

Falun Gong Today

Produced by Volunteers



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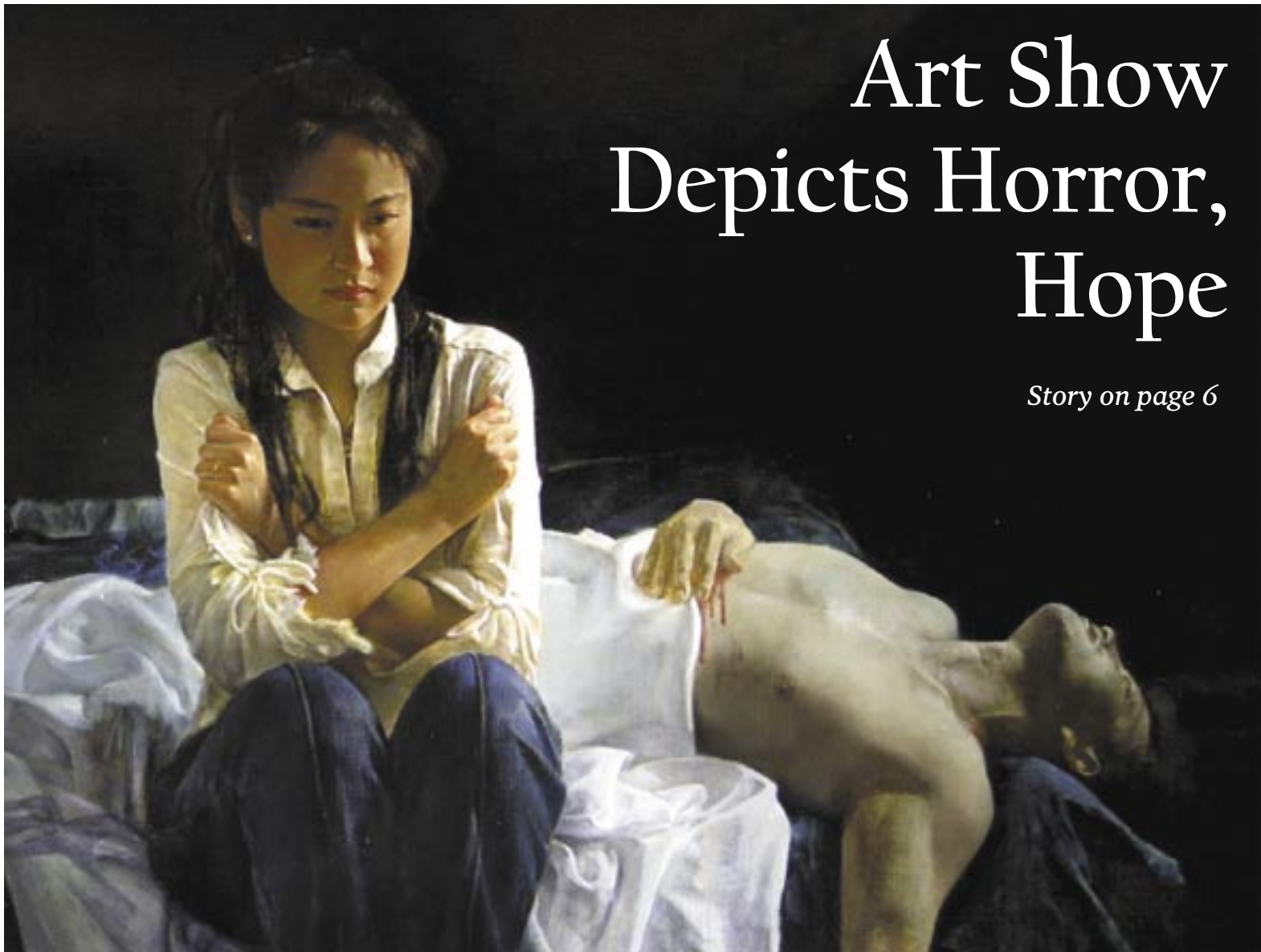
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“All over the world they stand silently outside Chinese consulates and embassies, living symbols of opposition to a regime that smugly believes it can get away forever with arbitrary cruelty. In their vigils the Falun Gong beg, peacefully, for help from the part of humanity that’s free. They deserve support.”

—National Post

“Dressed in yellow and red costumes, they exercise gently, dance gracefully and politely hand out fliers. New Yorkers never saw such a peaceful demonstration. ... Go, Falun Gong!”

—The New York Times

Falun Gong Practitioners Learn Truthfulness, Compassion, Tolerance

by Tara Slate Donaldson
The Prince Williams Times

Ten people stand in a circle, eyes closed, feet slightly spread and hands pressed together as though in prayer.

A tape recorder plays soft music in the background and, as a quiet voice speaks in Chinese, the members slowly begin raising and lowering their arms.

Watching the exercise, it seems unlikely that these slow graceful movements could have led to so much bloodshed and controversy. But Falun Gong has struck fear and anger into the Chinese government just as it brings peace and health to its practitioners.

“People will sometimes ask are the exercises physical or spiritual in nature,” Jim Giragosian, of Catharpin, said. “They are both because in Falun Gong there is no difference.”

Falun gong is a holistic practice intended to improve the mind, body and spirit. While the exercises are the most visible part of the practice, the core lies in the

principles of truthfulness, compassion and tolerance.

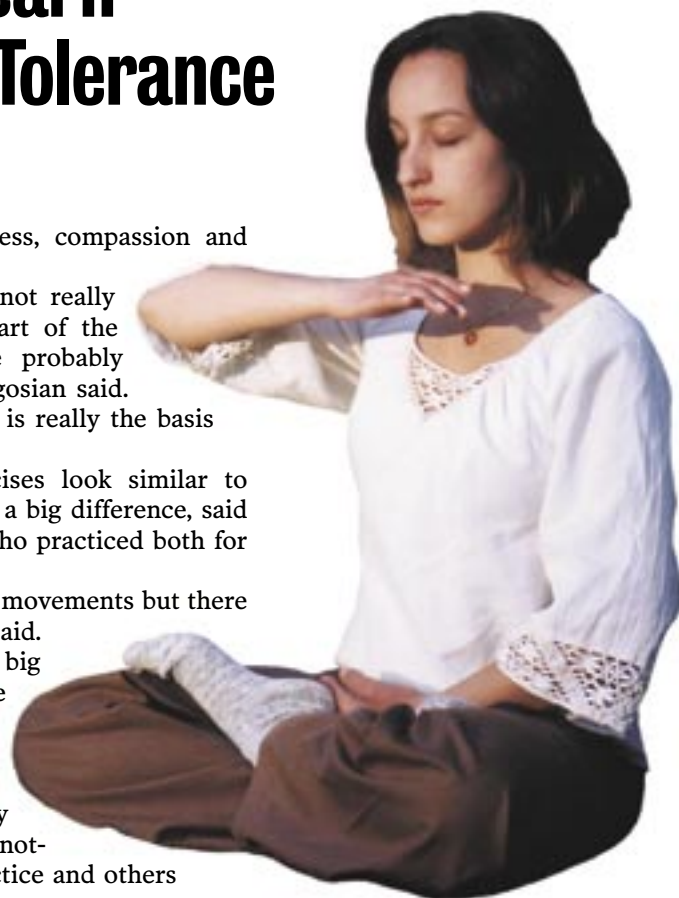
“The exercises are not really the most significant part of the practice but they are probably the most visible,” Giragosian said. “Cultivating our hearts is really the basis of Falun Gong.”

Although the exercises look similar to those of tai chi, there’s a big difference, said Amy Xue, of Vienna, who practiced both for many years.

“Tai chi is also slow movements but there is no mental part,” she said.

And there’s another big difference between the two, reminded Giragosian’s 13-year-old son Mark.

“Tai chi is also very expensive,” he said, noting that while that practice and others



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The Youngest Victims

Orphaned by Persecution, Chinese Children Become Focus of New York-based Rescue Effort

Little Jingyu, barely eight years old, lay silent, terrified, still, on the cold concrete floor of the Jiuxian Village jail. But the scene kept moving through her head.

It was her dad she saw, she was sure, but not the strong, smiling father she knew. This time it was so different. Dad was crumpled in pain, writhing. Hours of beatings had left him a shadow of his former self.

Police had made Jingyu watch.

The pain and confusion proved too much for the young girl, even after she and her mom were released from custody. The trauma was so deep Jingyu soon began spitting up blood and vomiting. Less than one month later she passed away, too broken to live.

Other children, such as eight-year-old Zhang Haonan, go on living with the pain; his single father was strangled to death by police two years ago. Others like him live in constant fear, all alone. Some are in hiding, some on the streets.

For these children, it is not too late.

The stories of Jingyu and Haonan, like those of many other girls and boys across China, are perhaps the saddest—and least

"Lost Everything"

Children across China—probably, some say, numbering in the millions—have fared terribly in a nationwide program of religious suppression.

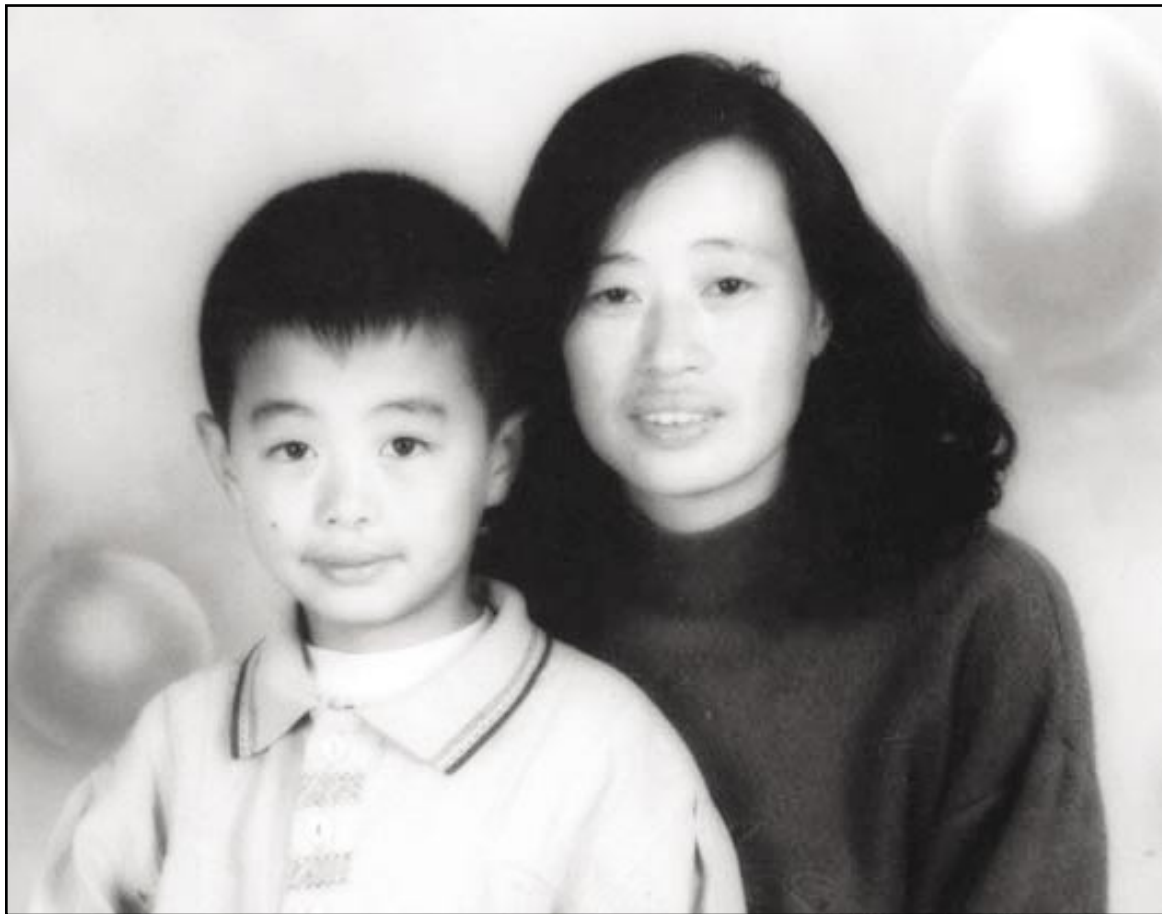
When in July of 1999 China's communist leader Jiang Zemin launched a campaign of violence, propaganda, and arrests against a popular meditation group called Falun Gong, few realized just how large the ripples would be. (See story page 9)

The campaign, which flew in the face of China's own constitution and international law, called for the "eradication" of the Falun Gong practice and even, if necessary, those who follow it. Early jailings and detention soon gave way to sanctioned violence and torture. As many as 2 million people are held captive in forced labor camps. Over 1,000 deaths in custody—most from torture—have been documented.

Children have suffered gravely under the suppression.

"These children have lost everything," says Dr. Elizabeth Wang, Director of the Global Mission to Rescue Persecuted Falun Gong Practitioners.

Many have seen their parents dragged off by police. Others' parents have been killed. In



37-year-old Ms. Lingxia Wu with her son in 1997. In 2001, Lingxia was abducted by police because she practices Falun Gong. She was tortured while captive in a detention center for nearly a year, and died in 2002.

"These are children who have lost their dignity. They've been discriminated against and defamed awfully—in society, schools, and even kindergartens... A lot of them are too young to even understand what's happening or to know what to do."

known—chapter in a massive human rights crisis that has befallen the country.

They are the untold, uncounted victims of the government's persecution of Falun Gong.

And it is on them that a large, grassroots effort is focusing this holiday season, beginning in New York. The hope is to bring them to safety and shelter in the U.S.

the worst of cases the kids themselves are jailed and even abused. While some have extended family to care for them, many are left to fend for themselves.

And owing to government demonization of Falun Gong in China, many of these children face alienation. Neighbors or even family who might care for them risk the ire of the Beijing regime. Such "sympathiz-

ing" could cost them their jobs, homes, or freedom.

"These are children who have lost their dignity," says Wang. "They've been discriminated against and defamed awfully—in society, schools, and even kindergartens. They are labeled as 'bad kids,' or 'kids of bad people.' Often they are left with nobody to turn to."

"A lot of them are too young to even understand what's happening or to know what to do."

Schooling Gone Awry

Children associated with Falun Gong have felt the sting of suppression especially in the school system.

In one incident, reported in the *Wall Street Journal*, Beijing schoolchildren received new class schedules upon returning from winter break, only to find on the back of each a poem vilifying Falun Gong. Slogans emblazoned atop the cards urged

pupils to "Oppose Cults, Protect Stability, Respect Science, Promote Civilization."

Many children have been forced to attend political sessions at their schools, disguised as "assemblies." Principals and teachers at these sessions give vitriolic speeches denouncing Falun Gong and those who would practice it.

In some cases students are forced to sign "repentance statements" and "confessions" disavowing the practice of Falun Gong and declaring their "guilt." In a throwback to China's tumultuous Cultural Revolution, students must at times "denounce" family or friends over the traditional meditation.

In addition, the government packs textbooks with frightening misportrayals of Falun Gong. Sympathy for the oppressed is made out to be "unpatriotic."

Final exams are routinely stacked with questions about Falun Gong. Anything less than

echoing the Party's stance could result in failing grades.

Sympathizers and adherents of the Falun Gong face permanent expulsion from school.

"They've institutionalized hatred, in effect," says Erping Zhang, head of the Association for Asian Research. "It's a form of coercion, and it strategically targets people who are young and impressionable."

Orphaned... or Worse

The suppression has cut the deepest wounds at home, in the family. Children been made to bear the trauma and emotional pain of having their parents taken away—usually, simply for who they are—to unknown fates.

Sometimes the very act of seizure is so violent as to be unbearable, as in little Jingyu's case.

Such was the case, similarly, for two-year-old Wang Shujie, of Shandong Province. Shu-

jie watched in horror as police screamed at and beat his father right before his eyes.

The sight was so disturbing the boy passed out and began a fever. His head for long after was in constant pain, and his state lethargic. He had trouble eating and sleeping, and progressively wasted away. Several months later he was dead.

Others who are slightly older, like the Feng brothers Hao and Jun, have managed to go on, despite the pain.

Three years ago, at the ages of eight and ten, the brothers lost their mother when Macheng City police pummeled her before dousing her body with gasoline and setting it ablaze. Officials, seeking to cover up the murder, labeled her death a "suicide."

In the most chilling of episodes, Chinese authorities have directed violence at the children themselves.

Horrific is the case of Wang Lixuan and her eight-month-old son, Meng Hao. The mother and child were arrested in Beijing in November of 2000, when Wang sought to file a grievance with the government.

Within a matter of days both

mother and child were dead from police torture. According to the coroner's report, the mother's neck and knucklebones were broken, her skull was caved in, and a needle was found stuck in her lower back.

Her baby, Meng Hao, was not spared. He had deep bruises on his ankles, two black and blue spots on his head, and blood was found in his nose. The marks on his ankles, it was reported, likely came from being hung upside down in shackles.

Police and officials in China continue to deny all wrongdoing, and some, reportedly, have even received promotions for their violent measures.

Amnesty International has noted, "Whereas officials responsible for deaths in custody during normal police operations may be investigated and prosecuted, in all cases [in China] where the victims were Falun Gong practitioners, the government has denied any wrongdoing, even in the face of multiple eyewitness testimonies."

The Rescue Campaign

With the violent suppression

still in effect in China, the focus of a growing number of U.S. Falun Gong supporters and devotees is rescuing these children.

Dr. Wang and the Global Mission are heading up the effort in the U.S. (beginning in New York), with a large variety of events aimed at raising awareness. Letter campaigns will also be a part.

Support, and hope, is growing for the cause. Wang and others are working with federal officials as well as the United Nations to make the vision real. Channels for bringing the kids out of China are being explored, and homes for them in America identified. "These kids desperately need to be cared for," Wang says. "They need to be raised in a safe, nurturing environment. Some of them have lived in constant fear almost from the day they were born."

"We want to give these children a chance to live a normal life, to let them heal... I think it's hard for us to imagine all that they have been through."

How much does the group expect to ultimately achieve?

"It's going to depend on how much we all do," says Erkanda



New Jersey residents call for help rescuing children.

Bujari, a Ph.D. student at Columbia University who volunteers with the effort. "I think wonderful things are possible."

If early indicators mean much, optimism is every bit justified.

Queens resident Amy Lee, 35, today still revels in the fruits of

a similar effort. She was recently reunited with her daughter, thanks to local support from residents and politicians, after three long years of separation.

"My message is that people's efforts can make a difference," Lee said recently. "We have to try."

A Call to Rescue

Many, probably tens of thousands, of children in China have lost their parents in the violent suppression of Falun Gong. New Yorkers have launched a drive to help these children. The following are a few of the children's stories. To learn how you can help them, please see the back page: "Taking Action, Making a Difference."

Rongrong, age 5: lost loved ones

When Zou Farong (or "Rongrong") was born in November 1999, her father was in a detention center; he was unlawfully locked up for filing an appeal in Beijing on behalf of Falun Gong. Eventually her father was tortured to death by police. Police regularly harassed and kept close watch over Rongrong's mother. To avoid arrest and possible torture, her mother had to go into exile. Fatherless and separated from her mother, Rongrong was cared for by her grandmother, whose grief over these events led to illness and, finally, her own death. Relatives say that whenever Rongrong misses her loved ones, she steps up on a little stool and reaches up to kiss her dad's box of ashes.



Huang Xinyu, age 6: both parents killed

When not yet two years old, little Xinyu lost her mother. She died at the hands of police while held unlawfully in custody. Her death caused Xinyu such despair her mouth broke out in painful ulcers. Last year, at just four and a half, Xinyu lost her father. He was tortured to death in police custody for, like his wife, being affiliated with Falun Gong. Confused and traumatized, Xinyu reportedly can't understand what happened to her father and constantly looks and asks for him.



Piao Yonghe, age 10: mother murdered

Piao Yonghe, of Jilin City in northeastern China, last saw his mother over two years ago. That was when authorities hauled her away to a labor camp on the basis of her personal beliefs. Yonghe's life would never be the same again: in August of 2003 she died, following months of agonizing torture, sleep deprivation, and brainwashing in the camp.



One Child Successfully Rescued! Amy Lee's Daughter

Amy Lee, a 35-year-old fashion designer, was separated from her five-year-old daughter, Luo Meng, for 3 years after escaping China to avoid imprisonment and torture for her beliefs. Time after time her daughter was barred by authorities from leaving China. After working with the United Nations, U.S. officials, nonprofit organizations, friends, and coworkers for three years to bring her daughter to America, Amy was finally reunited with her daughter last year.



Falun Gong Practitioners...

Continued from Page 1

like it require high fees for classes, Falun Gong is completely free.

"If you have to pay, it's not Falun Gong," agreed Sandy Fox of Manassas as other members of the group pointed out that not only practice sessions but also the instruction books and all other information can be downloaded free off the Internet.

And the benefits? Everything from better concentration to perfect health and miracles, say adherents.

"I can concentrate better, like in school, and it's easier to be patient," Mark said. "Like, sometimes you want to get mad but it's easier to be patient when you practice."

Yingqing Chi had a more unusual experience with Falun Gong.

Speaking with Xue translating, Yingqing said she had been diagnosed with incurable hepatitis C and was close to death in 1998 when she discovered Falun Gong.

"One day she walked to the park and saw many people practicing Falun

Gong," Xue translated. "They all told her this is a very good practice, so she started to do it."

Within a month, the hepatitis was gone, along with several other serious conditions Yingqing had suffered from, she said.

Robert Nappi also had a life-changing experience. After being in a car accident on his way to work at Quantico in 1991, he died three times and was revived by doctors. In the process, he suffered a stroke that left him unable to read, write or feel one of his arms.

Six years later, his wife, Lisa, discovered Falun Gong and introduced him to the practice. Nappi slowly learned to read again by starting with "Zhuan Falun," the practice handbook by Falun Gong creator Li Hongzhi.

Not long after that, Nappi had another life-changing experience, this time while doing one of the exercises.

"I had no feeling in my arm for six years until one day we were (doing one of the Falun Gong exercises) and all of



a sudden there was this loud popping," he said.

All feeling returned to his arm, which he now has complete use of, he said.

Even those adherents without stories of miraculous recoveries can boast of the benefits of holistic exercise.

"This lady is in her 70s, can you tell? She's 72," Xue said, pointing to a practitioner named Yun Wu, who appears to be at least 10 years younger than her age.

"She has been practicing for almost eight years," Xue said, translating for Yun. "After she started to practice, she has never been to any hospital. Every year before she practiced she was hospitalized."

Nevertheless, the practitioners stressed that physical recovery is not the reason for practicing Falun Gong, merely a side effect.

Falun gong, also called Falun Dafa, is a form of qigong, the practice of refining the body and mind through exercises and meditation. Unlike other types of qigong, Falun Gong also stresses the pursuit of wisdom and enlightenment.

Practitioners strive to become better people by practicing the universal principles of truthfulness, compassion and tolerance in everything they do.

It may not sound like a radically controversial idea, but in China thousands of adherents have been tortured, imprisoned or killed. The Chinese government has labeled Falun Gong a cult and has forbidden its practice.

Although the persecution has led to imprisonment and death in the communist regime, it has also helped to popularize Falun Gong around the world.

In July, the House of Representatives unanimously passed a resolution urging China to cease its suppression of Falun Gong. And numerous local governments around the state and nation have commended its adherents.

But that comes as no great surprise to the Manassas practitioners.

"You can't argue with it," Nappi said. "It's health and awareness. How can you argue with that?"



What People Are Saying

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!"



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 every day, 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."



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."

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,

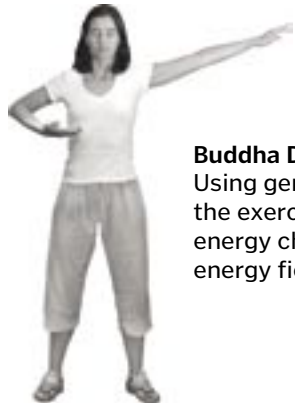
or "Way of Nature," is explained in the books *Falun Gong* and *Zhuan Falun*. While the teachings are rich and dynamic, at their core are the three simple virtues of truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance. Students of Falun Gong strive to live by these values and put others first.

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."

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.



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.



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.



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

To learn how to get started practicing Falun Gong and to find a location in your area, visit www.falun-ny.net or email: 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.

Drummer Hip to Falun Gong

by Alexandra Gill
Globe and Mail



Sterling Campbell, a 39-year-old American who has drummed for Duran Duran, Soul Asylum and Cyndi Lauper, has become a worldwide campaigner for the Falun Gong, which is outlawed in Mainland China. He claims the group's meditation exercises have saved him from the ravages of his formerly excessive rock 'n' roll lifestyle.

"I was in this trap," says Campbell, who discovered Falun Gong five years ago when he stumbled across a group practicing their exercises in a New York park. "I was an alcoholic, doing drugs and smoking two packs of cigarettes a day. I had this huge ego and was very promiscuous. I wanted to be a rock star."

Having dabbled in tai chi, homeopathy and various New Age thera-

pies, Campbell was fascinated by the Falun Gong group, but still skeptical.

"I had a suspicious mind about everything," Campbell recalls, speaking from his Vancouver hotel room on Thursday.

"There was no pressure. I just saw some people practicing. I went back the next day and started asking a lot of questions. One of the women gave me some books to read. I realized this is what I was looking for."

Falun Gong draws from traditional Taoist and Buddhist systems of meditation. Practitioners perform five gentle exercises, similar to Qigong, to improve mind and body. The movement, based on the precepts of truthfulness, benevolence and forbearance, claims to have 70

million followers in China, despite it being banned since 1999, plus 30 million more around the world.

From the "bottom of my heart," he swears Falun Gong has done nothing but help him become a more honorable person.

"About three weeks into the practice, it just hit me one day. I didn't feel the cravings for these things any more. There was a lot of stumbling, but I just felt more and more able to tackle things like jealousy and competitiveness."

"I was giving my seat to other people on the train and stuff. At first, I was like 'huh?' It's hard to explain, but it's deep. You have to do a lot of self-examination."

Art Show Depicts Horror, Hope

Artists Who Experienced Torture, Abuse Take Up Brushes to Convey Falun Gong Persecution



For 63-year-old artist Kunlun Zhang, the New York showing of “Uncompromising Courage” has special meaning.

Much of the anguish—as with the hope and valor—depicted in the art exhibit, it turns out, Zhang experienced first hand.

Zhang was for months a prisoner of conscience in China, where he was arrested and tortured for his practice of Falun Gong meditation. Zhang was crippled for months from repeated beatings and electric shocks by prison guards.

After international pressure won his early release, Zhang

joined forces with 22 other artists to give artistic expression to the terror and anguish many face in China.

The artists created more than 40 pieces that depict not only the suppression of Falun Gong in China, but also the peaceful defiance of those who practice it and the spiritual depths of their journey.

The pieces (several of which are shown here) comprise a traveling art show that has been displayed in Washington D.C., Toronto, Korea, and now New York City—at the National Arts Club.

“There is an incredible

courage and resolve captured in these works,” says Julia Xu, a coordinator of the show. “It’s hard not to be moved by what these people have faced and endured. It’s incredibly tragic, but equally inspiring.”

True to form, Chinese Embassy and Consulate officials have pressured potential venues not to display the show. Chinese officials wish their human rights violations not to be exposed.

For art show locations, visit: www.falundafaartexhibit.net.



In Harmony

(oil on canvas)

A young woman sits in Falun Gong meditation, an inner harmony melding her into the natural landscape and its balance of soft, gentle hues. Cherubs frolic above, conveying a feeling of lightness and innocence.



Banner

(oil on canvas)

A young mother sews a banner emblazoned, in affirmation, with “Falun Dafa is Good.” The scene is one of anticipation, as typically such banners are used across China in daring protest of suppression and slander. The healthy baby suggests that life—and faith—continue in the face of tyranny.

Lotus Candle

(oil on canvas)

Lotus flowers and candles merge in a message of hope and mourning; candle-light vigils around the world remember the loss of Falun Gong practitioners in China and call for change. Scenes at the bottom depict torture and maltreatment by police.



A Tragedy in China

(oil on canvas)

A young woman is stricken with grief as her husband lies dead by her side, slain by torture in a brainwashing center. In his hands are documents authorities demanded he sign, disavowing Falun Gong; they are torn in half. For many, refusal to sign leads to torture and even death.



Smoke and Ash

(pastel on paper)

Irons and cigarettes are among the implements used to burn and torment captive Falun Gong followers; some, such as red-hot iron rods, burn to the bone. Such cruelty has been sanctioned by China's former ruler, Jiang Zemin, who declared that "no means are too excessive" to eliminate the popular meditation.



Liu Chengjun

(oil on canvas)

Bathed in a warm, golden light that represents resilient faith is Liu Chengjun, shortly before his torture-inflicted death. Ghastly images animate the floor, suggesting the horrors he endured in police captivity. Liu was arrested in March of 2002 for his part in a defiant television broadcast that exposed human rights violations against Falun Gong and the culpability of government officials.



Torture of a Woman

(pastel on paper)

Women of Falun Gong, such as the one depicted here, tell wrenching tales of physical and sexual abuse in captivity. They have been beaten, sodomized, gang raped, and sexually humiliated. The coloring of the police in this scene suggests the inhumanity of their acts.



Washington Post Reveals State-Ordered Program of Torture, Brainwashing, Propaganda

Chinese Regime Attempts to Systematically “Eradicate” Falun Gong

by John Pomfret and Philip P. Pan
The Washington Post

The following, abridged article reveals perhaps better than any other the chilling, systematic nature of the Chinese leadership’s campaign against Falun Gong. Written in August 2001, the article documents a terror which today is every bit as real as then.

BEIJING—The government’s campaign against Falun Gong, launched in July 1999, struggled at first, hampered by uneven enforcement and a split between central government leaders, who viewed the group as a threat to the party’s rule, and local officials, who did not. But over the past six months, China’s security forces have regrouped and devised an approach they say is producing results.

That approach has three ingredients, according to a government adviser.

The first, he said, is violence. The crackdown has always been associated with police and prison brutality, but the adviser said it was only this year [2001] that

the central leadership decided to sanction the widespread use of violence against Falun Gong members.

The adviser said the second element, a high-pressure propaganda campaign against the group, has also been critical.

“The most active members are sent directly to labor camps where they are first ‘broken’ by beatings and other torture, the adviser said.”

Finally, the security apparatus has begun forcing practitioners to attend intense “study sessions” in which the teachings of the Falun Gong leader are picked apart by former followers.

“Each aspect of the campaign is critical,” he said. “Pure violence doesn’t work. Just studying doesn’t work either. And none of it would be working if

the propaganda hadn’t started to change the way the general public thinks. You need all three. That’s what they’ve figured out.”

Some local governments had experimented with brainwashing classes before, but in January, Beijing’s secret 610 office, an interagency task force leading the charge against Falun Gong, ordered all neighborhood committees, state institutions and companies to begin using them, government sources said. No Falun Gong member is supposed to be spared. The most active members are sent directly to labor camps where they are first “broken” by beatings and other torture, the adviser said.

At the same time, Beijing is getting more efficient at forcing local officials to carry out its orders on Falun Gong. The 610 office also dispatches teams of investigators to check up on local officials, and a “proper attitude” toward Falun Gong is now required for any promotion, he said.

No One Spared

Neighborhood officials have compelled even the elderly, people with disabilities and the ill to attend the classes. Universities have sent staff to find students who had dropped out or been expelled for practicing Falun Gong, and brought them back for the sessions. Other members have been forced to leave sick relatives to go to class.

A university student in Beijing, Alex Hsu, said he was on his way to a computer lab earlier this year when a school official stopped him and told him he had to take the class.

Six men surrounded him, forced him into a car and drove him to a hotel near a labor camp outside Beijing. About 20 practitioners were there, all of them students, teachers, university staff members or retired professors. Hsu later learned the class was organized by the Education Ministry. “We were all very scared,” Hsu said. “We didn’t know what was going to happen next.”

The morning after he was

picked up, the class began in a cafeteria inside the labor camp. The first lesson was a threat.

“They said if they didn’t achieve their goals, if we didn’t give up our beliefs, we’d be taken to the labor camp,” Hsu said. “Reeducation through labor is a frightening thing to a Chinese person. We all knew we would be harmed and our lives would be in danger. We all knew someone who had died in the camps.”

In the cafeteria, Hsu sat at a table with three former Falun Gong members, all of them still detained at the camp. For 12 hours a day, they tried to persuade him to abandon Falun Gong. As the days passed, more “teachers” joined his table, analyzing the writings of Falun Gong leader Li Hongzhi and refusing to let Hsu rest.

“It was mental torture... The pressure just kept growing,” Hsu said. “And the threat was always there. You could see these people all had suffered, and you knew what would happen to you if you didn’t give in too.”

Practitioners are forced to remain in the classes until they renounce their beliefs in writing and then on videotape.

“It was like being drugged with a potion. They came at you

“We all knew we would be harmed and our lives would be in danger. We all knew someone who had died in the camps...”

fast, frightening you and confusing you,” said Sydney Li, a practitioner who escaped from a class organized by neighborhood officials in which he was beaten about the head.

The turning point for Hsu came in the third week. He looked up one morning and recognized one of the “teachers” at his table -- a friend, classmate and fellow practitioner who had disappeared earlier in the year. The student looked thin and sickly. He later told Hsu he had been tortured.

“It was a shock. I didn’t know



Tortured, starved before his death in a Chinese labor camp.

Many women have been beaten, raped, and molested in police custody, such as the woman pictured here, covered in bruises.



Zhao Xin, before her arrest, and three days later—neck broken, paralyzed, and unable to speak. She died shortly after.



he had been sent to the labor camp, and he looked so different,” Hsu said. “He didn’t say much at first, but the others made him talk. I felt so sad.”

A few days later, Hsu signed a statement promising not to practice Falun Gong again and another attacking the group as an evil cult. He read them aloud to his class and in front of a video camera. He wept on the ride back to his university.

“I’m not sure about the others, but I never believed what I was writing,” he said. “It was very painful. They forced us to lie. We knew Falun Gong is good, but they forced us to say it was evil.”

Those who refuse to submit in the classes are sent to the labor camps, where members face a more systematic regimen of violence than in the past, according to practitioners and govern-

Who is Behind the Brutality?

Political gain. Resentment. Intolerance.

The suppression of Falun Gong is time and again traced back to these three things. And one key figure: a man named Jiang Zemin.

Jiang, acting as head of China's Communist Party, outlawed Falun Gong in July of 1999 and ordered a violent campaign to destroy the group. The move was not popular – either among Party leaders or the populace – and was a drastic act built of anger, loathing, and selfish want.

It was at the same time eerily typical of a regime that does not tolerate religious freedom, and even bans Roman Catholicism.

Falun Gong was popular in China from its inception in 1992. Part of China's traditional culture, it was taught free in parks and spread by word of mouth. Its health benefits propelled it across boundaries of age, class, and race. By 1998 some 100 million were practicing.

The meditation's popular appeal reached through the upper crust of government and even the military, with Party cadres and officials counted among the Falun Gong enthusiasts.

Some even saw it as an answer to China's socio-economic problems. One officer from China's National Sports Commission estimated Falun Gong could save the government 100 billion yuan per year in medical fees, adding, "Premier Zhu Rongji is very hap-

ment sources.

Days of Beatings

The sting of torture was felt by James Ouyang, a slight man with thick glasses and crooked teeth. On the sixth day of beatings this April, he recalled, he began to denounce the Falun Gong.

"I cursed and cursed Falun Gong, but the police said it wasn't enough," he said, running a trembling hand through thinning hair. "They continued beating me for three more days until they were satisfied."

When Ouyang, who asked to be identified only by his Chinese last name and an English name he calls himself, was first arrested in early 2000 for going to Tiananmen Square to unfurl a banner praising Falun Gong, police roughed him up but released him after a week.

Ouyang was arrested again in

py about that," according to *U.S. News & World Report*.

China's Premier wasn't alone. Other government offices publicly supported Falun Gong, bestowing it with awards, promoting it as a health tonic on state-run television, hosting events, and even – in one little-known maneuver – trying to set up Falun Gong "learning institutes." Li Hongzhi, the practice's founder, carefully guarded the integrity of his free, apolitical practice, turning down financial incentives from the Chinese State.

All of this proved, by most accounts, irksome for Communist Party head Jiang. He saw in Falun Gong and its popularity a challenge to his moral and cultural authority – the practice was rooted in people's hearts and history, unlike communist doctrine. The "Jiang Zemin Theory" he forced people to study had little popular appeal.

Whereas Jiang demanded that people attend "ideological sessions" to study his political theories, Falun Gong was something people all across China were doing of their own choosing. They would start the day together in the park, meditating, because they liked to. It was the type of allegiance Jiang – who rose to power amidst the 1989 Tiananmen Massacre – had always wanted but never had.

The contrast wasn't lost on Jiang. He couldn't stand it. "This

April after going to Tiananmen Square to show his support for Falun Gong. This time, he said, police methodically reduced him to an "obedient thing" over 10 days of torture.

At a police station in western Beijing, Ouyang was stripped and interrogated for five hours. "If I responded incorrectly, that is if I didn't say, 'Yes,' they shocked me with the electric truncheon," he said.

Then, he was transferred to a labor camp in Beijing's western suburbs. There, the guards ordered him to stand facing a wall. If he moved, they shocked him. If he fell down from fatigue, they shocked him.

Each morning, he had five minutes to eat and relieve himself. "If I didn't make it, I went in my pants," he said. "And they shocked me for that, too."

By the sixth day, Ouyang said, he couldn't see straight from staring at plaster three inches

is obviously very personal for Jiang," one Party official told the *Washington Post*. "He wants this organization crushed."

And so it was that Jiang launched the campaign to wipe out Falun Gong. Many objected. According to the *Washington Post*, "Communist Party sources said that the standing committee of the Politburo did not unanimously endorse the crackdown and that President Jiang Zemin alone decided that Falun Gong must be eliminated."

Indeed, CNN Senior China Analyst Willy Lam says: "It is no secret that several Politburo members thought the president had used the wrong tactics."

And it was Jiang, in fact, behind some of the most acerbic propaganda. The *Post* discovered, for example, that "It was Mr. Jiang who ordered that Falun Gong be branded a 'cult,' and then demanded that a law be passed banning cults."

But what did Jiang hope to gain by crushing the peaceful Falun Gong? All indicators suggest political power. According to the *Post*, "The crackdown was undertaken to demonstrate and solidify the power of the Chinese leadership."

Lam has underscored this point, writing that, "the most severe criticism leveled at Jiang's handling of the Falun Gong is that he seems to be using the mass movement to promote allegiance to himself."

from his face. His knees buckled, prompting more shocks and beatings. He gave in to the guards' demands.

For the next three days, Ouyang denounced Li's teachings, shouting into the wall. Officers continued to shock him about the body and he soiled himself regularly. Finally, on the 10th day, Ouyang's repudiation of the group was deemed sufficiently sincere.

He was taken before a group of Falun Gong inmates and rejected the group one more time as a video camera rolled. Ouyang left jail and entered the brainwashing classes. Twenty days later after debating Falun Gong for 16 hours a day, he "graduated."

"The pressure on me was and is incredible," he said. "In the past two years, I have seen the worst of what man can do. We really are the worst animals on Earth."

These four individuals were the main initiators of, and continue to carry out, the violent suppression of Falun Gong in China.



Jiang Zemin

Jiang Zemin (former Head of State) is the key figure behind the persecution of Falun Gong. He has forced officials at all levels to participate in his campaign of "eradication."

Luo Gan

Luo Gan (Cabinet Member) is Jiang's right-hand man. He makes sure the eradication plan is implemented.

Liu Jing

Liu Jing heads up the 610 Office, a secret government agency with branches in every city that oversees the persecution.

Zhou Yongkang

Zhou Yongkang (Minister of Public Security) oversees the police and rallies the masses to oppose Falun Gong.

Did You Know?

Is China really enjoying a "golden age" of religious freedom, as some communist leaders claim?

- As many as 2 million Falun Gong adherents are held captive in forced-labor camps. Most were sentenced without trial and denied legal representation.
- Christians must join official, government-run "patriotic churches," or risk persecution. Baptism is banned.
- In 2000 authorities destroyed over 3,000 churches, temples, and mosques in one province alone. They claimed it would "preserve social stability."
- Human rights workers have documented over 38,000 cases of torture or severe abuse of Falun Gong practitioners.
- Authorities have murdered 5,000 or more Falun Gong followers by recent estimates. Most die of severe torture.
- Christians must read a version of the Bible censored by atheist authorities; full versions of the Bible are illegal and designated "evil cult materials."
- In a span of less than two years, authorities arrested 23 reporters in Beijing—from just one news agency alone—for trying to cover Falun Gong.
- Buddhist monks must study a curriculum set by atheist authorities that includes business classes and political indoctrination.

Defending New York From China's Worst

Local Attorney Part of International Legal Effort

Books and notepads overflow off the desk to the chairs and floor in her small office in New York City – subtle deliberate organization evident among the mountains of files and notes.

She works in a small team, usually without funding or staff. Occasionally she wakes from a brief night's sleep at her desk only to continue her labor anew. She is dedicated to a cause she knows to be profoundly worthy.

Lana S. Han is an attorney volunteering to defend Falun Gong practitioners against the onslaughts of a totalitarian regime, both abroad and right here in her hometown of New York City.

As one of a growing group of attorneys taking an interest in the persecution of Falun Gong and bringing its perpetrators to justice, Han is providing legal support to the largest non-violent movement in China's history.

"If we don't do it, who will?"

Han left her position in a prominent New York law firm a year and a half ago to work full-time on behalf of people who practice Falun Gong.

"I knew this effort would require my full attention, so my husband and I sat down to see if we could manage financially... we knew it wouldn't be easy, but we saw we could get by and decided it was worth doing. If we don't do it, who will?"

New Yorkers Suffer Blows From Abroad

In one case filed with the New York County Supreme Court, Han is representing Falun Gong practitioners who were assaulted on New York City streets by a group of men with known ties to the local Chinese Consulate. The men beat them outside of a Chinatown restaurant, shouting, "If you are Falun Gong, I'll kill you!"

Han explains, "They think they can operate [in the US] like they do in China: beat people up, threaten them, and get away with it."

"We're not going to stand by – no matter how much money they throw toward their defense, what they're doing is wrong."

In another case, Han recently filed a petition for *writ of certiorari* with the United States Supreme Court against two New York-based newspapers that serve as mouthpieces for the Chinese Communist Party.

The two newspapers have published a barrage of defamatory, intentionally falsified articles about the practice of Falun Gong and its local followers. The arti-



"They think they can operate [in the US] like they do in China: beat people up, threaten them, and get away with it. We're not going to stand by – no matter how much money they throw toward their defense, what they're doing is wrong."

cles, interestingly, mirrored ones in Chinese government-run newspapers.

One of the papers being sued published over 300 anti-Falun Gong articles in three years' time, claiming Falun Gong practitioners are "murderers," "criminals," and worse.

Since these articles are rarely translated into English, the false reporting has gone largely unnoticed by media watchdogs in the U.S., even though these papers reach the majority of Chinese here.

The Growing Network

Han is part of a growing network of volunteers in the legal field. Earlier this year, she and others traveled to the Hague in the Netherlands to consult with the International Criminal Court and meet with other attorneys in Am-

sterdam and Paris.

All told, the volunteers' efforts span 21 countries, and account for 26 lawsuits to date, from the United States to Spain, from South Africa to Taiwan.

Their cause has gone from obscure to front page in the last few years. Once a topic that Chinese leaders tried to sweep under the carpet, Falun Gong's human rights lawsuits are now a key component in the world dialogue on China's future.

The legal effort's main focus is on former Chinese leader Jiang Zemin, but it also includes a host of Chinese officials who have participated in persecuting Falun Gong under Jiang's direction. They are being sued for the illegal detention, torture, killing, rape, and disappearance of innocent civilians and other crimes against humanity. And, in some cases, genocide.

Lawsuits Around the World

The first Falun Gong case that gained international attention was filed in October 2002. Plaintiffs filed that month a class-action lawsuit in a U.S. District Court in Chicago against Jiang and the "Falun Gong Control Office" (a Gestapo against Falun Gong) for causes of action including "torture, genocide, and denial of the right to life." Han has helped with the case.

Two days after the lawsuit was served in Chicago, China's foreign ministry tried to deny that the lawsuit even existed, but was forced into a retreat when pressed by Associated Press reporters in Beijing.

In September 2003, the District Court judge claimed that Jiang enjoys immunity and dismissed the case. "The decision contradicts case law in the U.S.," says attorney Dr. Terri Marsh, who represents Falun Gong in the case, "and ignores international treaty law and customary international law that stipulates heads-of-state and former heads-of-state may not enjoy immunity with respect to crimes against humanity."

In the appeal to the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals filed on January 20, 2004, 14 professors of international law filed an *amicus* brief, supporting the appeal, as did members of Congress.

Following the Chicago suit, in December 2002, attorneys William Bourdon and Georges-Henri Beauthier filed a suit in France for crimes of torture, against Li Lanqing. This is the first time in Europe that a Chinese leader has faced such charges.

Over the next two years, a total of 19 lawsuits were filed in Belgium, Iceland, Finland, Spain, Germany, South Korea, Taiwan, and other countries against Jiang and other senior Chinese officials for their roles suppressing Falun Gong.

Determined

Han and the attorneys working on Falun Gong-related lawsuits continue their efforts. They are determined to bring to justice who they call "one of the world's most deadly but least-known dictators," Jiang Zemin.

"We won't ever give up," concludes Han. "Even if Jiang and his cohorts shift the blame, even if the [Chinese Communist] Party finds a scapegoat, those responsible for these crimes against humanity will be found, exposed, and held responsible for the lives they destroyed."

U.S. Lawmakers Condemn Chinese Oppression of American Falun Gong

Falun Gong practitioners in U.S. victims of vandalism, harassment, violence, and death threats

Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) isn't happy. She knows what's going on.

"The Chinese authorities show no regard for human life;

The Washington Post

"50 followers of the Falun Gong spiritual movement sued the Chinese government... charging that Chinese embassies and consulates across the country were directing a 'continuing criminal enterprise' of death threats, break-ins, beatings, arson and wiretappings against them."

no mercy; no remorse."

Ros-Lehtinen, herself once a refugee of a communist nation, is taking on Chinese officials for a stunning, however bizarre, program of violence and intimidation aimed at U.S. Falun Gong adherents.

"We will not sit idly by as you infringe upon the rights of our citizens and residents who practice Falun Gong," Ros-Lehtinen told Chinese officials recently, speaking before Congress.

"Falun Gong practitioners in the U.S. are the victims of death threats; car bombs; vandalism against their homes; cyberattacks and harassment."

Chinese officials have even gone so far as to pressure, with diplomatic and economic threat, local U.S. officials who would support Falun Gong and its human rights.

The illicit effort began in 2000 on orders from then Communist Party head, Jiang Zemin. Jiang feared growing awareness, and resultant criticism, of the human rights abuses perpetrated against Falun Gong in China. Jiang ordered Chinese agents to "intensify the struggle overseas." Shortly after, incidents of violence and intimidation here in the States started to grow.

The actions, however, didn't go unnoticed.

Ros-Lehtinen joined last year with Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey (D-CA) to put a stop to the tawdry tactics. Several months ago the two began working on corrective legislation, ultimately introducing a resolution to the House of Representatives.

"The Resolution is about defending human rights and democracy," Woolsey said.

"I am outraged that a foreign government would try to

interfere with our democratic process."

This past October, the House of Representatives unanimously passed House Concurrent Resolution 304, condemn-

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

"The Chinese government, not content with persecuting the Falun Gong in China, has responded by urging local U.S. officials to shun or even persecute them right here in America."

ing the Chinese Government's oppression of Falun Gong in both the United States and China.

Ros-Lehtinen described the legislation—and the problem more largely—saying it, "focuses on reports and investigations on the use of fear, intimidation and oppression, often connected with violence, right here within the borders of our own country."

Citing cases in which Chinese-Government agents targeted U.S. officials, residents, and citizens from New York to San Francisco, the resolution calls upon the Chinese Government to, among oth-

er things, immediately "cease using the diplomatic missions in the United States to spread falsehoods about the nature of Falun Gong."

In particular, the Resolution cited a gang beating that took place on June 23, 2003, in which "Falun Gong practitioners were attacked outside a Chinese restaurant in New York City by local United States-based individuals with reported ties to the Chinese Government."

Similar beatings in San Francisco and Chicago are also cited in the Resolution, the latter of which resulted in battery convictions against two assailants—both members of Chicago-area Chinese associations that maintain "close ties with the Chinese Consulate."

The Resolution also cited a number of cases where Chinese consular officials pressured U.S. public officials to rescind support for Falun Gong, threatening, in some cases, economic repercussions if they failed to do so. Many U.S. cities have delicate investments in and trade relationships with China.

In all, some 75 members of Congress co-sponsored the Resolution.

In the clearest warning yet to Chinese officialdom, Resolution 304 concludes that the U.S. Attorney General should investigate reports of Chinese consular officials in the U.S.

Newsday

"The Chinese government's relentless drive to beat down the popular meditation movement echoes, faint but chilling, in New York."

committing illegal acts against Falun Gong or local elected officials, and take appropriate measures. It further resolves that officials should report incidents of harassment or pressure by P.R.C. agents to Congress, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of State.

"What this faction of China's leadership is doing is really self-defeating," says Shiyu Zhou, a professor and frequent commentator on China affairs.

"The more they try to scare and silence people overseas, the more people find out, and the worse they end up looking."

Charles Lee: An American in a Chinese Jail

Yeong-ching Fu will never look at Christmas lights the same. Or calendars or shoes, for that matter.

All three are products Fu's fiancé, Charles Lee, is being forced to assemble. Lee is being held captive in China, like millions there who do Falun Gong, and is forced to perform slave labor.

But there's a difference: Charles Lee is an American citizen.

"I can't believe that the

Chinese government would want to arrest such a kind and honest person," Fu said in an interview. "He has done nothing wrong."

Lee, a medical doctor and community activist, was arrested in January of 2003 after arriving in China. He was met at the airport by police, was beaten, and taken to prison.

Lee was accused by Chinese authorities of "intending" to expose China's human rights violations against Fa-

lun Gong, and given a three-year sentence.

Despite initial protests from U.S. Embassy officials and criticism from Congress, Lee remains in captivity today. Reports indicate that he has been denied sleep, beaten, and put through brainwashing.

To learn how you can help Charles Lee and others, please see page 12.



Yeong-ching Fu, fiancée of Charles Lee, at a press conference.

Voices in Support of Falun Gong



Senator John Edwards

"I am very upset about the way the Chinese government has been treating people who practice Falun Gong... the United States does not approve of the persecution of practitioners of Falun Gong, and we want it to end."



The New York City Council:

"The Council of the City of New York is proud to honor and commend the Falun Dafa movement in recognition of their teachings of peace and spirituality, and for their courage and perseverance in the face of oppression."

Amnesty International:

"It must stop. The arbitrary detention, unfair trials, torture and deaths resulting from this campaign must come to an end... It is not too late for the many thousands who remain in detention."

Abraham Halpern, M.D.

Former President, American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law

"Hospitals are being used to detain and torture [Falun Gong] practitioners... we know of some of the drugs the hospitals force on sane individuals in an attempt to destroy their will and spirit... we know of the widespread use of psychotropic drugs by ordinary police in jails, brainwashing centers, and labor camps..."

Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen

"Secret documents issued by the PRC and unveiled by human rights organizations in May of this year, underscored the determination of the PRC to suppress the Falun Gong, at all costs... the Chinese authorities show no regard for human life; no mercy; no remorse. The persecution of the Falun Gong must end."



U.S. House of Representatives:

"The US Government should investigate illegal activities by the Government of the People's Republic of China and its diplomats, concerning harassment of US citizens and residents who practice Falun Gong and of US officials who support Falun Gong; and take legal action or resort to deportation for those Chinese officials who have been found engaging in unlawful activities on US soil."



Rabbi David Saperstein

Former Chair, U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom

"Tragically, over many centuries, we Jews have been among the quintessential victims of religious persecution, precisely because, in the face of the oppression and degradations visited upon us, good people stood by silently and let it happen. We are here today to say: we will not let this happen again... few spiritual or religious peoples in the world today face the degree or depth of persecution as do the members of the Falun Gong spiritual movement in China."

Taking Action, Making a Difference

From car caravans to art exhibits, candlelight vigils to letter campaigns and marches, concerned citizens around the globe have taken action to put an end to the violent suppression of Falun Gong in China. Eric Meltzer, age 20, has biked over 700 miles to raise awareness. Cuiying Zhang, age 42, has done paintings and exhibited them around the world. Kacie Tu, age 8, has handed out leaflets on Halloween while trick-or-treating.

And the momentum is growing. People are getting involved after learning about the tragedy in China. They include restaurant owners who keep flyers on their counters, teachers who include this topic in their curriculum, lawyers who take on human rights lawsuits pro bono, members of community groups who invite speakers, businesspeople who bring their concerns up at board meetings, and many others. In fact, no matter who you are, you can help make a difference.



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.

How you can help:

1. Tell two people you know about the persecution in China – public awareness puts pressure on the perpetrators.
2. Tell the White House you're concerned:
email: president@whitehouse.gov
call: 202-456-1414
or write: The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500
3. Invite a Falun Gong volunteer to speak in your community or organization by emailing contact@faluninfo.net or calling 1-888-842-4797.
4. Ask your Congresspersons to take action: visit www.congress.org or check your phone book.
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, or 1-866-FG-FRIEND
7. Stay informed by visiting www.faluninfo.net for new media reports, to download materials, or to subscribe to a news bulletin.

For more information about Falun Gong: www.falundafa.org, or call 877-325-8699 (Toll Free)
For information about Falun Gong in the New York area: www.falun-ny.net, or call 212-978-9511.
For news and information about the persecution: www.faluninfo.net, or call 888-842-4797 (Toll Free)
To find out how you can help: www.fofg.org, or call 866-343-7436 (Toll Free)