

Clearwisdom Review

An Update on Falun Dafa Worldwide

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Hong Kong Condemned for Denying Performance Visas to Shen Yun Key Production Staff

(Clearwisdom.net) Six key production staff for Shen Yun Performing Arts were denied performance visas to enter Hong Kong just six days before the show's scheduled January 27 debut in the Chinese autonomous region. Organizers for the performance are requesting a reevaluation of the visa refusals by Hong Kong's Immigration Department. The Immigration Department denied the visas on account of alleged incompatibility with Hong Kong labor laws.

The New York-based Shen Yun company was invited by the Hong Kong Falun Dafa Association, and the local bureaus of NTDTV and *The Epoch Times*. Seven performances were scheduled, from January 27 to January 31. Tickets for all seven shows were sold out within the first week of sales. Shen Yun is known for depicting traditional Chinese culture, suppressed since the Cultural Revolution, as well as messages of hope about ending the persecution of Falun Gong, a spiritual practice that has been suppressed in China since 1999.



Attorney Albert Ho

Albert Ho Chun-yan, a lawyer working with the presenters to seek visa reevaluations, said that the Immigration Department knew that it would be impossible for Shen Yun to perform without the six production staff. "These production staff have accompanied the performing group to various countries for performances. They are indispensable," Ho said.

Although the visas were applied for on October 13, 2009, the denials came only a week before the opening show.

According to Ho, the Immigration Department may be acting under pressure from the Chinese Communist Party to prevent Shen Yun from performing in Hong Kong. "I believe this was a political decision made by the higher ups from the beginning," Ho said. "It could be interference from the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office or Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in Hong Kong."



U.S. Representative
Gus M. Bilirakis

Gus M. Bilirakis, a member of the U.S. Congress, learned of the visa denials soon after the decision, and drafted a letter to the Director of Immigration in Hong Kong and the Commissioner for Economic and Trade Affairs on January 21. Having just seen Shen Yun Performing Arts in Washington DC, he described Shen Yun as the "world's premier Chinese dance and music company" and an "outstanding multicultural example of our country and we are very proud of it."

"I urge you to take action and approve the remaining 6 visas and encourage your government to prevent interference of Shen Yun performances in Hong Kong," Mr. Bilirakis wrote.

Introduction to Falun Dafa

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



About Clearwisdom

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

Ms. Tan Xiangyu and Her Granddaughter Arrested by Changsha City Police

(Clearwisdom.net) At around 9:00 p.m. on January 4, 2010, Falun Gong practitioner Ms. Tan Xiangyu, a 63-year-old resident of the Tianxin District in Changsha City, was arrested on the street by police officers. Ms. Tan's 11-year-old granddaughter Qi Qi, who was with Ms. Tan, was also arrested, detained, and interrogated for about one hour at the police station before being released and taken home by her mother.



Ms. Tan Xiangyu & Mr. Xie Wutang & their granddaughter Qi Qi

Officers from the Yuhuating Police Station dragged Ms. Tan and Qi Qi into a police vehicle, accusing Ms. Tan of posting Falun Gong flyers. They were taken to the police station. Ms. Tan was locked in a cell while Qi Qi was detained in an office. At 10:00 p.m. that evening, Qi Qi's mother went to the police station. She saw Qi Qi crying in the office where she was being held. That night, she was forced to complete an interrogation transcript and was then released.

After returning home, Qi Qi could not sleep until after midnight. The next day, she refused to go to school, fearing that the police would go to her school and humiliate her in front of her teachers and classmates.

The police detained Ms. Tan for a night, before transferring her to the Changsha City Detention Center on January 5, 2010.

Family Has Already Endured Much Suffering

After the persecution of Falun Gong began in July 1999, Ms. Tan and her husband, Mr. Xie Wutang, were arrested several times for continuing their practice of Falun Gong and for talking to people about the persecution. Their home was ransacked many times and personal belongings were confiscated.

In December 2007, Mr. Xie, in his 70s, was sentenced to four years and eight months in prison by the Changsha City Intermediate Court. He is now in Wuling Prison in Changde City and is in poor health. He meets the requirements for release on bail for medical treatment but is still held because he refuses to renounce Falun Gong.

Prior to her January 4 arrest, Ms. Tan was detained at the Baimalong Forced Labor Camp in Zhuzhou City and the Hunan Province Women's Prison. While in detention, she was tortured to the verge of death on three separate occasions.

I Have Personally Experienced the Miracles of Falun Dafa

(Clearwisdom.net) I am an older practitioner in my 70s. Before I began practicing Falun Gong on December 25, 1996, I suffered from hepatitis, a gastric ulcer, arthritis, and migraine. To make matters worse, I was also diagnosed with late stage breast cancer in October 1996. After I had the surgery, I weighed just 79 pounds.

A month later, my family was able to come up with enough money to pay for my medications and sent me to Shijiazhuang City Oncology Hospital for chemotherapy. Coincidentally, a good friend of mine visited me and told me about Falun Gong. She gave me a copy of *Zhuan Falun* (the principle teachings of Falun Gong), and when I saw the picture of Master Li inside, a warm energy flowed throughout me. It was such an incredible feeling. I felt that I had finally found myself and began my path of cultivation.

Within three months of practicing Falun Gong, my complexion became rosy, new flesh filled the area where I had had the surgery on my chest, I could move my arms again, and I could even cook and do laundry. All of my diseases disappeared before I realized it. I could walk faster than some younger people. My relatives, neighbors and colleagues were all amazed, and could not believe what they saw.

It is the miraculous nature of Dafa! Many people who heard about my experience also started to practice Falun Gong. Dafa has given me a new life and everything that I have.

For more current information about Falun Dafa worldwide, please visit www.clearwisdom.net
To learn more about Falun Dafa as a practice, please visit www.falundafa.org