wrapped tightly as shown on TV? The little girl, Liu Siying, was burned at the throat and her trachea was cut up, how could she be interviewed? The organizer Wang Jindong's cotton clothes were burned while the plastic bottle filled with gas that was between his legs was intact. Think about it, and you will know the truth!"

The guard took a hard look at this and said, "I have known for a long time that CCP is good at lying, but I was still cheated this time! I know you are good people; I support your going on a hunger strike. If everyone is like you, there's hope for China."

This big turnaround surprised everyone. This was another example of the power of righteous thoughts and righteous actions.

"Falun Dafa Is Truly Great!"

By a Falun Gong Practitioner in China

About six months ago, when my colleague was very happy over the publication of her paper, her research topic being approved, and her promotion, she was diagnosed with pulmonary tuberculosis. In the initial stage of her illness, she was able to face it with a calm mind and to take action with a positive attitude. The head of the department in the specialized hospital, her classmate, told her, "Don't worry, you will be fine soon."

Several months passed, but she was still as sick as before. The illness made her irritable and restless. She even thought of taking her own life. One day, being extremely anguished, she called the head of the department and said that she wanted to take her own life. The head of the department immediately looked for a psychiatrist for her. With help from her colleagues, her emotional state got a little better. Several more months passed, and her health changed for the better slightly. More and more her mental state got worse.

When she was irritable and restless because she couldn't fall asleep, she often woke her husband and said, "I'm not sleeping, so you shall not sleep either."

Her husband said to her, "If we continue like this, I will have the mental illness instead of you."

Gradually, her husband began to stay out all night. One day, she decided that she did not want her son reading a martial arts novel. She grabbed the book from him and tore it to pieces. Her son was frightened and trembled in fear. After a while, the son's fear turned to anger. He walked over and tore the newspaper in her hands to pieces. The bad emotions began to spread. She quarreled with her mother and said hateful things to her dying father-in-law, who was in the late stages of cancer.

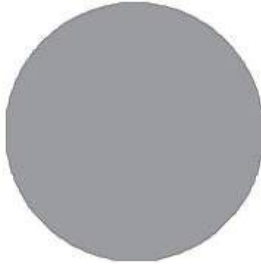
One day, she came to me and spoke about her misfortune. After hearing her out, I started to talk about the beauty of Falun Dafa. She was skeptical at first. Gradually, I told her about my relatives' miraculous changes after sincerely saying, "Falun Dafa is good, Truthfulness, Compassion, Forbearance is good."

Soon after getting back home, I got a call from her. She told me, "It was great. I said it three times on the way home. As soon as I got home, I greeted my son with a peaceful heart. My son responded with a smile that I have not seen for a long time."

After several days, I got a call from her again. She said, "These three characters, Truthfulness, Compassion, and Forbearance, are truly great. They have led to

inconceivable changes in my life. I really want to post those characters everywhere." Her voice was full of excitement and appreciation, "Falun Dafa is truly great!"

Voice of Justice



UN Special Rapporteurs Jointly Condemn Chinese Communist Regime's Brutal Persecution of Falun Gong

According to a Falun Gong Human Rights Working Group report, on July 8, 2004, Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions, Mr. Philip Alston, and Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression and Special Rapporteur on Torture spoke out against the persecution of Falun Gong. The special rapporteurs want to bring to the attention of the Chinese Government 28 cases relating to the arrest, detention, ill treatment and torture resulting in the death of Falun Gong practitioners. The practitioners are persecuted by the authorities solely because of their practice of Falun Gong.

The victims are: Sun Yanying, Chen Aizhong, Zhu Yourong, Fan Yaxiong, Zhang Zhigen, Jiang Shuhua, Shen Lizhi, Liu Haibo, Liu Yuqing, Song Cuiling, Yin Ling, Xue Xia, Chen Hongping, Yu Yongquan, Chen Xiangrui, Gao Shuhua, Li Jianhou, Li Ying, Zhao Chunying, Yang Yufang, Sui Guangxi, Cao Ping, Bai Xiaojun, Tan Chengqiang, Tian Junlong, Lu Bingshen, Yan Hai and Zhang Changming.



U.N. Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions, Mr. Philip Alston (right)

On October 15, 2004, U.N Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression, Special Rapporteur on the Right of Everyone to the Enjoyment of the Highest Attainable Standard of Physical and Mental Health, Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, Special Rapporteur on Torture, and Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women jointly sent a complaint to the Chinese government. The Special Rapporteurs expressed their concern at increasing

reports, over the past five years, of systemic repression against the Falun Gong and other organizations.

The Special Rapporteurs are concerned that reports of arrest, detention, ill treatment, torture, denial of adequate medical treatment, sexual violence, deaths, and unfair trial of members of various organizations, in particular Falun Gong practitioners, may reflect a deliberate and institutionalized policy by the authorities to target specific groups such as the Falun Gong.

*Four Members of U.S. Congress Write to Governor of Sichuan Province
Asking for Immediate Release of Ms. Yuan Yuju and Mr. Liang Jinhui*

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515
September 22, 2005

Zhang Zhongwei,
Governor of Sichuan Province
#30 Duyuan Street,
Chengdu, Sichuan 610021,
Peoples Republic of China

Dear Governor Zhang:

We are writing to you on behalf of Ms. Sarah Liang, a United States citizen, whose mother, Ms. Yuan Yuju, and brother, Mr. Liang Jinhui were arrested for being Falun Gong practitioners by the Luzhou Police on July 19, 2005.

The police confiscated possessions of up to RMB 20,000 (\$2,500 US) from their home and store. Yuan Yuju was sentenced for a year of forced labor which she is now serving at the Zizhong Nanmu Temple Female Labor Camp. Liang Jinhui, on the other hand, was officially arrested on August 23, 2005. He is being held at the Luzhou Detention Center and has been denied the right for familial visits and the legal representation of a lawyer.

We have learned from Ms. Liang that her mother began practicing Falun Gong in 1995. Her continued practice has resulted in her home being searched a number of times, her telephone line being tapped and her right to visit her daughter in Hong Kong denied. In addition, her 36-year-old brother has a history of mental illness. Ms. Liang worries that the conditions in the detention center and labor camp will result in immeasurable damage to the long-term health of her brother, as well as her mother. Meanwhile, Ms. Liang's nearly 70-year-old father who suffers from high blood pressure is now alone and unattended because his wife and son have been imprisoned.

It was clearly stipulated in 1982 under Regulation No. 35 in the Constitution of China that "all citizens of the People's Republic of China have the right for freedom of speech, of publication, of assembly, of parade and of demonstration." Arresting these individuals based on the practicing of Falun Gong infringes on the rights set forth by this provision. This peaceful, spiritual faith should not be accompanied by constant fear and oppression. They deserve to practice Falun Gong openly, freely and with dignity.

We ask that you release Ms. Yuan Yuju and Mr. Liang Jinhui immediately. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Frank Pallone Jr.
Member of Congress

Rush D. Holt
Member of Congress

Robert E. Andrews
Member of Congress

Mike Ferguson
Member of Congress

US State Department Official: Anyone Who Was Responsible for or Directly Carried out Severe Violations of Religious Freedom Are Inadmissible for Entry into the United States

United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

September 22, 2005

Thank you for your letter of August 29, 2005 to Secretary Condoleezza Rice expressing your concerns regarding potential visa issuance to Mr. Bo Xilai. Due to mail screening procedures, I have only recently received your letter. I appreciate your patience in awaiting a response.

The Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) strictly regulates the issuance of visas for travel to the United States. The enactment of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 amended the INA to contain Section 212(a)(2)(G), which states "any aliens who, while serving as a foreign government official, was responsible for or directly carried out, at any time during the preceding 24-month period, particular severe violations of religious freedom.....are inadmissible" for entry into the United States.

The United States firmly stands against acts of religious persecution anywhere in the world, and we appreciate you bringing the matter of Mr. Bo Xilai's possible ineligibility under section 212(a)(2)(G) to our attention. You may be assured that all visa applications, regardless of race, gender, nationality, or religious affiliation, are adjudicated equally according to the criteria of the INA.

I hope this information is helpful.

Sincerely,

Julie Furuta-Toy

Director
Office of Public and Diplomatic Liaison
Visa Services



United States Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520
September 23, 2009

Subject:
Thank you for your letter of August 24, 2009 to President Cardozo of the Dominican Republic concerning your concerns regarding potential visa issuance to Ms. Rita Sison. Our staff is currently processing your request. Please refer to the following information for further details.

The Department and President Cardozo have expressed the intention of issuing the visa to Ms. Sison. The Department of the International Religious Freedom Act of 2002 (IRFA) is currently reviewing your request. The Department of the IRFA is currently reviewing your request. The Department of the IRFA is currently reviewing your request. The Department of the IRFA is currently reviewing your request.

The Bureau has been closely monitoring any developments regarding the visa issuance to Ms. Sison. The Bureau has been closely monitoring any developments regarding the visa issuance to Ms. Sison. The Bureau has been closely monitoring any developments regarding the visa issuance to Ms. Sison.

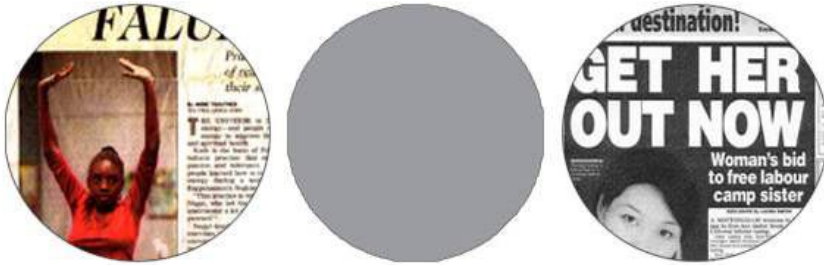
Thank you for your letter of August 24, 2009 to President Cardozo of the Dominican Republic concerning your concerns regarding potential visa issuance to Ms. Rita Sison. Our staff is currently processing your request. Please refer to the following information for further details.

Sincerely,

John F. Pendergast
Chief
Office of Public and Diplomatic Liaison
Your Service

Image of the letter

Media Reports and Opinions



The Standard (Hong Kong): Rights lawyers look to UN over plight of Falun Gong

Wednesday, September 21, 2005

Human rights lawyers are preparing to ask for United Nations intervention to stop the alleged persecution of Falun Gong practitioners in the mainland.

[Practitioners] of the controversial [spiritual] group claim they have suffered at the hands of mainland authorities ever since they were outlawed in 1999.

[...]

A pro-Falun Gong organization based in Washington, the International Advocates for Justice that comprises more than 40 lawyers from 35 countries, is expected to initiate the petition which they hope will lead to an investigation by the United Nations International Court of Justice.

Of the more than 40 lawyers in the International Advocates for Justice, which mainly deals with human rights issues related to the Falun Gong, three are followers of the faith, according to its director Theresa Chu.

"We aim to petition the UN General Assembly to request an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice stating that China's persecution of Falun Gong members is a violation of international law," said Chu in an interview.

The International Advocates for Justice claim that China's persecution violates the Genocide Convention adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1948, which states that any genocide - whether committed in time of peace or war - is a crime under international law and therefore punishable by the UN. Chu said she is confident the court will rule in favor of Falun Gong.

The court, established in 1946 and commonly referred to as the world court, comprises 15 judges and was formed to settle disputes and examine human rights issues.

Despite its international stature, the court's decisions are purely symbolic as it has no actual power to enforce its rulings.

[...]

Dozens of Falun Gong practitioners staged a protest Tuesday outside the High Court, which is hearing a judicial review over the Immigration Department's refusal to allow entry of four Taiwanese Falun Gong followers to a convention staged by the [group] in the territory in 2003.

Despite morning showers, the demonstrators gathered at the entrance of the Central MTR station to support the judicial review applicants by marching to the High Court.

They were dressed in bright yellow T-shirts and carried banners with messages such as "China: Stop Persecuting Falun Gong" and "Release All Imprisoned Falun Gong Practitioners."

At least 10 police arrived and began to walk alongside the group. Some inspected the banners and scribbled down details of their content and dimensions.

"Our superiors want to know," replied one policewoman when asked why she was documenting the nature of the banners.

Finnish Newspaper Reports on an Anti-Torture Exhibition Held in Lahti

ESS: A Falun Gong campaign in favor of prisoners of conscience: China still persecutes people who practice this method.



Credit: Saara Harju

Many local people in Lahti paid attention to a badly beaten Chinese woman in a cage in Lanun Square. The bruises were not real, but the message was: Falun Gong practitioners in China have been tortured, killed arrested during the last six years.

Falun Gong is a Chinese cultivation practice which includes the practice of exercises and meditation. Like Tai Chi it has been passed on from teacher to disciple since ancient times.

In 1992, the founder and teacher of Falun Gong Mr Li Hongzhi brought the practice to the public and this health-improving method gained great favor. At the end of the last century there were more than 100 million practitioners.

But the phenomena of this great popularity caused fear among the Chinese Communist Party regime. Falun Gong has been, among other things, characterized as the biggest threat to the Chinese Communist party after the democracy campaign.

Falun Gong doesn't have any political agenda. According to practitioners the only motive is to be able to practise in peace. To this, the Chinese government has not agreed.

Banned in 1999

In April of 1999, twelve practitioners were arrested, after which 10, 000 practitioners gathered to peacefully appeal for a legal and peaceful environment to practice. Although this was promised,

a few months later a large-scale campaign to eradicate Falun Gong began. It was declared illegal and all materials were confiscated and the destruction of it begun. Into this campaign was also included a distortion of its ideology and the slander of the practice.

Put the pressure on

At this time, Falun Gong practitioners were forced to choose between work, study or Falun Gong. Those who give information about practitioners get rewarded; those who are arrested are required to sign guarantee statements, if they refuse they will meet with different kinds of difficulties like losing their job. Lawyers are forbidden to defend Falun Gong practitioners and thousand have been sent to forced labor camps and "re-education centers" to transform them from Falun Gong.

The Chinese regime's action has lead to several deaths. Police authorities burn the bodies before the relative manage to identify them. During long-term imprisonment, they are assaulted and tortured in an effort to force them to give up the practice.

Even though China has signed the UN human rights declaration and the activity is against the Chinese constitution, the persecution continues. But after *The Epoch Times* publication of the *Nine Commentaries on the Communist Party*, people have come to realize the horror behind the Chinese Communist Party. A couple of weeks ago, nearly four million Chinese had already withdrawn from the communist party and the withdrawal continues to be 20,000 people per day, said Sinikka Suontakanen a Falun Gong practitioner who was in Lahti taking part in the activities.

People in Lahti uninformed but interested

The Finnish Falun Gong Association has been touring many Finnish towns during June to tell people about the persecution against Falun Gong practitioners.

The idea has been to get more signatures to the petition, which will be handed to the Parliament's Human Rights Unit.

"This petition can help to have some influence on China, like when the Finnish Government is in contact with China, they can discuss these human rights issues," said Falun Gong practitioner Sinikka Suontakanen. The tour has attracted a lot of attention. A Chinese girl meditating, a picture of tortured practitioners and the lady sitting in the cage with bamboo sticks under her nails have made many people to stop and wonder.

"Many people have not heard of it before, but get interested when seeing us and we have got a great amount of signatures," said Suontakanen.

Falun Gong was introduced to Finland via Finnish people living in Sweden. Suontakanen became a Falun Gong practitioner five years ago. "I tried the practice and decided to embrace it", she said. "But at this moment Falun Gong practitioners are also bringing up the issue of human rights."

To date, 2,733 Falun Gong practitioners are verified to have died in the persecution, although the actual number is believed to be much higher.

***Hartford Courant (USA): Court In City Hears Falun Gong Torture Suit
(Excerpt)***

A packed Hartford federal courtroom Thursday became a forum on human rights, torture and free speech as an extraordinary hearing unfolded about events taking place 7,000 miles away in the People's Republic of China.

The federal lawsuit in question pits practitioners of Falun Gong - a spiritual movement banned in China - against a prominent Chinese journalist they accuse of promoting the persecution and torture of Falun Gong followers.

How it came to play out in the courtroom of U.S. District Chief Judge Robert N. Chatigny is as intriguing as the lawsuit itself. So many Chinese and Chinese Americans - many from Boston, New York and New Jersey and some from Washington - thronged the courthouse that admission to the courtroom had to be halted when all the seats were filled, leaving dozens waiting outside to learn what transpired.

Zhao Zhizhen is a prominent producer of science programs, former chief of the leading radio and television stations in Wuhan and a member of the Anti-[*slanderous word omitted*] Association of China. The plaintiffs in the lawsuit, represented by the Washington-based Human Rights Law Project, claim that, through broadcasts and websites, Zhao has advocated the arrest, torture and killing of Falun Gong practitioners.

The lawsuit was brought under two federal laws - the Torture Victims Protection Act and Alien Tort Claims Act, which permit civil actions to be filed for acts of torture committed abroad against U.S. citizens or citizens of other nations. The lead plaintiff is Chen Gang, a New Jersey systems analyst who claims he was imprisoned in a Chinese labor camp in 2000 and tortured for 18 months because of his devotion to Falun Gong.

The lawsuit was served on Zhao in 2004 in New Haven, where he was attending his daughter's graduation from a Yale master's program. Thursday's hearing was on Zhao's motion to dismiss the lawsuit.

[...]

Human rights attorney Terri E. Marsh said Zhao is "intricately linked to a campaign of genocide and torture."

Marsh said Zhao is one of the founders of the website operated by the Anti-*[slanderous word omitted]* Association of China, which includes language "that calls directly for the eradication of Falun Gong." He quoted some of the messages as saying "Shoot them once they're confirmed" and "Beat them like road rats."

[...]

Marsh stressed that media outlets in China are controlled by the government and the Communist Party and are "severely censored."

[...]

Marsh said Zhao had direct control over the media outlets and an obligation to stop the broadcast of material that incites violence against Falun Gong practitioners. She cited in particular a broadcast purporting to be the self-immolation of a Falun Gong practitioner.

Chatigny did not say when he expected to issue a ruling on the motion.

The Jewish Times (Atlanta, Georgia, USA): Eastern exercise program enhances seniors' minds and bodies

By Molly Lipsitz

Mitch Gerber is giving the residents of EdenBrook of Dunwoody Assisted Living and the surrounding community a taste of the Far East, but he's not putting kosher sweet-and-sour chicken on the menu.

Instead, Gerber added variety and culture to the residents' exercise program by introducing Falun Gong, a traditional Chinese exercise and meditation practice.



EdenBrook of Dunwoody residents get a taste of the Far East by adding Falun Gong to their exercise routine.

"I've gotten some phenomenal responses from staff members" and EdenBrook residents, said Gerber, who has led his exercise class for about two months.

When Gerber began practicing Falun Gong, also known as Falun Dafa, more than four years ago, he didn't know the impact it would have on his life and the lives of others.

The 25-year-old, who moved to Atlanta from South Africa in 1995, said that when he began to practice Falun Gong, he "felt completely rejuvenated" after just a few weeks. He wanted to share his passion and introduced the exercise to his mother and grandmother. When they also had positive results, a light bulb went on in Gerber's head.

This summer, Gerber contacted Fred Glusman, EdenBrook's kashrut supervisor and a friend of his father's.

"He invited me to exercise there, and I started to practice with the elderly. I've had huge popularity and good responses," Gerber said.

His Sunday morning class attracts seven to 15 residents, said Jennie Raines, EdenBrook's activities coordinator.

"Exercise has become very important" to the residents, Raines said. "This is adding some variety to the exercise program."

Gerber learned of Falun Gong while attending a human rights fair at the University of Georgia in May 2001. He said Amnesty International was handing out fliers to raise awareness of Falun Gong in China and the persecution of its practitioners at the hands of the Communist regime.

"I saw the exercise and thought, 'This is a wonderful practice,' and on the other side I saw the persecutions," Gerber said.

Feeling compelled to find the true story; Gerber did his homework and researched the history.

He learned that Li Hongzhi founded Falun Gong in 1992 on the basis of three principles: truthfulness, compassion and tolerance. The practice quickly spread through China and many other countries, including Israel and the United States.

After the group mushroomed to nearly 70 million followers in China alone, the officially atheist Chinese Communist Party established "the 6-10 Office" on June 10, 1999, to administer a [persecution], according to the Falun Dafa Information Center. [...]

Since the ban, the Falun Dafa Information Center has verified at least 2,781 deaths of Falun Gong practitioners in China.

As a Jew and a South African, Gerber found the cause to be worth pursuing.

"I feel a sense of urgency," Gerber said. "My family escaped the Holocaust from Hungary and Poland, and I experienced a lot of persecution against my black friends in South Africa. So when I found out about Falun Gong in China with persecutions against people, I found it a threat."

Gerber founded a Falun Gong human rights group at Georgia State University, where he is working on his bachelor's degree in international business. Though Gerber is active in his cause, he leaves the politics at the door when leading the EdenBrook residents in their weekly exercises.

Rabbi Shalom Lewis of Congregation Etz Chaim explained that offering something like Falun Gong to the seniors is not only good for the body, but also for the character.

"There is a great deal that we as a people can learn from other faiths and cultures, and we would be well advised to accept that which is good," Lewis said of Gerber's class.

Raines said she has noticed a change in the participants' demeanor after their Sunday morning activity. "They seem very peaceful after they exercise, and it puts them in a wonderful mood, and it makes for a pleasant day."

Glusman said community members are welcome to participate in Falun Gong exercise with EdenBrook residents. In addition, Gerber plans this month to expand his teachings and lead a class at Huntcliff Summit, a Sunrise Senior Living Community like EdenBrook.