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Five Years on 42nd Street

By Matt Kutolowski

The cement on 42nd Street doesn't hurt eight-year-old Wesley Wang's legs anymore; his little body has grown used to it with all the sitting. It's the thought of his father that hurts.

Wesley hasn't seen his dad for nearly three years. That's how long it has been since Wesley's father was imprisoned incommunicado in China for his beliefs. His dad practices Falun Gong.

"He still wakes up in the middle of the night, screaming, 'Daddy, Daddy!'" says Wesley's mother, Celia Wang of Queens. "He asks when Daddy is coming home, and if he is being beaten in jail."

"And I can't answer him, because I don't know. The last we heard he had been tortured."

If Wesley hasn't lived the normal life of a young boy - no playing catch with dad or piggyback rides - it is a tragedy that's played out similarly for millions in China, where the practice of Falun Gong is now violently suppressed.

And it is because of this - a per-



Opposite the Chinese Consulate on 42nd Street, New Yorkers silently protest suppression of their meditation group in China, Falun Gong. They have demonstrated weekly for five years.

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CBS Health Watch

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How to Cultivate Yourself: Falun Dafa

By Lara C. Pullen, Medical Writer

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

With these words Gail Rachlin, a 50-something New York City Falun Dafa practitioner, enthusiastically begins her description of the positive impact that this new interpretation of the ancient Chinese practice of Qi Gong has had on her well-being.

Closely related to Qi Gong is Tai Chi, a series of ballet-like movements that hone balance and strength. If you have visited any Chinese community anywhere around the globe you have probably seen Tai Chi practiced by the older people in the parks at daybreak.

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

So, what exactly does this movement involve?

Above all, Falun Dafa empha-

sizes the cultivation of three fundamental principles:

Truthfulness. Compassion. Forbearance.

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

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

In general, the exercises involve holding the body in positions that are said to promote the movement of energy in the body. The positions are thought to promote contemplative thought and strength. Some of the exercises



A peaceful moment, meditating in Central Park

may be difficult at first, but these exercises are performed successfully and routinely by young and old individuals alike.

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

One more thing: Falun Dafa is free. As many practitioners explained to me: If money changes

hands, it is not Falun Dafa.

A Very Alternative Approach to Healing

Dr. Jingduan Yang may or may not be joking when he explains the rates that he will charge his future patients. Dr. Yang's background is unusual in that it in-

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"As we have come to know the work of Falun Gong, our respect has grown, and we find this brutal and ruthless and bloody suppression of Falun Gong practitioners in China appalling, unacceptable, reprehensible, and we will want to do everything in our power to provide the maximum amount of information to the American people."

Congressman Tom Lantos, Co-Chair of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus and Holocaust survivor

Five Years...

Continued from Page 1

secution so severe some human rights attorneys call it “genocide” – that Celia and Wesley gather with others every week on 42nd Street and sit in quiet protest, opposite the Chinese Consulate.

The demonstrations started in July 1999. It was that month a figure named Jiang Zemin, then head of the Chinese Communist

what was happening and took to the street – to 42nd Street.

Scott Chinn, a tall, broad-shouldered Manhattan software developer, was one of the first demonstrators. While not Chinese, Chinn felt called to respond.

“When I realized that many of my friends had family in China who were being tortured, it

nable,” Chai said, with softened breath.

The gatherings on 42nd Street were a bit disorganized at first, participants recall. Make-shift press conferences. Petitioning consulate officials. Massive exercise and meditation demonstrations, showcasing Falun Gong’s peaceable spirit.

“Nobody really knew what to do at first,” Lana Han, a Manhattan attorney, recalls. “We just knew we had to be there, and tell the Consulate that what was happening in China was totally wrong.”

“And I think they knew it, too.”

If consular officials are supposed to represent the people, in Scott Chinn’s mind they haven’t quite lived up to it.

“Every time we’ve tried to talk to them, to deliver a letter – you name it – they won’t even engage us... If we’re telling them about torture and awful things happening in China, you’d think they would want to know and look into it, to fix it.”

But that reluctance isn’t just about saving face, people suggest. Rather, many believe it speaks of a much bigger problem: complicity.

Liam O’Neill should know.

Police caught three Consulate officials spying, of all things, on O’Neill and several others active in Falun Gong on their property in rural upstate New York. The Consulate’s Lincoln Town Car, complete with diplomat plates, was hard to miss on the country road. A police report identified the three as Liu Pingjun, Xu Shaozong, and Cong Wu.

“This is serious,” O’Neill commented, his voice rising. “And it’s not an isolated incident. That’s why the FBI got involved.”

Consulate officials have ac-

tively pressured local governments to withdraw support for the Falun Gong, with the Chinese Ambassador going so far, in one case, as to suggest they legislate against the group.

Several councilmen report receiving bundles of propaganda materials from the Consulate denouncing Falun Gong.

According to one *Newsday* report, the Chinese regime’s “relentless drive to beat down the popular meditation movement” can be felt here in New York. Chinese officials have run “seminars” in Manhattan “egging on local Chinese immigrants to oppose the movement.”

“In one session,” *Newsday* continued, then consul-general Zhang Hongxi “told his audience that immigrants who have not become U.S. citizens were expected to obey Chinese laws, which ban Falun Gong.”

Meanwhile, some in New York, like 56-year-old Wai Lind Lam, have felt the effects of the Consulate’s hate campaign.

When Lam took part in a Falun Gong parade in Chinatown two years ago, a group of thugs – hired by the Consulate, according to two witnesses – tried to light her hair on fire.

Before the persecution in China, such incidents were unheard of.

When the Falun Gong group

realized the Consulate wasn’t quite listening, it started to think bigger.

“We realized we needed to let everybody know what was happening, the whole world,” Chinn says. “We wanted to get the word out.”

With that, the gatherings on 42nd Street grew in size and flavor.

There was the hunger strike.

The six-day vigil.

Anti-torture exhibits.

Marches.

Press conferences.

And even puppet shows.

Sometime in 2001 a group of older Chinese-American women – “the aunties,” as they’re affectionately called – committed to a daily presence outside the Consulate.

“The Consulate was trying to demonize us. They were giving visitors [to the building] hate literature and trying to turn people against us.” Qi Zhang, one of the group, shared through an interpreter.

“People would come out of the building and look at us differently.”

The women began preparing informational sheets and pamphlets detailing the suppression in China and describing Falun Gong. The materials were paid for out of their own pockets.

For the last three years, through rain or snow or sleet or hail, the aunties have come every day. “It hasn’t been easy,” Qi Zhang says.

Meanwhile, beyond 42nd Street, a growing contingent of New Yorkers who do Falun Gong have made it a priority to raise awareness.

Activities have ranged from free classes at YMCAs and senior centers to street fairs, health expos, and parades and marches throughout the city. The group has presented at community boards, given presentations to NYPD, and even held health workshops for Fortune 100 companies.

An ever-growing chorus of

“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.”

– Robert Fulford, *National Post*

Party, banned the Falun Gong in China, launching a campaign bent on – in Jiang’s own words – “eradicating” the popular group. At that time an estimated 100 million practiced Falun Gong.

As a gentle, apolitical practice similar to Tai-chi, Falun Gong was in Jiang’s eyes “an easy target.” One that Jiang thought would, if crushed swiftly, “demonstrate and solidify the power of the Chinese leadership,” according to *The Washington Post*. Jiang, many believe, had grown to resent the grassroots practice for its popularity.

New York’s Falun Gong adherents sensed the gravity of

really hit home,” Chinn says.

One such friend is Christina Chai.

Chai’s mother, a medical technician who lives in China and practices Falun Gong, disappeared two years ago. Family in China later learned she was being unlawfully held in a government-run slave labor camp. And tortured.

On top of forced labor, Chai’s mother reportedly has been stripped naked by guards and submerged at length in feces and sewage water. She has also been shocked with electric batons. She turned 61 this year.

“The trauma was unimagi-



“I miss him,” says Wesley Wang, age 8, of his father who is imprisoned in China for his beliefs.



Christina Chai holds a picture of her mother, who has been tortured in a Chinese jail.



As part of a demonstration opposite the Chinese Consulate, participants perform a mock trial of Jiang Zemin for crimes against humanity.



Candlelight vigils have marked dire moments in China, such as mass arrests and killings. Demonstrators sometimes sit all night.

voices seems to be recognizing the cause.

Not long ago the New York City Council praised local Falun Gong members, issuing an official commendation “in recognition of their teachings of peace and spirituality, and for their courage and perseverance in the face of oppression by the People’s Republic of China.”

The commendation took note of the local efforts, stating that the group had “tirelessly con-

tributed to community service in New York City.”

In a short span of time recognition had grown, with the New York State Assembly issuing a similar proclamation, and the boroughs of Brooklyn, the Bronx, and Queens each declaring a “Falun Gong Week.”

Back at 42nd Street, growing awareness has swelled the crowds over the years. On some Saturday evenings – the weekly gathering time – participants

number in the hundreds.

Gestures of support are more common now, too.

“I had a group of older women stop by the other day and tell me, ‘We pray for you everyday!’” says Ben Freed, a 42nd Street regular and student at Duke Ellington School of the Arts. “It was really touching.”

Affirmations have come in every shape and form, ranging from letters of support to coffee and tea.

On one occasion the aunts opened their eyes after meditating through a downpour to discover that somebody had left each of the group a set of brand new raingear.

And sometimes, well, it has seemed almost like a helping hand from above.

Such as last year, when a car lost control and crashed headlong into the Consulate. The wreck knocked out more than windows.

“It went straight into a big display case of anti-Falun Gong propaganda,” Noah Parker, of Queens, recalled. “We were stunned.”

Nobody was hurt in the incident.

Members of the group report that things are improving in China, slowly but surely.

And even Consulate employees seem to be changing. Several have privately approached the demonstrators, wanting to learn more. Others have struck up conversation while outside for a smoke.

For Amy Lee of Forest Hills, the winds of change were felt when her daughter, Luo Meng, finally escaped from China to join Lee here in the U.S. Lee had been separated from her daugh-

ter three years earlier when Lee was arrested and imprisoned in China for Falun Gong.

Little Wesley Wang hopes that one day his father will be the one freed.

“I miss him. I hope I get to see him soon,” Wesley shared.

Until that day, Wesley will keep coming to 42nd Street. And others will be there, sitting with him.

Matt Kutolowski is a freelance writer who studies China.



Parades have been one of many forms of community involvement.

From Ancient China to Wall Street

How Falun Gong Enriched My Workplace

By Levi Browde

After working on Wall Street for several years, I joined a start-up firm in 1997. Two years later we completed development of a software system that raised the bar in the enterprise project management arena. As we had hoped, the industry leader sat up, took notice, and by the spring of 1999

Kevin, I later learned, was introduced to Falun Gong by his mother during a trip to China. A number of us in the office noticed changes in him after that trip: his focus and insight during meetings seemed more acute; he was more proactive in mentoring others on technical topics;

swings and even minor ailments such as headaches grew fewer and fewer. Secondly, certain negative character traits, such as anger, fear, self-centered pursuits, etc., seemed to have less of a hold on me, allowing my more noble side to emerge at home and at work.

I could tell the others in the office were experiencing similar benefits.

During design and review sessions, we could more easily set aside personal differences and focus on ensuring effective software design. For example, rather than each of us pushing hard to drive the design with our own individual ideas, we carefully assessed each others’ input and quickly identified strengths from each idea that led to a more bullet-proof solution. Our collaboration thus became more streamlined and our teamwork strengthened. This had a ripple effect in the office as the process of meeting deadlines and requirements grew more efficient, and the exchange of ideas more dynamic and productive.

We all knew from our training as project managers that interpersonal things are a top reason projects run over budget, over schedule, or just outright fail – particularly in the IT industry.

Yet, as we continued with Falun Gong striving to nurture in ourselves truth, compassion, and tolerance, we found our work environment improving, virtually in step with the benefits we as individuals were experiencing. The office politics and conflicts that all-too-often plague project teams – especially those working under tight and highly visible deadlines – receded as a more energized and efficient work environment emerged.

Earlier this year, I found myself back on Wall Street when I accepted an offer to join a small project and financial management firm. We’re now building a large-scale financial management system. We have a lot of research to do and our window of opportunity for time-to-market is tight.

Still, practicing Falun Gong



Levi Browde, a project and financial management software consultant who works in downtown Manhattan.

“... we were more easily able to set aside personal differences... Our collaboration efforts, consequently, became more streamlined and our teamwork strengthened.”

set out to acquire us.

One afternoon that spring while I was preparing for one of several reviews by the acquiring company, Kevin Wu, a technical lead and longtime friend, placed a book on my desk and said, “You should check this out.” The book was *Zhuan Falun*, the main book of Falun Gong.

and most of all, he was smiling more.

Soon, three others in the office also took an interest in Falun Gong, and together we started to do the exercises near our office before work.

Before long I noticed two interesting changes: first, spells of tiredness, occasional mood

for five years has empowered me to tackle greater and greater challenges. At work, that’s meant handling tightening deadlines and expanding requirements with poise. And on the homefront, being the best husband and father I can be.

Although ancient in origin, Falun Gong has proved for me highly applicable in the fast-paced modern world, unlocking the very best of the human spirit.

CBS Health Watch

How to Cultivate...

Continued from Page 1

cludes an MD (he is currently a psychiatry resident at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) as well as training and experience as a practitioner of Chinese medicine. He claims that once he opens his own private practice he will have three different fees.

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

If a patient comes to him seeking acupuncture or other traditional medicine, he will charge them \$100. Dr. Yang justifies this by saying that the patient will be shouldering half the responsibility for their own wellness by watching their diet and making prescribed chang-

es to their lifestyle in order to heal.

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

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

Sen Yang (unrelated to Dr. Yang), a 39-year-old Chicagoan, was faced with a similar health reality when he was diagnosed

20 years ago with serious, chronic hepatitis that required him to suspend his schooling for a year. He explains: “A doctor told me directly, ‘There is no way to really cure your disease. You will have it for the rest of your life.’”

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

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

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

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

Seeing Falun Dafa Up Close and Personal

After recently spending 2 weeks researching the wildly popular form of Qi Gong known as Falun Dafa, I decided that I should see a meeting for myself. I convinced two of my friends, Mary and Martha (all of us 30-something), to join in this excursion to Chicago’s Chinatown.

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

Lara C. Pullen, Medical Writer
CBS Health Watch



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



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

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

At 2 in the afternoon on New Year’s Day, I met Warren

Tai and his wife, Maria, in the parking lot behind a bank in Chicago’s Chinatown. I left my coat downstairs where the rest of the Falun Dafa practitioners were gathering and headed upstairs with Warren. We were joined by my friends Mary and Martha, as well as a pleasant Chinese man whose English was poor.

As the five of us (four beginners and Warren) sat on our rugs, Warren began to explain the principles of Falun Dafa and to patiently teach us the exercises.

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

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, of-

ten have amazing effects on health. Stories abound of Falun Gong helping people to get well, lick stress, sleep better, and become happier all around.

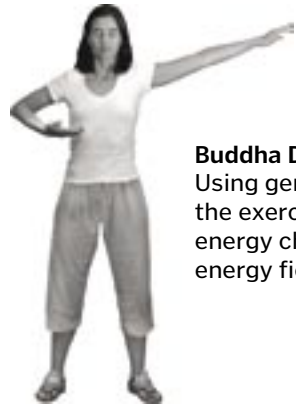
A second component of Falun Gong is its self-improvement teachings. This component, thought of in traditional Chinese culture as the

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 honesty, 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."



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.

The Exercises of Falun Gong

For activity locations and schedules, visit <http://falun-ny.net>. To learn more about Falun Gong, contact: Manhattan: Scott 347-524-8160 or Ben 917-385-6950; Bronx: Kent 917-826-5778; Brooklyn: Clearine 718-230-5626; Queens: Grace 718-939-1045; Staten Island: Jerry 646-321-5133.

Easy to Learn

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

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

The main group had already done the sitting exercise and was ready to start the standing exercises. Warren placed himself in front of us to guide us. The traditional music started and we began to move our hands.

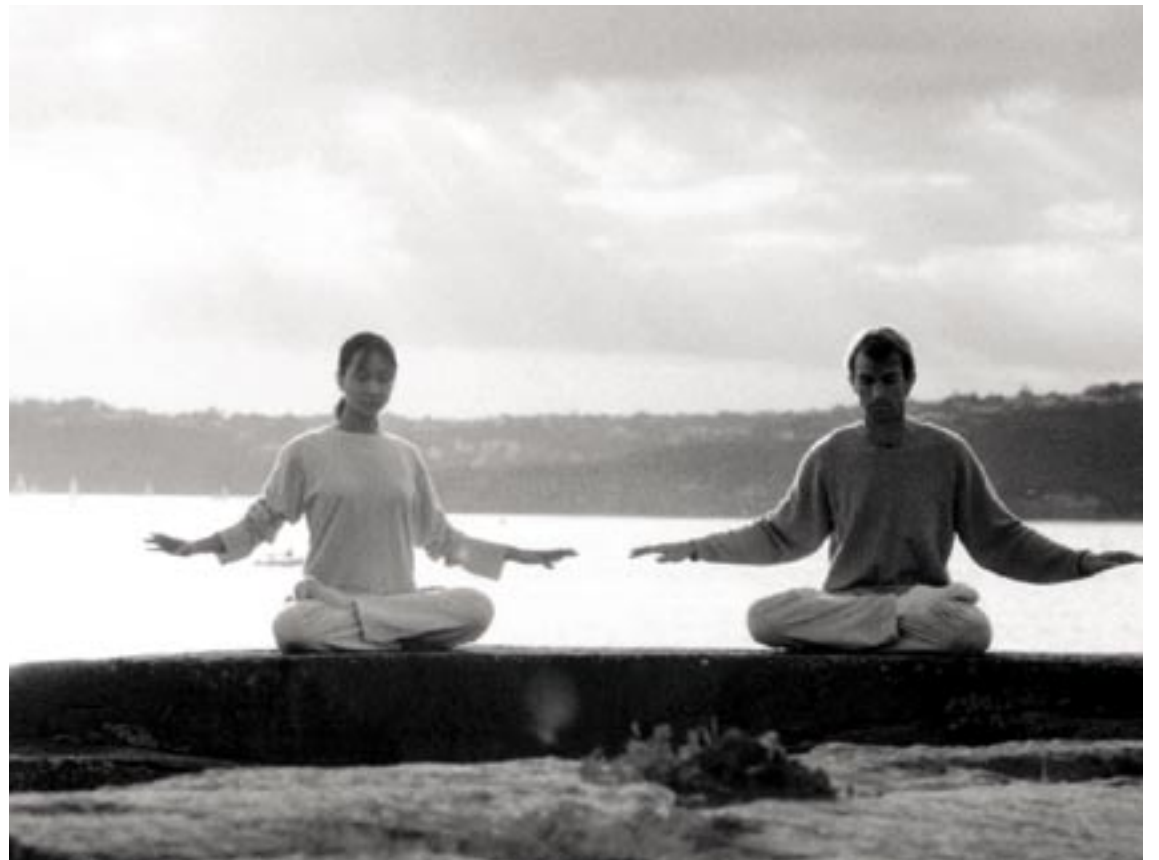
When it was over, we all were quiet, seemingly basking

in the feeling of the exercises. Warren then shepherded us upstairs for the English-speaking discussion of the Falun Dafa book. Warren had water for everyone and extra copies of the book for us to use in reading along. I left the meeting feeling energized and content. When I checked in with my friends the next day, they agreed that it was a wonderful experience and one well worth repeating.

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

Lara C. Pullen is a freelance medical writer.

This abridged article originally appeared as a three part series.



A Systematic Suppression of 100 Million People

By Mengsheng Gu

It began in the middle of the night, July 20, 1999. Across China under the veil of dark, police and security dragged hundreds of ordinary people from their beds. Many would be taken to holding centers and jails, others beaten, and some, reportedly, would be executed.

What had they done? Nothing more than to practice Falun Gong, a traditional form of Chinese exercise and meditation that had grown immensely popular.

Police were acting on orders from the top, from Communist Party head Jiang Zemin, who ordered the group crushed. By most accounts, Jiang was resentful of the popular group - numbering 100 million - and wished to make a show of power.

Two days later, on July 22, Falun Gong was formally outlawed across the land, marking the official beginning of a violent campaign in China that has continued for five years.

The suppression of Falun Gong has been from the outset in violation of China's own constitution - which promises freedom of belief - and a breach of international human rights treaties China has signed. Millions of apolitical citizens have been cast as enemies of the state.

Jiang declared that "no means are too excessive" in the drive to "eradicate Falun Gong." To date over 1,000 deaths in state custody have been documented, most owing to torture. Hundreds of thousands more - or even millions, by some estimates - languish while unlawfully held captive in China's prisons and labor camps. Physical abuse, rape, and forced labor are common. Permeating every facet of society, the per-

secution is marked by its scope and vigor.

In the words of the United States Congress (*see back page*), China's regime has "systematically attempted to eradicate the practice and those who follow it... through organized brainwashing, torture, and murder."

Georges-Henri Beauthier, a human rights attorney who prosecuted Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet and perpetrators of the Rwanda genocide, has called the campaign a "horrific form of genocide."

The following are the prominent features of the suppression.

Propaganda & Hate Campaigns

Many millions of dollars have been put into saturating China's TV news, airwaves, and

lun Gong; college entrance exams contain dozens of questions criticizing the practice; train tickets contain accusatory verses; comic books ridicule the practice; and workplaces hold mandatory "study sessions" on it.

In charge of the disinformation blitz is none other than China's Ministry of Propaganda. (*See feature on page 9*)

Information Control

China's regime has gone further than just controlling media portrayals of Falun Gong. All books, audiotapes, videos, flyers, T-shirts, and items that cast Falun Gong in a positive light are banned. Ransacking of homes has resulted in over 10 million books being confiscated. Many have been destroyed

"Reports continue of deaths of detained [Falun Gong] practitioners following torture and extreme ill-treatment... the [Chinese] government has denied any wrongdoing, even in the face of multiple eye witness testimonies."

Amnesty International

press with defamatory propaganda. The intention is twofold: to distort and demonize Falun Gong so as to turn the public against it; and to mask the government's human rights abuses by depicting the suppression as humane, beneficent, and necessary for "social order."

The extent is hard for those of us in the free world to imagine. Schoolchildren are forced to recite poems attacking Fa-

lun Gong in large book-burning drives.

All non-propaganda websites so much as mentioning Falun Gong are banned; a mere visit to one can land a person in jail. As many as 100,000 internet police are in place to monitor online activity, according to CNN. Those who practice Falun Gong typically have their phones tapped, email monitored, and house under surveillance.



Attempts to voice disagreement on the government's Falun Gong policy often meet with disaster. Merely posting a notice can land a person in jail or even lead to execution - new laws brand such acts "subversive." Several individuals have been sentenced to prison terms of up to 10 years just for visiting banned Falun Gong websites and printing their contents.

Bending the Legal System

To disguise its actions before the world, Jiang Zemin's faction has gone so far as to re-engineer the legal system. Laws have been created to retroactively punish Falun Gong members. Those who practice the meditation are typically denied legal representation, should they stand accused, and most are sent to forced labor camps without trial. Guilt is presumed, due process denied.

Simply telling family or friends the torture one suffered in custody is now considered "leaking state secrets" - punishable by death or years of imprisonment. (The photos included here were smuggled out at such a risk.)

Noting such measures, BBC reporter Rupert Wingfield-

Hayes once remarked: "China's communist rulers are fond of telling foreign guests how China today is a country ruled by laws. With these new regulations [against Falun Gong] they are hoping to give a veneer of legality to what is essentially a brutal political struggle."

Coercion and Brainwashing

Most outstanding in the persecution are violations committed while trying to force "re-

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

Murdered in China



Chen Ying
1981 - 1999



Li Wenrui
1963 - 2000



Mo Shujin
1938 - 2001



Wei Zaixin
1939 - 2002



Deng Shiyong
1961 - 2003



Wang Jinzhong
1956 - 2004

Why is This Happening?

Political gain. Resentment.

The suppression of Falun Gong is time and again traced back to these two things. And one 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.

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 ap-

peal 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 100 billion yuan per year in medical fees, adding, "Premier Zhu Rongji is very happy 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.

Whereas Jiang demanded that people attend "ideological sessions" to study his own theories, Falun Gong was something people all across China were doing of their own choosing. They would start the day together in the park, meditating, because they liked to. It was the type of allegiance Jiang – who

came 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 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."

CNN's 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."



Reenactments of torture used on Falun Gong in China, such as the "Tiger Bench" and burning with hot iron (above) are exhibited throughout Manhattan.



Burning with cigarette butts and irons is a common torture method (shown left, in paint).



(right) A man reenacts the crippling torture he experienced in China.

An Act of Torture

Citywide Exhibits Seek to Expose, Inform

The "Tiger Bench" erected on Water St. recently was "very real," Ms. Yuzhi Wang said. "Almost too real."

For Wang, herself a victim of torture in China, the Tiger Bench and similar reenactments taking place throughout Manhattan are a painful reminder of the horrors she escaped. Horrors many thousands, or even millions, still experience in China daily.

"But this is extremely important for people to know about," the 48-year-old Wang said. And that's why she joined with others who know the torture first-hand to create the exhibits.

What actors in the exhibits demonstrate are the exact same torture methods Chinese guards and police commonly use on people imprisoned for doing Falun Gong. Participants in the exhibits say that their goal is to expose what's happening in China, educate the public, and bring about change.

Wang was held in the Wanjia forced labor camp for nine months. She was tortured so severely that she passed out repeatedly.

"When I awoke I was covered with bruises and welts," Wang said, recalling the ordeal. "My nose and eyes bled and dripped pus. I nearly went blind."

"Other inmates in my cell wept when they saw my condition."

Victims such as Wang explain that typically the Chinese regime's goal is to force a renunciation of beliefs and a signed state-



ment disavowing Falun Gong. Torture is used to break the will, or even body. Over 1,000 are known to have died from such torment.

Wang herself has participated in the anti-torture demos, no easy thing. It requires summoning a great deal of courage. "After I was released [from the labor camp]," Wang said, "my family and I held each other for a long time and cried."

But it is something Wang and the others feel they have to do. "I am merely an extremely lucky one among tens of thousands of victims. My hope is that other Falun Gong practitioners in China will regain their freedom like me. As soon as possible."

TORTURE METHODS USED

- Mutilating with branding irons and cigarette butts
- Shocking genitals and face with electric batons
- Gaging for months, preventing standing or lying down
- Injecting toxic and nerve damaging drugs
- Hanging suspended by shackles, for days on end
- Piercing nipples with wire, fingertips with bamboo
- Beating with hard objects, like planks, pipes, bats
- Raping and molesting women, forced abortions
- Denial of sleep, sometimes for weeks on end
- Prohibiting lavatory usage, even for days
- Chaining to beds with corpses and/or feces

Abridged *Wall Street Journal* article exposing Chinese officials' repression of Falun Gong on U.S. soil

Will Chinese Repression Play in Peoria?

BY CLAUDIA ROSETT

Time was when Americans had to travel halfway around the world to feel the steely touch of China's state security apparatus. No longer. In their fervor to trample any grassroots movements that might challenge their power, China's rulers are hustling these days to share their bizarre, oppressive tactics not

After some 10,000 Falun Gong practitioners staged a peaceful demonstration in April 1999 in front of Communist Party headquarters near Tiananmen Square, China's rulers condemned it as an "evil cult" and embarked on an official campaign to wipe it out. Since then, China has racked up quite a re-

proach, made variously by letter, phone call or personal visit from a Chinese official based at China's Washington embassy or one of its numerous consulates, tends to combine gross disinformation with scare tactics and, in some cases, slyly implied diplomatic and commercial pressure.

Typical is the experience of Santee, Calif., a city of 58,000 on the outskirts of San Diego County. A little over a year ago, Mayor Randy Voepel received a letter from the newly arrived Chinese consul general in Los Angeles, Lan Lijun. Mr. Lan's letter began with a cheery greeting and rolled right along to describe the Falun Gong movement as a "doomsday" cult that creates "a panic atmosphere" and if left unchecked in America could end up "jeopardizing your social stability." Noting that China would "like to establish and develop friendly relations with your city" - and implying this would require complying with China's wishes - Mr. Lan's letter went on to urge that "no recognition and support in any form should

be given to the Falun Gong" and urged banning them from registration as any kind of official organization.

Not so typical was Mr. Voepel's reaction. A Vietnam War veteran, he wrote back: "Your letter personally chilled me to my bones. I was shocked that a Communist Nation would go to this amount of trouble to suppress what is routinely accepted in this country... I have the greatest respect for the Chinese people in your country and everywhere else in the world, but must be honest in my concern for the suppression of human rights by your government as evidenced by your request." Mr. Voepel then issued a mayoral proclamation commending the Falun Gong.

Some other officials, such as former Saratoga, Calif., mayor Stan Bogosian and a raft of mayors in Illinois, have stood up to China's pressure. But many have kowtowed.[...]

China's campaign to snuff out the movement even on U.S. soil not only runs counter to Amer-

ican principles. It also fits into an even larger pattern in which Chinese state security, with its desperate fear of anything that might challenge party dictatorship in Beijing, has snaked its tentacles into numerous communities in the U.S., trying in various ways to intimidate China scholars, harass exiled Chinese dissidents and bully supporters of the world's only full-blown Chinese democracy, Taiwan.

President Bush is in Beijing today and tomorrow, seeking common ground with his Chinese hosts. It would also be a good moment to remind President Jiang Zemin and his comrades that persecution of a peaceful spiritual movement is the kind of ugly, cruel and embarrassing practice that they need to be trying to shed inside China itself - not share with the wider world.

Ms. Rosett is a member of The Wall Street Journal's editorial board.

"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."

only with their own 1.3 billion citizens, but with folks all across America.

In particular, Beijing has been offering its own nasty brand of spiritual guidance to hundreds of American mayors, in big cities and small towns, from Los Angeles to Baltimore to the Illinois Corn Belt. This Beijing outreach program has even played in such local papers as the *Peoria Journal Star*, which noted last April 26 that "a routine, seemingly harmless proclamation recognizing a Chinese religious group has thrust a group of Illinois mayors into the unlikely realm of foreign diplomacy."

Beijing's most visible target, the "religious group" to which the Peoria newspaper refers, is the Falun Gong.[...]

cord of jailing, torturing and in scores of cases killing Falun Gong followers inside China. The *Wall Street Journal's* Ian Johnson won a Pulitzer Prize last year for his stories documenting such Chinese government abuses, including the case of Chen Zixiu, a 58-year-old woman who was beaten and tortured to death in Chinese state custody for refusing to renounce Falun Gong.

Falun Gong followers outside China have responded - reasonably enough - by seeking gestures of support. Which is how America's mayors get into the act.[...]

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. The ap-

Shooting in South Africa

On June 28, 2004, nine men and women from Australia who practice Falun Gong arrived in South Africa. They had planned to assist locals in raising awareness about the persecution of Falun Gong and the role of two visiting Chinese officials in it. Those officials were Vice President Zeng Qinghong and Minister of Commerce Bo Xilai.

The Australians intended to hold a press conference exposing the officials' crimes, and to have legal papers served against them for their human rights violations.

While en route from the Jo-

hannesburg airport to Pretoria around 8:30 that evening, a white car with three occupants overtook them and fired multiple shots from an AK-47 at their vehicle. The driver, Australian citizen David Liang, was hospitalized with bullet wounds. The car was disabled in the incident.

Liang had never been to South Africa before; he had no local ties. The assailants did not attempt to steal anything, and sped off upon seeing that the car was successfully disabled.

Local police are investigating the incident as "attempted murder."

CHINATOWN FIGURE ARRESTED

"You're Falun Gong people? I'll beat you to death!"

Not words you'd expect to hear at a fancy Chinese banquet, to be sure. Or anywhere in America, for that matter. And even less from a prominent Chinatown political figure.

But that was the last thing Gregory Xu and two other Falun Gong students heard before a flurry of fists and feet landed on them in a most unlikely assault.

The main perpetrator, Chinatown's own Guanjun Liang, will probably think twice next time: he has been arrested and stands charged with assault. Some 40 people were involved in the June 2003 assault all told.

"In China," Xu said, "he might have gotten away with this. But not here."



Liang being escorted by NYPD after his arrest.

ONE CHINESE IMPORT WE DON'T WANT

"Intensify the struggle overseas!" With this order, in 2000 China's communist ruler ordered the persecution of Falun Gong brought overseas - beyond China's borders. The effort has led to discrimination, vandalism, fear, and even physical violence - right here in the U.S. Most actions have been linked to the Chinese Embassy and Consulates. A sampling:

- Hiring gangs to physically assault and mug
- Organizing hate-marches and rallies
- Vandalizing cars, homes, and property
- Petitioning U.S. Congress to revoke civil rights
- Blacklisting and information collection
- Spreading hate via print media, literature, TV
- Death threats to individuals and families
- Cyber attacks and wiretapping
- Pressuring U.S. officials with economic threat
- Forcing media and businesses to discriminate

Jiang's Propaganda Campaign

Spreading Disinformation, Hate

The Xinhua News Agency – official mouthpiece of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) government – had a rare, if not startling, moment of candor in July of 1999, four days into the suppression of Falun Gong.

“In fact, the so-called ‘truth, kindness and tolerance’ principle preached by Li Hongzhi [Falun Gong’s founder],” Xinhua proudly declared, “has nothing in common with the socialist ethical and cultural progress we are striving to achieve.”

Especially the “truth” part.

Central to the suppression of Falun Gong is a propaganda campaign of enormous proportions.

“Beijing has ratcheted up the campaign to a fever pitch, bombarding citizens with an old, communist-style propaganda war,” *The Wall Street Journal* reports, “replete with meetings, denunciations and blanket coverage in the government-run media.”

The bombardment began on July 22 of 1999, the day Falun Gong was officially banned in China, under the direction of the aptly-named Ministry of Propaganda.

ganda.

State-run television immediately launched disinformation marathons, broadcasting alleged “exposés” on the meditation group 24 hours a day. Radio stations flooded the airwaves with the government’s official rhetoric denouncing the group.

Not to be outdone, state-run newspapers condemned the Falun Gong with unchecked bravado, led by the *People’s Daily* – the official paper of the CCP – which ran a staggering 347 “articles” on the group. In one month.

Over time the CCP would extend the scope and reach of its propaganda, erecting billboards, issuing comic books, printing posters, and producing movies, a TV series, and even plays.

Counted among the unwitting victims are schoolchildren.

Upon returning to school from break in 2001, Beijing’s pupils got an unlikely surprise from the Propaganda Ministry. The city’s 1.6 million schoolchildren received bright, new course schedules that week – complete with a poem vilifying Falun Gong on the back. Slogans emblazoned atop the cards urged

the kids to “Oppose Cults, Protect Stability, Respect Science, Promote Civilization.”

High school students in many provinces, meanwhile, have fared little better. Many of them report finding questions in their (government-produced) college entrance exams – China’s equivalent to the SAT – on Falun Gong. The “correct” answers, of course, echo the party line. Typically these questions are so abundant that “incorrect” answers almost guarantee no admission to college.

Not content with mind-control in the Middle Kingdom, then-CCP head Jiang Zemin ordered his anti-Falun Gong crusade taken overseas, including to America.



The past three years have seen a deluge of propaganda here in the U.S. and Canada. Carried out by Beijing’s overseas arms – consulates and embassies – the slander is usually given to government officials, policy makers, and prominent public figures.

One feature common to the propaganda is its caustic nature. Through a combination of name-calling, gross misrepresentations, and scare tactics, such rhetoric seeks to dehumanize those who practice Falun Gong.

A similar feature is the scapegoating of Falun Gong for China’s ills – blaming it for everything from poverty to “superstition.” A number of government-authored pieces have made appeals to na-

tionalism while trying to link, however clumsily, Falun Gong to “foreign anti-China forces.”

While it’s impossible to quantify the propaganda’s impact, its tangible effects are immediate: it breeds hatred, distrust, and discrimination.

Leaving nothing to chance, however, Jiang has complemented the propaganda with a program of torture and brainwashing.

“Pure violence doesn’t work. Just [compulsory] ‘studying’ doesn’t work either,” one CCP advisor explained to the *Washington Post*. “And none of it would be working if the propaganda hadn’t started to change

Continued on Page 10

TORONTO MAN WINS LIBEL JUDGEMENT AGAINST CHINESE CONSULAR OFFICIAL

Crime doesn’t pay, they say.

Just ask Xinchun Pan, Deputy Consul General to Canada.

Pan used his political clout to take a swipe at Falun Gong student Joel Chipkar, in the form of a news editorial denouncing the Mississauga real estate agent and his meditation. Pan’s vitriolic rhetoric parroted Communist Party propaganda on Falun Gong.

In August Pan was found guilty of libel by the Ontario Supreme Court of Justice. The court has ordered him to pay damages for the defamation.

Pan, not one for international law or good citizenry, is refusing to pay.

“I’m a diplomat,” Pan claims.

The Court has ordered Pan’s



Joel Chipkar (right) with his legal counsel Peter Downward and Nicole Samson.

assets seized and is considering further action.

Other Chinese officials across North America might face similar charges in the near future, following the precedent set in Chipkar’s case.

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 arriv-



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

ing 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 Falun Gong, and given a three-year sentence.

Despite initial protests from U.S. Embassy officials and crit-

icism 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.

Former Chinese Leader and Senior Officials Charged With Torture, Genocide

By John Nania

Sixteen countries, 26 lawsuits filed. People and organizations around the globe are working to bring to justice Chinese officials who have participated in persecuting Falun Gong in China.

They are being sued for the detention, torture, killing, rape, and disappearance of innocent civilians and other crimes against humanity. And, in some cases, genocide.

Early Legal Victories for Falun Gong

In July 2001 during a visit to the United States, the Head of Public Security for Hubei Province, Mr. Zhao Zhifei, was sued. He was charged with wrongful death, torture, crimes against humanity, and other gross violations of international human rights law.

bei Province.

He has not been seen or heard from since.

On February 7, 2002, the Center for Justice and Accountability along with attorneys Paul Hoffman and Dr. Terri Marsh filed a civil action in U.S. District Court of the Northern District of California, against Liu Qi, Mayor of Beijing.

The next day, Morton Sklar, Executive Director of Human Rights USA, filed another Falun Gong lawsuit in the same court. The case was against Xia Deren, Deputy Provincial Governor of Liaoning Province.

These first three lawsuits proved to be early victories for Falun Gong.

Judge Cote of the District Court of the Southern District of New York ruled against de-

A Wave of Lawsuits Around the World

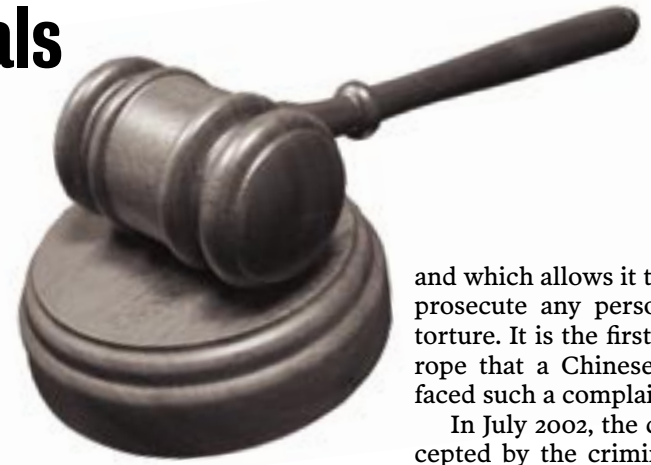
Lawsuits filed on behalf of Falun Gong practitioners first gained international attention in October 2002. Individual plaintiffs filed that month a class action lawsuit in a U.S. District Court in Chicago against Jiang and the "6-10 Office" (a.k.a. "Falun Gong Control Office"). At the time, Jiang was visiting the U.S. just prior to stepping down as Chair of the Chinese Communist Party.

Like previous cases, specific causes of action pleaded in the complaint included "torture, genocide, and denial of the right to life." Also cited in the complaint, however, was conspiracy to commit violations of civil rights against Falun Gong in the U.S.

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. Jiang's supporters began mounting a campaign to pressure the U.S. State Department in an effort to block the case.

In September 2003, the District Court judge dismissed the case on jurisdictional grounds, claiming Jiang enjoys immunity and cannot be tried for genocide and torture in U.S. Courts. Many disagreed.

"The decision contradicts case law in the U.S.," says Falun Gong's attorney, Dr. Terri Marsh,



"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."

The case was appealed on January 20, 2004, in the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals. On that same date, 14 professors of international law filed an amicus brief with the court, supporting the appeal. Members of Congress also filed an amicus brief. The appeal process continues.

Significantly, the Chicago lawsuit put the persecution of Falun Gong on the map of the international legal community. Since the filing of the Chicago suit, human rights attorneys have used genocide, torture, and other relevant international and national laws to file 22 more lawsuits in 16 countries around the world on behalf of Falun Gong followers.

Defendants in these lawsuits are one or more of the following:

1) Jiang Zemin, Chinese leader widely known to be the architect and driving force behind the persecution of Falun Gong.

2) The "6-10 Office," a Gestapo-like agency established by Jiang specifically to "eradicate Falun Gong."

3) Luo Gan, now Director of the "Leadership Team to Deal with the Falun Gong Problem," which created the 6-10 Office. Luo has been Jiang's most virulent supporter in the campaign.

4) Li Lanqing, Former Director of the "Leadership Team to Deal with the Falun Gong Problem" and former Vice-Premier of China.

Following the Chicago suit, in December 2002, attorneys William Bourdon and Georges-Henri Beauthier filed a suit for crimes of torture at the Court of Nice, France against Li Lanqing. The Chinese Vice-Premier was then on an unofficial visit to France. The plaintiffs were four Falun Gong practitioners, including two French women.

The complaint was based on the UN Convention against Torture, which France signed in 1984

and which allows it to arrest and prosecute any person guilty of torture. It is the first time in Europe that a Chinese leader has faced such a complaint.

In July 2002, the case was accepted by the criminal court in Paris and legal proceedings began.

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 leaders for their roles suppressing Falun Gong.

Tribunals and the International Criminal Court

Lawyers in the U.S. and European cases have indicated they are preparing a petition to the International Criminal Court (ICC) and are investigating the establishment of an ad-hoc tribunal.

Letters were also submitted to the United Nations Human Rights Commission requesting assistance with legal initiatives against Jiang.

With China sitting on the Security Council of the U.N., many feel a U.N.-backed initiative for redress is unlikely. Dr. Marsh, the lead attorney in the U.S. lawsuit against Jiang, disagrees, saying a U.N. option is not so far-fetched given Jiang Zemin's rapidly-deteriorating hold on power in China.

"In May, the *Washington Post* was the first media outlet to expose the fact that Jiang's faction in the Chinese Government backed the cover up of SARS," says Marsh. "In that article, a China expert was quoted as saying that the 'growing disdain and hatred for Jiang is stunning' and that 'Jiang is being chastised as a narcissistic freak obsessed with his own alleged charm.'"

Dr. Marsh continued, "This is exactly in line with the stories I hear coming out of China... Jiang has committed so many crimes against the people of China, that many in China are weary of him. When we first filed this lawsuit, some were concerned that it might appear to go against the Chinese Government and offend the Chinese people, but what I'm hearing is the exact opposite... it is bringing hope to people throughout China."

"Jiang's horrific form of genocide is a terror that does not just destroy lives, but destroys faith... It is a terror that must be brought to justice."

Georges-Henri Beauthier, human rights attorney who successfully prosecuted Pinochet and Rwandan genocide perpetrators

After Zhao went back to China, a massive hunt for the plaintiff, Mr. Peng Liang, and other Falun Gong adherents in Hubei Province began. Peng was arrested on August 30, 2001 and was last seen in custody of police in Wuhan, the Capital of Hu-

beifang. The defendant Zhao Zhifei and issued a default judgment against him in November of 2001. The magistrate judge presiding over the cases of Liu Qi and Xia Deren issued a report recommending a default judgment against both defendants.

China's Propaganda...

Continued from Page 9

the way the general public thinks. You need all three."

Banking on hope of China's "opening up" might do little to change all of this.

Just listen to Zhang Changming, Vice President of CCTV - China's largest TV company. (CCTV and its 12 channels are government-run).

China's media is "open enough" Zhang boasted last year. "After all, the TV business is about ideology and propaganda."

CCTV, known for its anti-

U.S. sentiment and exaltations of China's leadership, now broadcasts in major cities throughout the U.S.

While most indicators suggest that the vilification campaign won't end until the persecution does, there is the possibility, very real, that with growing awareness about Falun Gong the Chinese people might just get fed up. Portents do exist.

One *New York Times* report has described just that, citing a growing sense of frustration

among China's literati.

"Some intellectuals here, including some Communist Party officials," the *Times* piece revealed, "are complaining that the heavy-handed propaganda blitz - which recalls Maoist campaigns of the 1950's and 60's - may discredit the party itself and harm China's interests abroad."

Jiang and the Ministry, in the final analysis, might just be shooting their own feet.

MULTINATIONALS IN CHINA NOT SPARED

Persecution's Effects Felt by Corporations

By Shiyu Zhou, Ph.D.

For the past five years, the violent and systematic suppression of Falun Gong has been the centerpiece of China's worsening human rights record. Little known, however, is how that campaign impacts businesses in China, as U.S. and other foreign companies are being thrust into its midst.

Falun Gong Slave Labor

Jiangping Wang is handicapped and can't knit as fast as the others. It's almost 2:00 a.m. and the Division Six prisoners have been working since dawn. Wang is exhausted. Prison guards heave bricks at his chest. His Falun Gong acquaintances nod off only to be awakened by police jabbing them with scissors.

There are deadlines to meet – a quota of cashmere sweaters for Tianshan Woolltex – or guards won't get their bonuses.

Forced labor, such as that which Wang is put through, has become both a form of torture and a source of great profit for Chinese labor camps. With the enormous supply of free labor that comes from the Laogai (*lit.* "reform through labor"), China has lured overseas businesses – many unknowingly – into its profit-through-slave-labor system.

The suppression of Falun Gong over the past five years has fueled this very problem by adding anywhere from several hundred thousand to 2 million people to the 6-million-plus already incarcerated in China's 1,100 camps. Moreover, the Central Government's order that "no measure is too excessive" to stamp out Falun Gong has not only opened the door for labor camps to use prisoners however they wish (including U.S. citizen Charles Lee – see page 9), but has actually encouraged abusive measures.

Some foreign companies in China, including those who conduct regular inspections of their China-based factories, are left unaware of the true source of goods they produce.

It's not uncommon for labor camp goods to be delivered to factories – where they were supposedly produced – under the veil of night. Similarly, labor camp officials often "contract"

out inmates' labor, only to pocket the profits themselves.

"It's complicated and pervasive," says Alan Adler, the principal of a New Jersey-based manufacturing and importing company. Adler has owned manufacturing operations in China for 25 years and heads up a China-related human rights organization.

"In order to be highly competitive, and at the same time avoid universal scorn, Chinese manufacturers have elaborate and clandestine ploys that make it almost impossible to know what parts of a product are being made by slave labor."

Corporate Ethics Challenged

In a much publicized case, in the fall of 2003, a large U.S.-based cosmetics company, acting under pressure from Chinese authorities, had been requiring its sales associates in China to sign a statement promising they would neither practice nor advocate for Falun Gong.

Several employees of the cosmetics giant lost their jobs for refusing to sign. In one reported case, an individual who spoke in favor of Falun Gong at a company meeting in China was turned over to authorities. The individual's status is currently unknown.

"Once they're identified as Falun Gong, Chinese citizens are often sent to mandatory brainwashing sessions where they're deprived of sleep and tortured. They do this to make them 'repent,' which means give up their practice," explains Falun Dafa Information Center spokesman, Erping Zhang.

"Most companies don't realize the ramifications of the actions Chinese officials impose on them with respect to Falun Gong."

The cosmetics company later reversed the mandate after senior members of the U.S. Congress expressed disapproval. "We are shocked that an American company," the group told the company, "would be willing to enlist in the Chinese Government's brutal campaign to identify and persecute members of a particular spiritual movement."

In December 2003, Switzerland-based Helvetica Invest AG

removed a leading German automaker from its stock option list on similar grounds. Helvetica learned that the automaker had required people in China seeking employment to sign a statement similar to that of the cosmetics company. The statement included a promise not to practice or support Falun Gong.

But perhaps the worst fallout of China's repressive measures lies elsewhere. Some fear that foreign investment capital is being funneled into avenues of persecution, especially targeting Falun Gong.

According to the President of the World Organization to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong, John Jaw, the amount of money spent persecuting Falun Gong is well into the billions.

"With so many programs throughout China – from rural education to combating AIDS – lacking money, clearly the Chinese leadership doesn't have extra budget to spend, so where are the billions used on Falun Gong coming from?" Jaw asked.

Forced to Oppose One Third of China's Population

As a traditional Chinese Qi Gong (or "Chinese yoga," as many call it) practice, Falun Gong was widely endorsed by the Chinese government for its health benefits before Chinese leader Jiang Zemin launched the persecution campaign in 1999. Constituting fully 8% of the population in China – 100 million people – adherents of Falun Gong were from every walk of life and segment of society – university students, business leaders, the retired, and even government and military elite.

Including friends and family, it's safe to say that roughly one third of China's population is suffering to some extent from Jiang's campaign.

Be it through shadowy slave labor or outright denial of employees' basic rights, Jiang Zemin's faction pits corporations against a huge segment of the Chinese populace.

Dr. Shiyu Zhou, a professor at Rutgers University, writes frequently on China.

A Systematic Suppression

Continued from Page 6

nunciations" of Falun Gong. For refusing to part with their beliefs, people who practice Falun Gong are threatened with the loss of their jobs, pensions, utilities, homes, schooling, and even families.

All are targeted with brainwashing – meant to destroy a person's very identity and reprogram his or her mind.

According to a 2001 *Washington Post* report, "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."

Citing sources in the Chinese government, the report continued: "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."

Labor "Re-education" Camps

Labor "re-education" camps – China's answer to the Soviet gulag – are the main holding grounds for Falun Gong followers. Some estimate as many as 2 million are held in such camps. Under inhumane conditions, victims – among whom are children and the elderly – are forced to do heavy, backbreaking labor for upwards of 18 or more hours a day.

Those who collapse, fail to meet quotas, or don't comply are typically beaten, tortured, or starved. Hundreds have died in these camps. The "re-education" term has to do with the function of the camps, which employ brainwashing.

Mental Asylums

In a chilling perversion of psychiatry, many perfectly healthy persons have been forcefully committed to China's mental asylums. For one, the government hopes to discredit Falun Gong by making its participants look crazy.

Secondly, it is used to punish dissenting views. The tools of psychiatry – including elec-

tric shock, sedatives, and other drugs – are turned on Falun Gong detainees as a means of torture and manipulation. Such things have found their way beyond the asylum's walls and into the hands of police and prison guards.

Amnesty International has reported how one Beijing police spokesman connected to these hospitals, when questioned about this abuse, explained that "they are not patients, they are here to be re-educated... Most of them are Falun Gong extremists who have been to Beijing to protest..."

Abuse of Women

Perhaps most disturbing of all is the growing pattern of violations against women. Increasingly it is women of Falun Gong who are abused in custody. To date, 527 such women have died from the physical torment and deprivation suffered in captivity.

Accompanying the killing is pain and humiliation. Women are often sexually abused and even raped by guards. In several instances, Falun Gong women in labor camps and jails have been stripped naked and thrown into male cells for horrific abuse. This was done to 18 women in the notorious Masanjia labor camp. Several women have had their pregnancies violently terminated by authorities who sought to imprison them longer.

There is much more, untold, that we do not know. Tens of millions of lives suffer hurt and damage not likely soon to be mended. Many hang in a delicate balance, one blow, one electric shock, one injection away from death. Though Jiang Zemin is falling quickly from grace, his campaign continues.

Yet amidst so much darkness, hope still remains. It is nestled in the hearts of a determined people, and they are many. Strengthened by their beliefs, they continue to endure, to resist, and to call for our help.

Let us answer.

Mengsheng Gu lived in Beijing, China, when the persecution began.



House Congressional Resolution 188
Passed by vote of 420-0 on July 24, 2002

Whereas Falun Gong is a peaceful and nonviolent form of personal belief and practice with millions of adherents in the People's Republic of China and elsewhere;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China has forbidden Falun Gong practitioners to practice their beliefs, and has systematically attempted to eradicate the practice and those who follow it;

Whereas Jiang Zemin's regime has created notorious government '610' offices throughout the People's Republic of China with the special task of overseeing the persecution of Falun Gong members through organized brainwashing, torture, and murder;

Whereas official measures have been taken to conceal all atrocities, such as the immediate cremation of victims, the blocking of autopsies, and the false labeling of deaths as from suicide or natural causes;

Whereas women in particular have been the target of numerous forms of sexual violence, including rape, sexual assault, and forced abortion;

Whereas the campaign of persecution has been generated by the Government of the People's Republic of China, is carried out by government officials and police at all levels, and has permeated every segment of society and every level of government in the People's Republic of China; and

Whereas several United States citizens and permanent resident aliens have been subjected to arbitrary detention, imprisoned, and tortured in the People's

U.S. Congress Unanimously CONDEMNS Persecution of Falun Gong

Success! Freed With Friends' Help

Falun Gong Prisoners in China Released Thanks to International Pressure

Helen Peng's Twin Sister

The twin sister of Canadian Helen Peng, Ms. Tianxiong Peng, was arrested and held without trial for nearly one year in a forced labor camp. Tianxiong tried to peacefully protest her unlawful imprisonment but to no avail. In response, Helen traveled all across Canada meeting with government officials, speaking to reporters, and collecting signatures from the public. At long last, on Christmas Eve, Helen received a call from her sister: she was free! Helen attributes the victory to all the support from Canadian officials and the public.



Ms. Chong Xiang Liu, age 68

Mr. Yibing Shi, a New York architect, refused to stand by while his 68-year-old mother, Chong Xiangliu, was imprisoned in China simply for talking with friends and neighbors about Falun Gong. He called on his Congresspersons and human rights groups for help. Many took action, writing to China on her behalf. This earned better treatment for Chong, and later, freedom.



Mr. Zhao Ming, Graduate Student in Ireland

A graduate student in Dublin, Zhao Ming was arrested when visiting China on winter break. He was imprisoned and tortured for 22 months in a labor camp where others have been tortured to death. Students and faculty from his college formed an organization to campaign for his release. For two years they worked tirelessly for Zhao's release, and finally succeeded. They may well have saved his life.

Amy Lee's Daughter, Luo Meng

Amy Lee, a 35-year-old New York fashion designer, was separated from her five-year-old daughter for 3 years, while escaping China to avoid imprisonment 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, they were finally reunited last year.



Taking Action, Making a Difference

From car caravans to art exhibits, candle-light 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.

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.

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.

For more information about Falun Gong: www.falundafa.org 877-325-8699 (Toll Free)
Local New York information can be found at <http://falun-ny.net>.
For news and information about the persecution: www.faluninfo.net 888-842-4797 (Toll Free)
To find out how you can help: www.fofg.org 866-343-7436 (Toll Free)