

2008 Annual Report on Falun Gong

Falun Dafa Information Center

Escalated Campaign in China Before and After the Olympics



March 2009

On the Cover



Left: A procession in memory of Falun Gong practitioners who have died as a result of persecution in China held in Liberty Square, Taipei. In contrast to the violent campaign against Falun Gong on the mainland, the discipline has flourished in Taiwan, where it is practiced by tens of thousands and taught in the educational system.



Center: Yu Zhou, 42, a popular folk musician, keeps his wife Xu Na, a painter, warm on a cold winter day. The couple was arbitrarily arrested on January 26, 2008, in Beijing while on their way home from a concert. Yu was subsequently tortured to death within eleven days of their arrest, while Xu was sentenced to three years in prison in November because Falun Gong-related materials had been found in her possession (*see pages 1 & 6 inside for more information*).



Right: An emaciated and scarred Xu Dawei, 35, upon his release from prison in February 2009. Xu, a chef from Liaoning Province, was arrested in 2001 for distributing leaflets about Falun Gong and sentenced to eight years in prison, which he served in facilities across the province. In addition to signs of physical torture, Xu was released with serious mental disorders—which he had not suffered from prior to his arrest—as a result of being injected with unidentified psychiatric drugs. Such injections are a well-documented form of abuse increasingly used against adherents in prisons and labor camps.

Publisher's information

This annual report was compiled as a resource to inform discussion on Falun Gong and human rights in China. It draws on a wide range of sources, including first-hand accounts from practitioners, their families, and human rights lawyers, Chinese government websites, foreign media reports, research by Amnesty International, and a thorough study by the Congressional Executive Commission on China. It was produced entirely through the efforts of volunteers and paid for by donations to the Falun Dafa Information Center. The views in this report do not necessarily reflect those of Falun Gong, or Falun Dafa.

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Founded in 1999, the Falun Dafa Information Center is a New York-based organization that documents the rights violations of adherents of Falun Gong (or Falun Dafa) taking place in the People's Republic of China. Millions have been detained or sent to forced labor camps in this persecution. The Center has documented over 3,000 deaths and over 87,000 cases of torture in police custody.

“Persecution cases of Falun Gong prationers across the country have noticeably increased recently, and I think this deserves attention. Freedom of religious belief is being violated even more severely during such a special period [of the Olympic Games], and citizens’ constitutional rights and universal values are under attack in China.”

–Prominent Chinese lawyer Jiang Tianyong, August 2008

“Falun Gong practitioners were at particularly high risk of torture and other ill-treatment in detention... During the year [2007] over 100 Falun Gong practitioners were reported to have died in detention or shortly after release as a result of torture, denial of food or medical treatment, and other forms of ill-treatment.”

–Amnesty International 2008 Annual Report

“The central government intensified its nine-year campaign of persecution against Falun Gong practitioners in the months leading up to the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympic Games... Official accounts of the crackdown were publicly available on Web sites for all 31 of China’s provincial-level jurisdictions in 2007-2008.”

–Congressional-Executive Commission on China, 2008 Annual Report

2008 Annual Report on Falun Gong: Escalated Campaign in China Before and After the Olympics

Executive Summary and Recommendations

The suppression of Falun Gong in mainland China escalated sharply in 2008. A significant body of evidence—including first-hand accounts of adherents, official Chinese government statements, and reliable third-party sources—indicates that the escalation was largely made possible by the Beijing Olympics. Chinese officials, under the pretense of “ensuring a smooth Olympics,” utilized the environment of heightened security to arbitrarily detain, torture, and sentence Falun Gong adherents throughout China to re-education through labor camps for up to 2 ½ years or to prison for up to 13 years.

In total, the Falun Dafa Information Center received reports of over 8,000 practitioners having been detained in 2008. Reports of deaths from torture or other abuses in custody continue to flow from China on a nearly daily basis.

Those who practice and support Falun Gong inside China continue to be deprived of a wide range of rights guaranteed by the country’s constitution and under China’s international obligations. The following is an abbreviated list of the key developments surrounding Falun Gong inside China in 2008:

Large-scale arbitrary arrests

Thousands of adherents were detained around the country throughout 2008. Most were arrested on the basis of their being known to the authorities as Falun Gong adherents, even if this identity consisted of studying Falun Gong tenets and practicing its meditation exercises in the privacy of their homes. In many cases, adherents were arrested for possessing Falun Gong books and related materials, often after door-to-door searches by security agents. Once detained, the pattern of subjecting adherents to severe torture—including sexual abuse and shocks with electric batons—to force them to disavow their faith remained commonplace.

Increase in sentencing

There was an increase in prison and labor camp sentences given to adherents, following unfair judicial proceedings or none at all. Many sentences were handed down towards year’s end after the conclusion of the Olympics and following months of pre-trial detention. Most sentences ranged from 1½ to 5 years in length, but sentences as long as 13 years were also recorded.

Over 100 deaths

The Falun Dafa Information Center documented the deaths of 104 adherents in 2008 because of severe abuse or neglect in police custody. During the 16 days of the Olympics alone, 10 Falun Gong adherents are confirmed to have died. Additional information pointing to systematic forced organ removal from Falun Gong prisoners of conscience also emerged in 2008, particularly the prevalence of suspicious medical testing.

Nationwide effort

While large numbers of adherents were detained, harassed, and tortured in Beijing and other cities hosting Olympics venues, reports of abuse and official directives to target Falun Gong emerged across the country. According to the Congressional Executive Commission on China (CECC), “Official accounts of the crackdown were publicly available on Web sites for all 31 of China’s provincial-level jurisdictions in 2007-2008.” Indeed, one of the deadliest provinces was Heilongjiang, which hosted no Olympic events.

Executive Summary and Recommendations

Role of the 6-10 Office

The 6-10 Office, an extralegal security agency created in 1999 to lead the campaign against Falun Gong, played a central role in prompting and coordinating actions taken against the group in 2008, including monitoring and detentions. According to the CECC, in April, the central 6-10 Office issued “an internal directive to local governments nationwide mandating propaganda activities” against Falun Gong.

Defense lawyers harassed

Throughout the year, a small group of approximately 20 lawyers continued to defend Falun Gong adherents, despite Party directives banning such action. On repeated occasions in 2008, lawyers defended practitioners in court, presenting detailed arguments as to their innocence and the broader need to observe the constitutional guarantee of freedom of religion. In all cases, the adherents were sentenced anyway, and many of the lawyers known to represent Falun Gong adherents and take other sensitive cases continued to face harassment, monitoring, disbarment, and even detention or torture at the hands of the authorities.

Media and Internet taboo:

Falun Gong remained one of the most taboo topics of coverage for both Chinese and foreign news organizations reporting from China in 2008. The pre-Olympic crackdown included the detention and sentencing of adherents found to be possessing, producing, or distributing underground leaflets in accordance with their right to freedom of expression. Throughout the year, Falun Gong and related websites remained among the most systematically and hermetically blocked by China’s Great Firewall, including during the Olympics.

Despite the ongoing violence by the authorities, 2008 also saw some encouraging developments on the part of the international community and certain segments of Chinese society. In response to the violence used against adherents, Amnesty International published urgent actions on behalf of individual practitioners at risk of torture, while the UN Committee Against Torture issued a binding decision calling for an independent investigation into abuse of Falun Gong adherents in custody. Following letter-writing campaigns from Western government officials and ordinary citizens around the world, two adherents with relatives in the United States were freed from detention. Within China, as mentioned above, the trend that began in recent years of prominent lawyers increasingly willing to take a public stand on behalf of Falun Gong adherents continued.

One of the key reasons for both the ongoing ferocity of the campaign and the increased support from society would appear to be adherents’ continued ability to distribute at a grassroots level large amounts of printed materials disclosing details of the persecution as well as the CCP’s broader crimes against its citizens. Thus, while some observers have cited the Party’s efforts to silence dissent surrounding the Olympics as the primary cause for the 2008 crackdown, this does not seem to fully explain the measures taken against Falun Gong adherents. Given the trend of sentencing those arrested during the pre-Olympic period to terms stretching forward several years, it would appear rather that the Party seized on the need to hold a “safe” Olympics as a means to further advance the near decade-long persecutory campaign, limit the distribution of information deemed threatening to its rule, and move closer to the aim of “eradicating Falun Gong.”

Executive Summary and Recommendations

Recommendations

Given the above findings, the Falun Dafa Information Center makes the following recommendations to the international community:

Governments must ensure engagement does not yield grave human costs.

Nations should do a thorough review of their engagement with the current Chinese regime and ensure that no policies facilitate or serve as a catalyst for Chinese officials to further the suppression of Falun Gong. The findings of this report show that the CCP will use opportunities like the Olympics to advance its agenda of wiping out Falun Gong.

Governments and NGOs must ensure Falun Gong remains a key component of any legitimate discourse on or action concerning human rights in China.

Falun Gong adherents remain the largest population of prisoners of conscience in China today. The CCP's absolute position of not reversing its policy to persecute Falun Gong cannot be permitted to generate an exception to advancing the rights of a large segment of Chinese citizens. To do so, would be to allow the CCP to dictate the terms of human rights policy.

Human rights workers should pursue all possible avenues of investigation into the persecution.

Such leads have grown steadily in recent months. Notably, Chinese lawyers in growing numbers are publicly defending Falun Gong in Chinese courts and often attest to the abuses suffered by their clients.

Other countries should offer protection to Falun Gong refugees.

Governments must ensure their mechanisms for receiving and providing safe harbor to victims of religious persecution are made fully available to Falun Gong practitioners. This report clearly shows the danger Falun Gong adherents face in China, including those who practice their beliefs in the privacy of their own homes. Several of those tortured to death in 2008 were individuals originally detained not for any action they took, but merely for being identified as a Falun Gong adherent.

Mainstream media should investigate and report on the Falun Gong story.

The issue transcends the plight of Falun Gong practitioners themselves, shedding important light on the broader conditions of life in modern China, its people and its influence on the international community. Most media missed several critical stories surrounding the Olympics-related mass arrests and detention of Falun Gong adherents, and what they meant for the direction of the modern Chinese state.

About the Falun Dafa Information Center (FDIC)

The Falun Dafa Information Center is both the official press office for Falun Gong as well as a primary resource for information about the human rights abuses Falun Gong practitioners face at the hands of the Chinese communist regime.

The Information Center began informally in July 1999 with the banning and persecution of Falun Gong in China. The initial incarnation of the Center in July 1999 was the brainchild of a small group of Falun Gong adherents in New York City. The group was particularly informed about the practice and its intricate predicament in Mainland China, its constituents having traveled there and spent time with practitioners there. Two of the individuals had spent most of their lives in the mainland. The Center was formally incorporated in the spring of 2000, and has from that time been granted the privilege of formally representing or speaking on behalf of the practice.

The aim of our work and the impact we strive for is as follows:

- To document human rights abuses specific to Falun Gong in China, as well as coercive tactics and intimidation by the Chinese regime directed at Falun Gong elsewhere around the world.
- To disseminate such information to all relevant entities, including media, government, NGOs, research institutes, and educational institutions.
- To serve as a resource to journalists, investigators, scholars, and educators who seek to learn more about Falun Gong and its plight in China.
- To monitor and analyze news coverage and representations of Falun Gong in the press, as well as catalogue and organize key reporting.
- To ensure the voice of Falun Gong practitioners is represented in an official and clear capacity to journalists and media organizations.
- To advocate for the rights of Falun Gong adherents inside China, particularly under the continued circumstance in which they are denied legal representation or fair trials.
- To support grassroots advocacy work related to Falun Gong, such as by producing informational leaflets and video documentaries.

By the Numbers: The Persecution against Falun Gong in China 2007-2008

- **500,000**—number of yuan (approximately \$70,000) offered as a reward by Beijing’s Public Security Bureau for information leading to the arrest of Falun Gong practitioners, among other “security threats,” during the Olympic period. (Xinhua)
- **8,000+**—number of Falun Gong adherents detained across China between January and June 2008. (FDIC)
- **6,744**—number of chat messages containing the word “Falun” found to have been filtered and logged by the Chinese version of Skype out of a sample of 96,000, the largest number of any specific term. (OpenNet Initiative)
- **3,242**—total number of Falun Gong adherents documented to have died from persecution between 1999 and 2008 (FDIC)
- **1,600**—number of Falun Gong adherents reported to have been targeted for “reeducation” and “reprimand” in Anhui province’s Yingshang county (Fuyang City) (CECC)
- **600**—number of Falun Gong adherents in Wulin district of Changde city, Hunan province targeted for close monitoring by police, neighborhood committees, and their own relatives, according to online information by the local Communist Party Political-Legal Committee. (CECC)
- **208**—number of Falun Gong adherents arrested in Beijing from January to June 2008 by public security agents from all 18 districts and counties in the municipality (FDIC).
- **104**—number of Falun Gong adherents who died from abuse or neglect in custody in 2008 (FDIC)
- **62**—number of adherents reportedly detained in Miyi county in Sichuan province as part of its “strike hard” campaign in 2007, according to official websites (CECC).
- **53**—number of Falun Gong-related leaflets found in the car of Beijing adherent Ms. Xu Na, which was the basis of her being sentenced to 3 years in prison. (Amnesty International)
- **31**—number of provincial level jurisdictions whose websites featured official reports of a pre-Olympics crackdown on Falun Gong (CECC)
- **25**—number of Falun Gong practitioners reportedly arrested in Xinjiang in a crackdown on underground publishing operations in July 2008. (Xinhua)
- **13**—number of years in prison that Liu Fengmei, a resident of Jinzhou city, Liaoning province, was sentenced to within days of the Olympics closing ceremony, because of her practice of Falun Gong (FDIC).

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I. Arbitrary or Unlawful Deprivation of Life

Between January and December 2008, the Falun Dafa Information Center received reports of 104 Falun Gong deaths that resulted from severe abuse in police custody or other forms of persecution. During the 16 days of the Olympics alone, 10 Falun Gong adherents are confirmed to have died from abuse in custody.

A complete table of the names and available details surrounding these known cases is enclosed in Appendix A. The table was compiled from a variety of sources, including testimony of relatives or friends of the deceased, photographic evidence, and follow-up phone calls made by researchers to the relevant police or prison authorities. In total, since 1999, the Falun Dafa Information Center has documented the cases of 3,242 Falun Gong practitioners who have died as a result of various forms of persecution. Due to the secrecy surrounding such cases, the actual death toll is most likely much higher.

A large number of the deaths reported in 2008 occurred weeks, days, or hours after the Falun Gong adherent was detained, and frequently accompanied reports of torture in custody. The provinces of Liaoning and Heilongjiang were the deadliest for adherents, accounting together for 35 of the 104 documented cases. The following are a sample of particularly notable cases:

Yu Zhou

Mr. Yu Zhou, 42, a popular folk musician, was arrested on his way home from a concert in Beijing on January 26, 2008. Yu was killed after 11 days of detention at the Tongzhou District Detention Center, as detailed by the *Times of London* (Appendix B) and *Agence France Presse*, as well as reported to the United Nations by Amnesty International.

Amnesty International: “Recent examples of death in custody include Yu Zhou, a well-known folk singer; graduate of Beijing University, and reportedly a Falun Gong practitioner, who was arrested in Tongzhou District, Beijing, on 26 January 2008, along with his wife, Xu Na, a poet and painter. On 6 February 2008, the authorities notified the family to come to the Qinghe



Yu Zhou, a popular folk musician arrested on his way home from a concert in Beijing in January 2008, was killed after 11 days of detention.

District Emergency Centre, where they learned that Yu Zhou had already died. A family member recounted how his body was covered by a white sheet, and only his eyes were visible. The family was told that Yu had died from either diabetes or from a hunger strike, although he had been perfectly healthy at the time of his arrest. The staff at the Emergency Centre refused the family’s request to view the body and for an autopsy to be performed, and the authorities refused to hand over Yu’s body to the family.”

See: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/ASA17/097/2008/en/c95b10ad-9073-11dd-b16f-6118895def38/asa170972008en.html>

See also: <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/asia/china/article3779899.ece>

I. Arbitrary or Unlawful Deprivation of Life

Zong Xiuxia

Among those killed almost immediately after their initial arrest was Ms. Zong Xiuxia, age 55. According to sources inside China, on the morning of February 22, 2008, Zong was distributing literature about the persecution of Falun Gong in Weifang City, Shandong province, when she was reported to the police. At approximately 11:00 a.m., she was taken to Guangwen Police Station for interrogation. She was killed within hours of her arrest, and later that evening, her family was notified to come down to the police station to identify and claim her body.

See: <http://www.faluninfo.net/article/766/>

Wang Guiming

Mr. Wang Guiming, age 38, of Changchun City, Jilin Province, was arrested on February 13, 2008, while discussing the persecution of Falun Gong with customers at his sweet potato stand. He was taken to the Xinzhan Police Station to be interrogated, and was subsequently transferred to the Chaoyanggou forced labor camp, where he was reportedly force-fed and shocked with electric batons. He died on February 29, 2008, 16 days after his arrest.

See: <http://www.faluninfo.net/article/770/?cid=150>

Zhong Zhenfu and Liu Xiumei

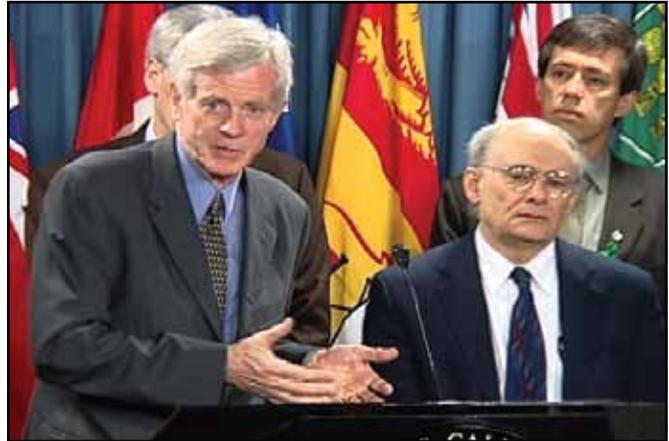
Reuters: “Two members of the banned Chinese spiritual sect Falun Gong were tortured and died in police custody in Shandong province in July, the group said. Zhong Zhenfu, 58, died of injuries sustained in police custody after being held along with others from Pingdu, in Shandong, since May, the group said in a statement. Liu Xiumei, a woman from Zhucheng, Shandong, was detained in July and died 17 days later, it said, without giving further details. ... Officials from Shandong province were not immediately available for comment.”

See: <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-briefs24-2008aug24,0,6642255.story>

See also: <http://www.faluninfo.net/article/799/?cid=84>.

Forced Organ Removal

Additional information pointing to systematic forced organ removal from Falun Gong prisoners of conscience emerged in 2008, particularly the prevalence of suspicious medical testing.



Canadian investigators David Kilgour and David Matas concluded in 2006 that organ harvesting allegations were true.

In recent years, a growing body of evidence has emerged indicating that Falun Gong prisoners of conscience have been killed so that their organs could be used in transplant operations. In addition to a significant increase in transplant procedures since the launch of the campaign against the group in 1999, recordings of Chinese doctors admitting to the use of Falun Gong organs in transplant operations are among the most compelling details that have raised concerns within medical and human rights circles. In 2006, an independent investigation by Canadians David Kilgour and David Matas concluded the allegations were true. In 2008, the following developments occurred with regards to this and other investigations into the issue:

- Following a series of hearings, in July 2008, a special Israeli rabbinical council similarly ruled that it believed the Chinese regime had been responsible for the killing of Falun Gong practitioners, perhaps because of material benefits derived from organ harvesting.

See: <http://www.faluninfo.net/article/750/?cid=84>

I. Arbitrary or Unlawful Deprivation of Life

Forced Organ Removal

- In November 2008, the *Weekly Standard*, reported findings of research by author Ethan Gutmann, indicating that Falun Gong prisoners of conscience had been subjected to systematic and suspicious medical testing while in custody, strengthening concerns that they were being targeted for forced organ removal.

See: <http://www.weeklystandard.com/Content/Public/Articles/000/000/015/824qbcjr.asp>

- Also in November, David Matas asserted in a submission to the United Nations Committee Against Torture (UNCAT) that the Chinese government had yet to provide information that would substantively contradict the pieces of evidence used in the 2006 report he co-authored, which reached the conclusion that organs were harvested from Falun Gong prisoners of conscience.

See: http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cat/docs/ngos/II_China_41.pdf

II. Disappearance



Photos of Falun Gong practitioners Gao Shuming and Gao Qinming, who were illegally arrested by the CCP on April 14, 2008.

The year saw continued reports of Falun Gong disappearances. Since 2006, the editors of Minghui.org, a Chinese-language website run by overseas Falun Gong practitioners with an extensive network of sources inside China, have maintained a database of practitioners reported missing by friends and relatives. Of these, many disappeared following arrest and detention, and others disappeared after being forced to go underground to flee persecution (Appendix D). Since Minghui began work on the database, editors have compiled some 1,300 cases.

III. Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

The use of torture against Falun Gong practitioners remains commonplace and continued throughout 2008. Amnesty International published several urgent actions on behalf of adherents at risk of torture, while the UN Committee Against Torture issued a binding decision calling for an independent investigation into abuse of Falun Gong adherents in custody.



United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture, Manfred Nowak

In a report on his 2005 mission to China, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture, Manfred Nowak, stated that 66 percent of the reports of torture in China that his office received had Falun Gong practitioners as victims. Photographic evidence from inside China, statements of former prisoners of conscience, investigations by Chinese human rights lawyers and testimonies from former security personnel indicate the widespread use of torture against Falun Gong adherents for the purposes of forcing them to renounce their beliefs or extracting information about other practitioners. The most commonly used torture methods include beatings, electric baton shocks, injections with psychotropic drugs, forced-feeding, rape and other forms of sexual abuse. As detailed in the previous section, over 100 adherents died during the year, often as a result of injuries incurred from abuse in custody.

Amnesty International Urgent Action: Fear of Torture, Chen Zhenping (F):

“Falun Gong practitioner Chen Zhenping was arrested without a warrant on 9 July [2008] at her home in the city of Zhengzhou, Henan province. Her family have not been allowed to visit her, and it is unclear where she

is now held. She is in grave danger of torture...

“She was first held for 10 days at Matougang Village Detention Centre, and then moved to Zhengzhou City No.1 Detention Centre. Zhengzhou City Jingshui People’s Court officials told one of her relatives on 10 October that Chen Zhenping had been sentenced to between seven and 15 years’ imprisonment. However, the family have not been served an official notification of a trial by court authorities.... According to a fellow inmate, Chen Zhenping has been held in a cell with over 30 people and forced to sleep on the floor. *She was reported by a former cell-mate to have been forced to work up to 19 hours a day producing rugs, Q-tips and other goods, with strict production targets: If she did not meet these targets she was beaten and otherwise ill-treated.*”

See: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/ASA17/103/2008/en/15457450-aa58-11dd-ac3d-a1d338fc5da1/asa171032008en.html>

Hu Yuyuan

Chinese lawyer Jiang Tianyong described in an interview with overseas Chinese language radio station Sound of Hope the abuse suffered by one of his Falun Gong clients from early August 2008: “When I met Hu Yuyuan, he described how he was treated after he was arrested: Guards put a head bag to wrap around his head, and used plastic bottles filled with water to beat his head. Then, *they wrapped electrical wires around his fingers and turned on the switch. After electrically shocking one hand, they moved on to shock the other hand in the same manner.*”

Chen Jie

In a recent article in the *New Statesman* magazine, Leeshai Lemish writes of interviews he and Ethan Gutmann recently conducted for an upcoming book: “Chen Jie [a Falun Gong adherent who recently escaped to Thailand] said: “Their [other practitioners’] bellies, chest and backs were ... covered with black bubbles from

III. Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

being shocked with cattle-prods.' *The over 100 people we interviewed, and the torture scars some showed, left no ambiguities—this persecution is ongoing and nationwide.*"

See "China's Other World":

<http://www.newstatesman.com/blogs/the-faith-column/2008/08/falun-gongpractitioners-china>

Liu Qi

Contributing to a culture of impunity surrounding such abuses was the appointment of former Beijing Mayor Liu Qi as head of the Beijing Organizing Committee of the Olympic Games (BOCOG) and his general acceptance as a legitimate host by the international community. This was despite his having been found liable in 2004 for the torture of Falun Gong adherents by a San Francisco court.

According to the Center for Investigative Reporting, which publicized the case in April 2008: "In an extensive legal opinion, the U.S. District Court in San Francisco determined in 2004 that Liu Qi was responsible for the illegal detention and torture of two Chinese nationals and a sexual assault against a French woman in China. ... The plaintiffs, who were represented by the Center for Justice and Accountability, presented evidence that as mayor, Liu directed security forces to violently crush Falun Gong. In addition, police under his command subjected the plaintiffs and other Falun Gong adherents in Beijing to severe beatings, sexual abuse, and electric shocks through needles placed in [the] body."

See: <http://centerforinvestigativereporting.org/node/3625>

United Nations Committee Against Torture – Fourth Periodic Review of China

In November 2008, the United Nations Committee against Torture (UNCAT) evaluated the Chinese authorities' adherence to the 1984 Convention against Torture, which the PRC ratified in 1988. Submissions

to the committee by Amnesty International, the Conscience Foundation, Chinese Human Rights Defenders, and Interfaith International cited persistent reports of torture and death in custody of Falun Gong practitioners in recent years, as well as the culture of violence and impunity surrounding them.

- Chinese Human Rights Defenders, in particular, highlighted the complete absence of redress mechanisms for Falun Gong torture victims: "In theory, Falun Gong practitioners can petition its Letters and Visits Office or sue Office 610 for torture. In practice, even these limited complaint mechanisms are closed to Falun Gong practitioners because they are treated as a special category and their complaints are not accepted by government offices. Falun Gong practitioners rarely lodge official complaints for fear of being subjected to even worse persecution due to their membership in [Falun Gong]. It is believed that Office 610 is responsible for the torture and cruel treatment of many Falun Gong practitioners and that its officers are never punished or held legally responsible for their crimes."

See: <http://www.faluninfo.net/article/828/?cid=84>

- In a legally binding decision issued on November 21, the UNCAT expressed its concern over information received that "Falun Gong practitioners have been extensively subjected to torture and ill-treatment in prisons and that some of them have been used for organ transplants (arts. 12 and 16)." It further stated: "The State party should immediately conduct or commission an independent investigation of the claims that some Falun Gong practitioners have been subjected to torture and used for organ transplants and take measures, as appropriate, to ensure that those responsible for such abuses are prosecuted and punished."

See: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cat/docs/CAT.C.CHN.CO.4.p>

IV. Arbitrary Arrest or Detention

The year 2008 witnessed a systematic and nationwide increase in arbitrary arrests and detention of Falun Gong adherents, apparently as part of a clean-up effort ahead of the Beijing Olympics. Upon conclusion of the games, adherents continued to be sentenced without trial to “re-education through labor” for up to 2.5 years (see next section for sentencing to prison).

- *The Congressional Executive Commission on China noted: “Official accounts of the [pre-Olympic] crackdown were publicly available on Web sites for all 31 of China’s provincial-level jurisdictions in 2007–2008.”*
- *Two adherents with relatives in the United States were freed from detention following international campaigns calling for their release.*

From the months of December 2007 to May 2008, the Falun Dafa Information Center received reports of over 8,037 Falun Gong adherents being taken into detention. According to the reports, many of the arrests follow a common pattern, whereby officers from the local police station or Public Security Bureau (PSB) branch come to the adherent’s home or workplace, conduct a search for any Falun Gong-related materials, and take the individual into custody at the district detention center. In some cases, family members or co-workers who do not practice Falun Gong have been taken into custody as well. At least nine adherents were killed within days or weeks of their arrest.

See: <http://www.faluninfo.net/article/11/>

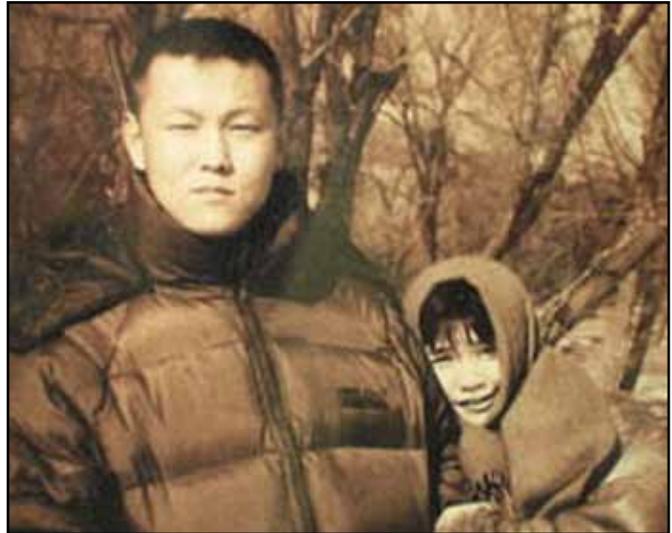
See also: <http://www.faluninfo.net/article/721/?cid=111>

- **Beijing arrests:** In Beijing, where at least 208 Falun Gong adherents were detained in the months ahead of the Olympics, the Public Security Bureau offered awards of up to 500,000 yuan for information leading to the arrest of Falun Gong practitioners, among other “security threats.”

See http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-07/11/content_8528925.htm

- Of the 208 practitioners arbitrarily arrested in Beijing ahead of the Olympics, at least 30 were sentenced to reeducation-through-labor for terms of up to two and a half years. Others were held in pre-trial detention before being sentenced judicially to prison terms (see Denial of Fair Public Trial), and many others are awaiting sentence.

See: <http://www.faluninfo.net/article/721/?cid=111>



Yu Zhou and Xu Na

Xu Na

Typical among these was Xu Na, widow of musician Yu Zhou. Both were arbitrarily arrested on January 26, 2008, in Beijing while on their way home from a concert. Yu Zhou was reportedly tortured to death within 11 days of his detention, while Xu Na was held in pre-trial detention for over nine months before her trial (see next section for details of her trial and sentencing).

The crackdown on Falun Gong ahead of the Olympics would appear to be part of a centrally coordinated effort directed by the Public Security Bureau. According to Amnesty International, in preparing for the Games, Former Public Security Minister Zhou Yongkang issued the following order in the context of “successfully holding the 17th Communist Party Congress [in October 2007] and the Beijing Olympic Games”: “We must strike hard at hostile forces at home and abroad, such as ethnic separatists... and ‘heretical organizations’ like the Falun Gong.”

See: <http://asiapacific.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGASA170522007?open&of=ENG-2S2>

IV. Arbitrary Arrest or Detention

Role of 6-10 Office

The pre-Olympic crackdown was coordinated with the help of the Falun Gong Control Office, or the 6-10 Office, as it is otherwise known. In its 2008 Annual Report, the Congressional Executive Commission on China noted the role of the 6-10 Office in the pre-Olympic campaign and the circulation of its orders nationwide:

“In April 2008, the central government 6-10 Office issued an internal directive to local governments nationwide mandating propaganda activities to prevent Falun Gong from ‘interfering with or harming’ the Olympics. References to the directive appear on official Web sites in every province and at every level of government. Most official reports focus on demonstrating that local authorities have stepped up security and fulfilled the requirement to ‘educate’ target audiences on the directive’s content. Local authorities distributed the directive widely in an effort to raise public awareness.”

Reports posted by regional 6-10 Offices offer an indication of how the policy against Falun Gong was to be prosecuted, as reported by the CECC:

“According to Nanjing City Public Security provisions published in June 2008, the 6-10 Office is at the forefront of ‘organizing and leading the struggle against Falun Gong.’ Its responsibilities include ‘directing investigations into significant cases,’ ‘digging deep to uncover covert plots and organizers,’ ‘gathering intelligence,’ and ‘organizing and coordinating the prevention, control, and punishment of Falun Gong and other harmful qigong organizations by municipal public security forces.’...”

“An April 2008 notice posted on the Gutian county government Web site in Fujian province describes the central government’s ‘basic policy’ outlawing the practice of Falun Gong and outlines five primary tasks to implement: (1) ‘explicitly order the dissemination of information regarding the ban [on Falun Gong],’ (2) ‘carry out comprehensive administration [of the policy],’ (3) ‘fully utilize all legal weapons, sternly punish the criminal activities of cult ring-leaders and key members,’ (4) ‘do a good job at transformation through reeducation for the great majority of practitioners,’ and (5) ‘prevent external cults from seeping into the area, reduce the conditions that allow cults to propagate.’”

“Re-education through labor”

Falun Gong adherents continue to comprise a very high percentage of the population in China’s reeducation-through-labor (RTL) camps, believed to hold upwards of 500,000 individuals. The year saw a spike in the number of adherents sentenced to RTL, including in the weeks following the Olympics. Individuals can be sentenced without trial to RTL for terms of up to two-and-a-half years for virtually any offense.

By some estimates, Falun Gong prisoners account for half of the RTL population, and some camps are comprised almost entirely of Falun Gong adherents.

Leeshai Lemish, research assistant for an upcoming book on Falun Gong, noted in a recent *National Post* article, “Last year, the Beijing Female Labour Camp, for example, contained 700 Falun Gong practitioners and only 140 actual criminals.”

See: <http://network.nationalpost.com/np/blogs/fullcomment/archive/2008/10/07/leeshai-lemish-the-games-are-over-the-persecution-continues.aspx>



Si Miao

Si Miao, female, age 36, Shijiazhuang, Hebei province: At 8 a.m. on April 22, 2008, approximately two dozen personnel from the State Security Bureau and local law enforcement agencies arrested Ms. Si Miao and her father Mr. Si Shilin. Ms. Si was arrested directly from her workplace, while Mr. Si was arrested when the officers came to his home, in which they conducted a thorough search, confiscating Falun Gong-related materials, computers and address books. The two were taken separately to a secret interrogation site, whose precise location remains unknown. One week later, Mr. Si was released, while Ms. Si was transferred to a local detention center.

Thirty days later she was sentenced without trial or legal representation to 1.5 years of “re-education through labor” for practicing Falun Gong to be served at Shijiazhuang Women’s RTL camp. According to

IV. Arbitrary Arrest or Detention

her father Mr. Si, much of the interrogators' questions focused on the activities of his son Mr. Si Yang, a U.S. citizens residing in Los Angeles.

See: <http://www.faluninfo.net/article/767/>

Arbitrarily arrested but released following international pressure



Bu Dongwei

Bu Dongwei, male, 40, Beijing, Amnesty International prisoner of conscience, wife resides in California:

"Bu Dongwei, also known as David Bu, was assigned to two-and-a-half years' "Re-education through Labour" (RTL) on 19 June [2006] in connection with his activities as a member of the Falun Gong spiritual movement. He is detained at an undisclosed location, and Amnesty International considers him to be a prisoner of conscience. He is at serious risk of torture or ill-treatment...."

"Bu Dongwei had been working in Beijing for the U.S. aid organization, the Asia Foundation, before he was detained by around seven police officers at his home in the Haidian District of the capital, Beijing, on 19 May [2006]. According to the decision of Beijing's RTL committee, which has the power to impose periods of arbitrary detention without charge or trial, he was accused of 'resisting the implementation of national laws' and 'disturbing social order'. The evidence cited was a verbal confession he made to police, and 80 copies of Falun Gong literature that the police discovered in his home. He is due to be released on 18 November 2008."

See: <http://www.amnesty.org/es/library/asset/ASA17/049/2006/en/dom-ASA170492006en.html>

Following a widespread letter writing campaign from Amnesty International and others, Bu was released from RTL in July 2008, several months ahead of schedule. According to Amnesty: "Bu Dongwei's health deteriorated in detention, probably because of malnutrition.

He was provided very little food of low nutritional value and was not allowed to buy additional meals himself. He had to attend re-educational classes every day and undertake packaging work."

See: http://www.amnesty.org.nz/good-news/chinese_human_rights_defender_bu_dongwei_released

"Brainwashing" Centers

An additional form of arbitrary detention commonly imposed on Falun Gong adherents was holding them for extended and undefined periods of time at "brainwashing centers" where they are pressured, and in many instances tortured, to renounce their faith in Falun Gong.



Qin Shizhen

Ms. Qin Shizhen, female, age 67. Ms. Qin, whose daughter resides in Albany, NY, was detained by Urumqi police in Xinjiang on March 31, 2008, during a visit to

her sister's home. The two women were followed by police while distributing information about Falun Gong late at night. The police detained Qin's sister and forced her to unlock the door to her home, which they subsequently searched, confiscating computer equipment and Falun Gong-related materials. The two women were placed under house arrest until May 23. On that date, agents from the 6-10 Office of the Gansu Administration College (Qin's former employer) and policemen from her home town of Lanzhou arrived in Xinjiang to collect her. They traveled by train for over 24 hours, arriving in Lanzhou on May 24, 2008, when Ms. Qin was immediately placed in Gongjiawan brainwashing center.

Following a large degree of international pressure – including letters from dozens of New York state elected officials urging her release, Qin was eventually released in October 2008, after over six months in custody.

See: http://www.dailygazette.com/news/2008/oct/21/1021_falun_woman/

V. Denial of Fair Public Trial

The year saw an increase in prison sentences given to adherents of Falun Gong, many of them coming after the conclusion of the Beijing Olympics and following months of pre-trial detention. Most sentences ranged from three to five years in length, though sentences as long as thirteen years were recorded. Lawyers who defended Falun Gong adherents continued to face intimidation and harassment.

In almost all instances, adherents were charged under a vague provision of the criminal code for “using a heretical organization to undermine implementation of the law.”

Legal defense

Throughout the year, a small group of approximately 20 lawyers continued to defend Falun Gong adherents, despite Party directives banning such action and a high degree of harassment for taking such cases. On repeated occasions throughout the year, lawyers defended practitioners in court, presenting detailed arguments as to the innocence of the practitioners in question and the broader need to observe the constitutional guarantee of freedom of religion. The attorneys also raised the issue of the highly questionable legality of including personal belief in Falun Gong or related nonviolent acts of free expression under the provision of “using a heretical organization to undermine implementation of the law.” For an example of such an argument presented in court, see: <http://www.peacehall.com/news/gb/china/2008/08/200808152350.shtml>

The following two sample cases illustrate the above trends:



Xu Na

Xu Na, female, age 41—sentenced to three years in prison on November 25, 2008 for “using a heretical organization to undermine implementation of the law,” as confirmed

by her defense attorney. Xu had previously been imprisoned from 2001 to 2006 for offering her apartment to Falun Gong adherents traveling to Beijing to appeal against the persecution (Appendix C).

See Agence France Presse report: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hVz9l5v3-NroyDGALZT2Nv6Paw2Q>

On November 28, Amnesty International issued an urgent action on Xu’s behalf, citing her as a prisoner of conscience and raising concerns about irregularities in her trial and her being at risk of torture:

- “On 25 January 2008, Xu Na and her folk musician husband Yu Zhou were detained after a routine search, during which the Beijing police discovered they were carrying Falun Gong materials. Yu Zhou died in detention 11 days after being taken into police custody, raising concerns over police brutality towards individuals in detention. Xu Na’s parents have not been allowed visitation rights since her detention in January.”

- “Xu Na’s case was first sent to the Chongwen District People’s Court on 30 June but the court did not announce the verdict until 25 November—nearly three months after the maximum time permitted by China’s Criminal Procedure Law. Xu Na was found guilty of possessing and intending to disseminate 53 copies of Falun Gong leaflets and 11 computer disks of Falun Gong material... Concerns for her safety are heightened by the fact that she told friends and family she had been subjected to torture during her first imprisonment, including beatings, sleep deprivation, forced-feeding, and being tied into uncomfortable positions for hours.”

See: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/ASA17/107/2008/en/8c3874e7-bd56-11dd-857f-c5541b902dd7/asa171072008en.html>

Xu was represented in court by Beijing lawyer Cheng Hai, who argued that the charges against her were not based on facts, particularly that the materials found in her possession included content that was within the scope of the constitutional right to free expression. He also made a general argument regarding Falun Gong adherents’ right to freedom of religion: “The defense lawyer believes, our country should protect freedom of religion. Falun Gong advocates Truthfulness-Compassion-

V. Denial of Fair Public Trial

Forbearance and does not pose any danger to society. Falun Gong should be a new, legal religious form, and its followers' religious activities should be protected by the law."

See: <http://en.epochtimes.com/n2/china/falun-gong-musician-persecuted-lawyer-7694.html>

Liu Fengmei

Liu Fengmei, female, 43—detained on February 25, 2008 together with three other adherents and held in pre-trial detention until the first week of August, when the Taihe District Court of Jinzhou City, Liaoning province put the four practitioners on trial.

- Liu was represented by Beijing attorney Li Heping, who entered a "not guilty" plea on her behalf. Despite evidence that Liu and others had suffered severe torture during pre-trial interrogation, including their displaying injuries in court, the presiding judge denied the attorney's request for a medical examination for their clients.

- On August 27, 2008, within days of the Olympics' conclusion, Liu was sentenced to 13 years in prison.

See: <http://clearharmony.net/articles/200809/46218.html>

- The Chinese-language transcript of Li Heping's defense of Liu was posted on the overseas Chinese news site Boxun.

See: <http://www.peacehall.com/news/gb/china/2008/08/200808152350.shtml>

Intimidation and harassment of lawyers

Lawyers known to represent Falun Gong adherents and take other sensitive cases continued to face harassment, monitoring, disbarment, and even detention or physical abuse at the hands of the authorities.

- An April 2008 report by Human Rights Watch, *Walking on Thin Ice*, highlighted, among others, the cases of two lawyers punished by the authorities after they represented Falun Gong:

- "Chinese lawyers who take cases seen by the government as politically sensitive or potentially embarrassing



Gao Zhisheng with his family. The family has faced severe and long term intimidation; Gao was subjected to torture following his abduction in 2007.

face severe abuses ranging from harassment to disbarment and physical assaults.... On October 19, 2005, one day after Gao [Zhisheng] published a scathing open letter to the top state leaders about abuses against religious and Falun Gong practitioners, he received an anonymous threat by phone.... An attorney from impoverished Guangxi province, Yang Zaixin, was dismissed from his law firm in January 2006 after he took a series of sensitive cases, including those of defendants accused of being members of the banned Falun Gong."

- For a comprehensive account of these two cases as described in the HRW report, see:

<http://www.faluninfo.net/article/802/?cid=83>

For the original report, see:

<http://www.hrw.org/reports/2008/china0408/>



Li Heping

- In August 2008, the Evening Standard reported on the 24-hour surveillance faced by above-mentioned Beijing lawyer Li Heping, as well as an incident from 2007 when he was abducted and shocked with electric batons: See: <http://www.thisislondon.co.uk/standard/article-23541200-details/Lawyer+Li+and+the+goon+squad/article.do>

VI. Arbitrary Interference with Privacy, Family, Home, or Correspondence

Reports from China indicate that many of the Falun Gong adherents detained ahead of the Beijing Olympics were taken directly from their homes or workplaces to detention centers and labor camps. Homes were frequently searched without warrant in order to find evidence that would implicate the Falun Gong practitioner, such as books of Falun Gong teachings or photos of its founder Mr. Li Hongzhi. Adherents also frequently reported that security officers confiscated electronic goods during home searches.

Falun Gong adherents continued to face regular and often highly intrusive surveillance by Chinese security officials, including 24/7 home surveillance, as well as the monitoring of telephones and email correspondence. Such surveillance appeared to increase in the months surrounding the Olympics, in part due to central government orders to lower-level security forces to carry out such actions.

Reports from Falun Gong adherents in China frequently refer to surveillance by security forces, particularly the 6-10 Office. The Congressional Executive Commission on China found evidence of internal orders stipulating the nature of surveillance to be carried out against Falun Gong:

- “The Wuling Party Political-Legal Committee [in Changde, Hunan Province] describes having implemented a set of three ‘responsibility measures’ to ensure that ‘more than 600 Falun Gong practitioners’ are closely monitored by the district police, neighborhood committee, and their own relatives. *The Committee also instructs security officials to organize an ‘inspect and control’ system whereby local police are to conduct home ‘visits’ of Falun Gong practitioners three times per day.* In order to monitor more ‘die-hard’ practitioners, public security forces are to form an ‘inspection and control small group’ to carry out ‘24-hour surveillance.’ A county report from Jiangxi province also stresses the need to ‘dispatch inspection and control personnel’ during ‘important periods of time’ in order to ascertain a practitioner’s ‘movement 24 hours a day,’ and report ‘unusual situations’ in a timely manner to the 6-10 Office. In addition to surveillance, the 6-10 Office is also required to develop broad ‘intelligence channels’

that allow them to ‘know whenever the enemy moves.’”

Among the most vulnerable to regular harassment by security officials are those who had previously been released from detention centers and labor camps. In several instances during the year, elderly Falun Gong adherents were released from detention in deteriorating health, having endured torture and other forms of abuse. Upon their return home, they were subject to continued surveillance and home visits from police. Several Falun Gong adherents are said to have passed away under these circumstances, including the following:

Zhang Mingtong

58-year-old Zhang Mingtong had been detained at a forced labor camp in Xuchang City, Henan Province, where he performed hard labor and was regularly beaten. He was released early from a 21-month sentence on account of his rapidly deteriorating health. Following his release, family members say his health had begun to improve and he regained mobility. As the Beijing Olympics approached, however, security agents began visiting his home frequently, sometimes threatening to arrest him again if he persisted in practicing Falun Gong. He passed away on October 2, 2008.

Huang Guixi

69-year-old Huang Guixi of Jilin Province served one year at the Yinmahe Forced Labor Camp in 2004-2005, during which time he was reportedly deprived of sleep, severely beaten, and burned with cigarettes. By the time he was released he was emaciated and in poor health. Following his return home, police regularly entered his home without notice to search for Falun Gong materials. In May, 2006, police found him to be in possession of a photo of Falun Gong’s founder, Mr. Li Hongzhi, and imprisoned him for 40 days. On another occasion, police reportedly confiscated the family’s television, copy machine, and other private belongings. The stress caused by the continued harassment reportedly exacerbated Mr. Huang’s health problems. He passed away on September 25, 2008.

VII. Freedom of Speech and Press

Falun Gong remained one of the most taboo topics of coverage for both Chinese and foreign news organizations reporting from China in 2008. The pre-Olympic crackdown included the detention and sentencing of adherents found to be possessing, producing, or distributing underground leaflets in accordance with their right to freedom of expression.

For domestic journalists, it remained clear that the only reporting permitted on the topic was that which was directed by the Central Propaganda Department—this included a prohibition on reporting the arrest, sentencing, or torture of adherents or their acts of peaceful resistance coupled with directions during certain periods to convey anti-Falun Gong propaganda.

Anti-Falun Gong propaganda ahead of Olympics

In an apparent attempt to justify the pre-Olympics crackdown on adherents, according to the CECC, 2008 saw an “increase in anti-Falun Gong propaganda ahead of the Olympics—Chinese security officials made statements prior to the Olympics that sought to link Falun Gong with terrorist threats, but produced no evidence to substantiate these claims.”

“In April 2008, the central government 6-10 Office issued an internal directive to local governments nationwide mandating propaganda activities to prevent Falun Gong from “interfering with or harming” the Olympics. References to the directive appear on official Web sites in every province and at every level of government. Local authorities distributed the directive widely in an effort to raise public awareness. References can be found on various Web sites ranging from public entities with indirect relations with the state (state-run enterprises, public schools, universities, parks, TV stations, meteorological bureaus, etc.) to commercial and social entities with no obvious ties to the state.”

- For foreign journalists, despite regulations ostensibly loosening restrictions on their access to information, according to the Foreign Correspondent’s Club of China in its online “Reporter’s Guide,” when it comes to Falun Gong, the recent trend had been that there is “No access,” the only subject described in such absolute terms.

See: <http://www.fcchina.org/sensitiveareas.html>

Crackdown on distribution of underground leaflets

Given the inability of mainstream Chinese media to report truthfully on Falun Gong, adherents around the country continued a strategy of producing homemade underground leaflets and DVDs with information on the practice, rights abuses, and the broader history of the Chinese communist regime. Despite the peaceful and constitutionally enshrined nature of such actions, the arrest and sentencing of Falun Gong adherents for possessing, preparing, or distributing such literature was widespread and systematic, particularly in the months leading up to and immediately following the Olympic games. A large percentage of those detained in the months prior to the Olympics were arrested without a warrant from their home or workplace, often accompanied by the ransacking of their residence by police and the confiscation of computer equipment and printed matter related to Falun Gong.

- A Chinese government website in Beijing’s Liulitun neighborhood described a January 2008 meeting of local officials on how to deal with Falun Gong ahead of the Olympics. Among the directives issued at the meeting was the need to “mobilize the power of the masses of residents to report promptly if they find anyone handing out [Falun Gong] materials.” In the months following the meeting, at least 36 adherents were detained in the surrounding area. A screenshot of the website is attached as Appendix E.

As reported by the CECC:

- “In July [2008], Chinese state media reported the arrest of 25 Falun Gong practitioners and the destruction of 7 Falun Gong publishing operations in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region.”

VII. Freedom of Speech and Press

- **Religious prisoners:** “Ha Jingbo and Jiang Ruoling, two middle school teachers from Dongfeng county in Jilin province, whom authorities detained in June 2008 for distributing educational leaflets about Falun Gong. After taking the two women to the Dayang Public Security Bureau, male officers severely beat them in an attempt to coerce confessions. The women are currently held in Dongfeng County Detention Center on unknown charges.”
- **Religious prisoner:** “Yang Xiyao, a 68-year-old resident of Yanshan county in Hebei province, whom authorities detained on May 20, 2008, after raiding his home and confiscating Falun Gong publications. Yang served 6 years of a 10-year prison sentence in Baoding Prison from 2000 to 2006 for professing belief in Falun Gong. Officials released him in 2006 to receive medical treatment for heart palpitations and injuries reportedly caused by torture. Yang is once again in Baoding Prison. It is unclear whether he is continuing to serve his existing sentence, or if officials extended his sentence as a result of new criminal charges.”

For full CECC excerpts on Falun Gong, see:
<http://www.faluninfo.net/article/843/?cid=76>

Zhang Xingwu

Mr. Zhang Xingwu, a 67-year-old retired physics professor at Jinan Normal University in Shandong province, and his wife, Ms. Pinjie Liu were arrested from their home on July 16, 2008. In recent years, Mr. Zhang had operated a site for printing underground newsletters and VCDs from his home. The newsletters included the *Minghui Weekly*, a collection of articles on Falun Gong and rights abuses committed against its adherents. Also printed were copies of *The Nine Commentaries on the Communist Party*, an editorial series published by the overseas Chinese-language *Epoch Times* newspaper. As a result of Zhang’s efforts to disseminate such sensitive information, the local police reportedly viewed him as a key target for arrest in the pre-Olympic purge.

According to his daughter who resides in New York, six other local Falun Gong adherents who had distributed

materials he prepared were also arrested recently, increasing Zhang’s risk of receiving a long sentence.

Two documents obtained by the Falun Dafa Information Center, complete with the official stamp of the local security agency, confirm the couple’s arrest. According to one document, Mr. Zhang faces charges of “using a heretical organization to undermine implementation of the law,” a vague provision of the criminal code commonly used to sentence Falun Gong adherents to prison terms of up to 12 years:

See: <http://www.faluninfo.net/article/797/?cid=84>

As of January 2009, Zhang remained in Jinan City Detention Center, as the authorities reportedly weighed whether to submit his case to the judicial or “re-education through labor” system for possible sentencing. His family was denied access to visit him.

For a more complete account of the couple’s arrest, see: http://www.nydailynews.com/opinions/2008/08/24/2008-08-24_the_chinese_government_is_terrorizing_my-3.html

New Tang Dynasty TV broadcast blocked

In a significant blow to the free flow of information inside China, on June 16, 2008, the broadcast to Asia of New Tang Dynasty Television was shutdown. According to the French satellite company Eutelsat, which hosts the station, the alleged cause of the switch off was a technical difficulty. On June 23, however, the press freedom watchdog Reporters without Borders, published the recording of an admission by a Eutelsat employee, implying that the shut down was a deliberate effort to curry favor with the Chinese regime.

See: http://www.rsf.org/article.php?id_article=27818

At year’s end, the beam had not been renewed, thereby depriving the station’s millions of viewers in China of uncensored information on Falun Gong, Tibet, the Olympics, the tainted milk scandal and other issues vital to Chinese audiences.

VIII. Internet Freedom

Throughout the year, Falun Gong and related websites remained among the most systematically and hermetically blocked by China's Great Firewall, including during the Olympics. In at least one well-documented case, an adherent was sentenced to prison simply for downloading and circulating Falun Gong-related information from the Internet.

In particular, while access to some previously blocked sites was eventually allowed in the Olympic media centers after an international outcry, Falun Gong-related websites—including *Faluninfo.net*—reportedly remained blocked throughout the games.

- According to the Congressional Executive Committee on China: “In response to foreign reporters’ complaints over blocked Web sites, a Chinese Olympics official publicly acknowledged in late July 2008 that sites relating to Falun Gong were blocked and would remain blocked despite the Olympics. Following those complaints, foreign media reported that some previously blocked sites, including those for Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and Radio Free Asia, became accessible at the Olympic village.”

Falun Gong terms targeted for Skype surveillance

“Falun Gong” and other key words related to the group were also found to have been among those most likely to trigger monitoring, censorship, and storage of communication of Tom-Skype users, according to a study conducted by the Information Warfare Monitor and OpenNet Initiative Asia. The study, published in October 2008, found that in addition to filtering communications, Tom-Skype logs were retaining sensitive personal information of users, including usernames, passwords, bank account numbers, and e-mail addresses. *Among the 96,499 messages that the researchers were able to access after they had been filtered and logged, “Falun” appeared in 6,744 (6.99%), the largest number of any other specific term (the only two terms with higher recorded numbers were the more vague ‘communist’ and ‘communist party’).* The name of Falun Gong’s founder “Li Hongzhi” was detected in 485 of the messages. The prevalence of these terms within the sample would also

indicate that Falun Gong is a particularly common topic of conversation among Tom-Skype users, be they Falun Gong adherents or other Chinese.

See: <http://www.infowar-monitor.net/breachingtrust>

Individuals punished for downloading Falun Gong information

While an increasing number of individuals have been gaining access to proxy servers in recent years and succeeding in circumventing blocks imposed by the Great Firewall, those found to have accessed and downloaded Falun Gong-related information continued to be at risk of arrest and sentencing.

- On November 3, 2008, a Shanghai court sentenced Liu Jin (female) to 3.5 years in prison for downloading information about the practice from the Internet and printing it to distribute to others. Liu, a former librarian at Shanghai Normal University, was sentenced by Fengxian District Court in a trial that lasted less than one day. She was sentenced in spite of statements made to the court in her defense by prominent Beijing rights lawyer Mo Shaoping. According to the Associated Press, Mo confirmed the sentencing. “This is common,” Mo, who is well known for defending dissidents in China, said of the case and the sentence.”

See: <http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2008/11/14/asia/AS-China-Falun-Gong.php>

- Prior to sentencing, Liu was held in pre-trial detention for nearly a year, having been arrested from her home without a warrant in November 2007, when police confiscated computer equipment and 20,000 yuan (about US\$3,000)

See: <http://www.faluninfo.net/article/830/?cid=104>

IX. Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and Association

Adherents of Falun Gong remained unable to peacefully assemble within mainland China for the purpose of protesting the state's policy of persecution against them, practicing qigong exercises, meeting as a large group in public, etc. On the contrary, according to official directives, local security agencies were specifically tasked with preventing any form of Falun Gong-related appeal during the year, including the legally enshrined right to lodge a petition in Beijing.

“Three zeroes” —According to the CECC: “Several [official] reports [found online] mention ‘three zeroes’ that security officials should aim to achieve. An official report from the Communist Party Political-Legal Committee of Wuling district in the city of Changde in Hunan province urges cadres to ‘resolutely achieve the ‘three zeroes goal’ in 6-10 management work,’ which is defined as ‘no petitions in Beijing, zero incidents of local assemblies and protests, zero incidents of interference with television broadcasts.’”

X. Freedom of Religion

The year 2008 saw the increased deprivation of freedom of religion to Falun Gong adherents as many of those detained in the pre-Olympic cleanup were arrested for no other reason than that they were known to continue practicing Falun Gong, even if that practice consisted of studying Falun Gong tenets and practicing Falun Gong meditation in the privacy of their homes. In many cases, adherents of Falun Gong were arrested for possessing Falun Gong books, the sale, distribution, or possession of which is prohibited.

“Transformation”

Those who refuse to disavow their belief in Falun Gong were routinely subjected to torture and other abuses in detention as part of a program of forced “transformation.” The transformation process was described in the CECC’s annual report as “a process of ideological reprogramming whereby practitioners are subjected to various methods of physical and psychological coercion until they recant their belief in Falun Gong.”

Falun Gong has never been permitted to register as a religion in China, and the religious rights of adherents as described in the Chinese constitution are thus not acknowledged. Only individuals belonging to one of China’s five officially sanctioned religions are recognized, while other groups—including Falun Gong and house churches—are liable to face severe persecution. For a detailed description of the daily difficulties and dangers faced by adherents, even those who seek to practice only privately.

See: <http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2008/11/14/asia/AS-China-Falun-Gong.php>

In 2008, the majority of Falun Gong adherents sentenced to prison terms were charged with “using a heretical organization to undermine the implementation of the law,” referring to article 300 of the criminal code prohibiting xie jiao, or “heretical organizations.” Article 300 predated the campaign against Falun Gong, and the term xie jiao was not specifically applied to Falun Gong until October 1999, when the National People’s Congress issued a decision to legitimize the campaign by labeling Falun Gong a heretical organization. As Amnesty International noted with reference to the decision: “The official directives and legal documents issued for this campaign undermine rights set out in the Chinese constitution as well as international standards. International standards permit some restrictions on freedom of expression, association and belief, but they do not grant discretion to states to define for themselves the circumstances in which these freedoms can be restricted. Under international standards, such restrictions must be ‘provided by law,’ must be ‘necessary’ and must be in pursuance of a ‘legitimate’ objective, such as the protection of national security, public

X. Freedom of Religion

order, or public health or morals.... Indeed, restrictions must not have the effect of entirely undermining the exercise of fundamental rights. Furthermore, restrictions may not be applied simply to suppress an opinion or belief. In the case of Falun Gong and other groups, the Chinese government's crackdown and the legislation on 'heretical organizations' are being used precisely for this purpose."

See: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/ASA17/011/2000/en/dom-ASA170112000en.html>

Exclusion from Beijing Olympics

Ahead of the 2008 Beijing Olympics, statements by top officials, as well as an internal document, indicated that Falun Gong adherents from both inside and outside China would be excluded from participation in the 2008 Beijing Olympics, as athletes, coaches, journalists or spectators. Such a policy that discriminates on the basis of religious belief contravenes both the Olympic charter as well as the code of ethics signed in Beijing in April 2007.

In July 2007, Xinhua reported on a briefing given to defense attaches from 54 of China's overseas embassies by Tian Yixiang, director of the military bureau for the Beijing Olympics' security command center. According to the article: "...the PLA will be responsible for managing border control and to stop East Turkistan...organizations, *Falun Gong adherents*, and Tibetan separatists *from getting into the games*." [emphasis added] See Xinhua, "PLA fields anti-terror team for Olympics," 29 June 2007, available at http://www.david-kilgour.com/2007/July_11_2007_02.htm

A more formal statement relating to the specific exclusion of foreigners who practice Falun Gong from attending the games was given by Li Zhanjun, director of the Beijing Olympics media center, in November 2007. While rejecting allegations that the Chinese authorities intended to limit the entry of Bibles for personal use, Li singled out Falun Gong texts as an exception. As reported by the Associated Press: "We don't recognize it [Falun Gong]... So Falun Gong texts, Falun Gong activities in China are forbidden."

See: <http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2007/11/08/sports/AS-SPT-OLY-Beijing-Bibles.php>

As an indication of how the Chinese authorities plan to identify those who should be barred, the Public Security Bureau reportedly initiated a surveillance program involving background checks into each individual wishing to attend the games. This included participating athletes, members of the media, Olympic staff members, referees, sponsors, dignitaries and the International Olympic Committee itself. Of the 43 categories of people to be targeted, included are individuals who currently practice Falun Gong, and those who have in the past practiced its exercises.

See: <http://chinaaid.org/2007/11/09/china-security-issued-blacklist-of-43-types-of-people-in-11-categories-to-be-barred-from-attending-olympic-games-religious-people-under-strict-scrutiny/>

According to media reports and cited by the CECC: "Chinese public security officials also used supposed security concerns to justify a request made to the government of Japan in which they solicited information on Falun Gong practitioners residing in Japan who might attend the Olympic Games. The Japanese government refused to cooperate."

See: <http://www.istockanalyst.com/article/viewiStockNews/articleid/2407249>

XI. Freedom of Movement within the Country, Foreign Travel, Emigration, Repatriation

Adherents in China, as well as several of the attorneys representing practitioners, continued to face significant difficulties obtaining permission to travel overseas, including the issuance of passports. In addition, several incidents indicated increased restrictions on freedom of movement within the country and in particular, efforts by the authorities to prevent adherents from traveling to Beijing surrounding the period of the Olympic games.

As reported by the media and cited by the CECC: “The Shanghai Public Security Bureau sent a warning to Falun Gong practitioners and other dissidents in April 2008 demanding that they remain in the city during the Olympics and report to the public security office at least once a week until the end of October. The notice threatened to detain or punish anyone who violates the order.”

In August, the Falun Dafa Information Center reported that at train and bus stations 70 miles from the heart of Beijing, police had been placing photos of Falun Gong founder Mr. Li Hongzhi on the ground. To exit the station, all travelers were required stomp on the spiritual teacher’s image. Those who refused were presumed to be Falun Gong adherents and taken away. According to reports received by the Center, at least two Falun Gong adherents in Hebei province’s Chicheng city (70 miles from Beijing) and Huailai county (100 miles) were rounded up this way in late July.

See: <http://www.faluninfo.net/article/796/>

Measures were also taken to prevent Falun Gong adherents from overseas from entering the country during the Olympic period. Several Falun Gong adherents (not of Chinese dissent) reported being denied entry visas to visit China during the period of the Olympics.

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A number of Falun Gong adherents were denied entry to the territory in the weeks surrounding the Olympic games and related events, including an American citizen and a British academic of Chinese descent. At least two Hong Kong residents were sentenced to prison in China during the year for their involvement with Falun Gong.

While Falun Gong continued to be practiced freely in Hong Kong and local adherents were permitted to carry out peaceful protests, the trend from previous years of practitioners from outside the territory being denied entry during “sensitive” times continued in 2008:

- In March 2008, shortly before the arrival of the Olympic torch, several Taiwanese Falun Gong adherents were denied entry, as they sought to join a Human Rights Torch Relay, according to Hong Kong’s Falun Dafa Association spokesman Kan Hung-cheung.

See: http://www.thestandard.com.hk/news_detail.asp?pp_cat=11&art_id=63634&sid=18243751&con_type=1

- On July 27, Leeshai Lemish, a U.S. citizen and Falun Gong practitioner who had traveled previously to the territory on multiple occasions, was blocked from entering. According to the *Taipei Times*, Lemish was coming from Taiwan as part of a research trip through Asia and had traveled to Hong Kong to apply for a visa to another country. After being held at the airport for three hours, he was put on a plane back to Taiwan with no explanation other than that he did not meet “Hong Kong immigration requirements.” Lemish had been traveling as a translator and assistant to author Ethan Gutmann, who is researching the persecution of the Falun Gong

See: <http://www.taipeitimes.com/News/feat/archives/2008/11/02/2003427578>

XII. Hong Kong

- On the day of the Olympics' closing ceremony at the end of August, Dr. Shao Li, a professor living in the U.K., traveled to Hong Kong as an independent examiner for the University of Central Lancashire in order to approve degree certification for prospective students. He was denied entry, possibly in relation to his efforts to expose the sentencing of his sister-in-law to "re-education through labor" and call for her release.

See: <http://english.ntdtv.com/?c=145&a=4645>

- On August 29, Daniel Ulrich, a Swiss citizen living in Taipei, was prevented from entering the territory. He had traveled as a professional photographer to pick up equipment for his company from a Hong Kong supplier. Though he presented evidence of his purchase to immigration officers, Ulrich was quickly put back on a flight to Taipei.

See: <http://www.taipeitimes.com/News/feat/archives/2008/11/02/2003427578>

- Hearings were conducted during the year for a related lawsuit against the immigration authorities over a 2003 incident in which 80 Taiwanese Falun Gong adherents were barred entry. The final hearings of the case, seen by many of observers as a key test of Hong Kong's continued adherence to the rule of law, are scheduled for March 2009.

See: <http://www.taipeitimes.com/News/feat/archives/2008/11/02/2003427578>

During the year, there were at least two reports of Hong Kong residents who had traveled to China being sentenced to prison because of their involvement with Falun Gong:

Chen Jinshu

Mr. Chen Jinshu, 49—On January 29, 2008, Bao'an District Court in Shenzhen, Guangdong province sentenced Chen, a Hong Kong resident and Falun Gong adherent, to six years in prison in a closed-door trial.

Chen had been detained in April 2007, while visiting his elderly father in China. He was then charged with shipping copies of the *Nine Commentaries on the Communist Party* to the mainland. The book, an editorial series on the history of the Chinese Communist Party, is outlawed in China but circulated freely in Hong Kong. Chen's family and lawyer have denied the charges, stating that the said case had already been closed in 2005 when another Falun Gong adherent was sentenced.

Lin Lixia

On January 8, 2008, Lin, a Hong Kong resident and Falun Gong adherent, was reportedly sentenced to three years in prison. Lin was arrested on September 24, 2006 in Shenzhen, Guangdong province, along with several local adherents, but was allowed to leave the police station following international pressure. She subsequently spent most of 2007 under house arrest at a relative's home. Police confiscated her Home Visit Permit (mainland travel permit for Hong Kong and Macao residents), and personal ID, thereby preventing her from returning to Hong Kong.

See: <http://english.ntdtv.com/?c=145&a=1777>

XIII. Reports of Persecution Outside of China

Chinese government efforts to suppress Falun Gong outside of China, and particularly in the United States, increased in 2008. Pro-communist mobs attacked adherents in Flushing, New York, apparently at the instigation of the city's Chinese Consul General. In September, an arm of the mainland Chinese Anti-Cult Association, which has played a central role in the persecution of adherents in China was established in New York City.

Over the past ten years, scores of physical assaults, verbal attacks and death threats against Falun Gong adherents by Chinese government-linked individuals have been recorded in the United States, Europe, Latin America, Africa and elsewhere. According to testimony given to the U.S. Congress in July 2005 by former First Secretary and Consul for Political Affairs for the Chinese Consulate-General in Sydney, Australia, Chen Yonglin, such attacks are part of a far-reaching campaign by the Chinese government to malign and suppress Falun Gong in every country where the Chinese government has a diplomatic presence, with a particular emphasis on democratic countries where human rights workers regularly and publicly highlight the Chinese government's crimes against Falun Gong.

See: <http://www.faluninfo.net/article/506/>

Like the pattern of abuse inside China, the Chinese government's attempts to suppress Falun Gong in the United States also increased in 2008. Beginning on May 17, a pro-Communist mob of more than 100 people gathered on Main Street in Flushing, New York, assailing Falun Gong practitioners. On May 20, several adherents of Falun Gong, including U.S. citizens, were physically assaulted by the pro-communist crowds, with others receiving threats to their lives. Several Falun Gong adherents reported being pelted with bottles, eggs, and stones, and being spit on by the assembled masses. The mobs continued to assemble for several days, further instigated by fabricated Chinese state-run media reports that Falun Gong adherents were interfering with charity collections for victims of the Sichuan earthquake. More than a dozen assailants were arrested by local police.

Over the following weeks, a climate was created in the area where nearly anyone who self-identified as a Falun Gong adherent risked being surrounded, heckled, and sometimes threatened with violence by ethnic Chinese mobs.



Judy Chen

Judy Chen, a Falun Gong adherent whose two sons were on tours of duty in Iraq, was physically assaulted and threatened on May 17, 2008.

Chen reported that the mob cursed at her, calling her a traitor who deserved to die. When she attempted to photograph the scene, a woman grabbed her camera and beat her, leading to bruises on her hand and face. "[The woman] then walked away saying 'You better be careful, I will kill you. I want to see your face clearly. I want to kill you,'" reported Chen.

See also: http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/queens/2008/05/30/2008-05-30_falun_gong_supporters_in_flushing_say_th.html



Wang Weixing

Wang Weixing, a 57-year-old artist from Queens and a practitioner of Falun Gong, was in Flushing May 28, 2008, observing the events.

When she picked up a Chinese newspaper whose lead story illustrated the connection between the Flushing mobs and the Chinese Consulate in New York, within seconds, Wang found herself surrounded by hecklers. One witness claimed she also saw the man punch Wang in the chest, where she later reported suffering severe pain.

See: <http://www.faluninfo.net/article/576/>

Evidence soon emerged that the mobs were not a spontaneous reaction to Falun Gong by local residents, but rather a sophisticated means for the Party to suppress the group, and particularly adherents' rights-awareness-raising activities, beyond China's borders.

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Peng Keyu

On May 22, the Falun Dafa Information Center obtained a recorded phone conversation with New York City's Chinese Consul General, Mr. Peng Keyu, in which he confirmed

his role in encouraging the mob of several-hundred Chinese immigrants to assail Falun Gong practitioners. "They [mob organizers] came over after they fought with Falun Gong [in Flushing] and I shook hands with them one by one and thanked them," Peng said during the recorded phone conversation.

- For the full transcript, see: <http://english.ntdtv.com/?c=145&a=4645>
- For video footage of the mob attacks in Flushing, New York and the full recording of the Consul General, see: <http://www.youmaker.com/video/sv?id=b8ee83fab794731814de9230ae03737001>

Similar incidents were reported around this time in other cities and New York boroughs:

- On Saturday, May 16, ethnic Chinese assaulted adherents at a "Party-Quitting Station" in Tokyo, Japan. As in Flushing, poster displays were kicked or torn down and individuals assaulted.
- In Los Angeles on May 20, nonviolent Falun Gong demonstrators outside the Chinese Consulate were accosted by ethnic Chinese. The perpetrators again tore down banners and destroyed informational materials. See: <http://www.faluninfo.net/article/536/>
- In Brooklyn, on June 15, a Chinatown resident attacked Falun Gong adherent John Yu with a steering wheel locking device, breaking his camera and injuring his arm. Later in the month, the assailant was brought up on hate-crime and assault charges by the Brooklyn District Attorney.

See: http://www.nypost.com/seven/06302008/news/regionalnews/gong_assault_hate_crime_da_117853.htm

Increased police presence in Flushing eventually dispersed the crowds, but several individuals who had helped organize the crowds soon set up "information tables" in

Flushing, distributing anti-Falun Gong propaganda to passers-by, and continued to incite members of the community to attack Falun Gong. Several subsequent incidents of small groups and individuals berating Falun Gong adherents in Flushing with obscenities and/or physically assaulting them have been reported.

In September 2008, the anti-Falun Gong actions were formalized when three pro-communist organizers believed to have helped organize the mobs in May established a non-profit organization called the Chinese Anti-Cult World Alliance, Inc. The organization's bylaws specifically state the target of their activities as Falun Gong.

The newly registered group appears to be an extension of an organization originally established in mainland China on November 13, 2000 as the Chinese Anti-Cult Association (CACA). Although it carries a non-governmental organization title, the CACA is a government agency, specifically a unit of the official China Society and Technology Association (CSTA). The Secretary General and Vice-Secretary General in charge of CACA's operations are full-time government employees, and all CACA branches have their offices inside government buildings.

According to the U.S. Congressional-Executive Commission on China's (CECC's) 2008 Annual Report, the CACA "claims to be a 'non-profit, social welfare organization'...the government's hand, however, can be clearly discerned in the publications and activities of anti-cult associations." The CECC's report also says of the CACA that:

- It "works in concert with the 6-10 Office (an extra-legal Chinese government agency in charge of 'eradicating' Falun Gong) to undermine Chinese citizens' right to believe in and practice Falun Gong...Local anti-cult associations can be found at the provincial, county, municipal, and neighborhood level. Such associations have emerged as a prominent information channel for the government's campaign against Falun Gong."
- The primary activities of the CACA in China have been found to go beyond the development and implementation of propaganda against Falun Gong. CACA

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staff also oversee and participate in “brainwashing sessions” held in prisons and detention centers throughout China that use a combination of fierce propaganda and brutal torture techniques to “transform” Falun Gong adherents. In 2004, seven human rights lawyers in Geneva filed a criminal complaint for torture against the organization’s vice president, who was attending a United Nations event at the time. He fled the country before the procuratorate could make a decision to arrest him on the charges.

See: <http://www.theepochtimes.com/n2/content/view/11360/>

The response of U.S. officials to these events has included calls for an FBI investigation by NYC Councilmember Tony Avella, condemnation of the attacks by U.S. lawmakers, and law enforcement investigations into those responsible for the hate crimes. In an opening statement at a Congressional hearing on the Impact of the Olympics on Religious Freedom in China, Representative Trent Franks remarked:

“Most of you have probably already heard about the attacks on Falun Gong adherents, human rights and democracy activists in Flushing, New York, last month. ... As the New York City police look into the attacks on these demonstrators, I am very disturbed to even consider that the Chinese government may have been involved in intimidating these demonstrators here in the United States. Sadly, we have the Tian’anmen Square to remind us of what happens to those who protest inside China, but the freedom to peacefully assemble is a cornerstone to America’s freedom and, at the very least, we must do what we can to protect those who choose to express this right while they are here.”

The attacks against Falun Gong adherents in Flushing and the establishment of a branch of the CACA in New York in the form of a non-profit organization in 2008 pose a significant danger to the freedom of belief, freedom of expression, and right to non-discrimination of Falun Gong believers in the United States.

XIV. Background on Falun Gong and Persecution in China

1. What is Falun Gong?

Falun Gong (also known as Falun Dafa) is a traditional Chinese spiritual discipline that includes exercises and meditation. After being passed down in different forms for generations, the practice was first made public by Mr. Li Hongzhi in China in 1992. It quickly spread by word of mouth throughout China and then beyond—70 million-100 million Chinese were said to have practiced it by 1998, according to official statistics, and today it is practiced in over 70 countries. The discipline is taught and practiced without charge, and its central books—*Falun Gong* and *Zhuan Falun*—can be downloaded for free.

Rooted in the Buddhist school of practices, Falun Gong emphasizes moral rectitude. Three values—truthfulness, compassion, and forbearance—form the backbone of Falun Gong’s teachings and represent its highest ideals. Practitioners aspire to live by these values in their daily lives, achieving, over time, a state of selflessness along with a release from attachments and desires. Many who practice Falun Gong find a deep sense of joy in putting others first and aspiring to goodness. With a belief that mind and body are one, Falun Gong sees this process of purifying one’s thoughts as also key to better physical health. In Chinese, practices of this nature are often referred to as “cultivation” paths and form important parts of traditional Asian cultures.

2. Why is the Chinese Communist Party persecuting Falun Gong?

The complex rationale behind the campaign can be broken into four elements: Falun Gong’s popularity, the role of Jiang Zemin, conflicting ideology, and the very nature of China’s Communist Party.

While a common misconception is that the gathering of 10,000 adherents in Beijing on April 25, 1999 is what led to the Party’s opposition to Falun Gong, oppression of the practice actually began at least three years earlier. The more popular Falun Gong became, the more the resistance it encountered. When Falun Gong books became bestsellers in 1996 they were banned; when state-run media estimated that over 70 million people

practiced Falun Gong—more than the Communist Party membership—the media began attacking Falun Gong; state security began spying on and harassing practitioners. It was in response to these early abuses that practitioners gathered in Beijing. Party leaders fear any large, independent group beyond its direct control, and Falun Gong was perhaps the largest.

Fearing Falun Gong’s rapidly growing popularity was overshadowing his own legacy, then-Chinese leader Jiang Zemin ordered the practice “eradicated.” According to a 1999 *Washington Post* article, “Communist Party sources said that the standing committee of the Politburo did not unanimously endorse the crackdown and that Jiang alone decided that Falun Gong must be eliminated.” Journalists and inside sources have described Jiang as “jealous” of Falun Gong and “obsessed” with eliminating the group. As China analyst Willy Lam has argued, by creating a national campaign Jiang sought to both align power to himself and eradicate a group he saw as a threat to his power.

A third element is the ideological differences between the atheist Communist Party and the spiritual Falun Gong. While religion is becoming increasingly popular in China, and the Party does allow some religious affiliations, spiritual groups must submit to the state and their leaders must be Party approved. Other groups who, like Falun Gong, have chosen to preserve their belief system and refused to tender to the Party have also met persecution, including Tibetan Buddhists and house church members.

Finally, as the *Nine Commentaries on the Communist Party* has argued, the persecution of Falun Gong is the latest in a continuum of violent campaigns that the Party uses to remind the population of its control. Mao Zedong once said that China should have a Cultural Revolution every seven or eight years. Indeed, since the 1950s not a decade has gone by without some violent state-led campaign aimed at the masses. From the suppression of “counterrevolutionaries,” the Great Leap Forward, the Cultural Revolution, the 1989 crackdown on the democracy movement, to Falun Gong, the Party has killed 60-80 million Chinese citizens.

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3. What form has the persecution taken?

Inside China, the Party has used every method available to terrorize and pressure people to renounce their faith. Practitioners are denied schooling, jobs, and custody of their children; they are publicly humiliated, raped and sexually assaulted by police. Those who disclose the abuses they experience in captivity are jailed for “leaking state secrets.” Adherents are denied legal representation, and some have received prison sentences of up to 18 years for merely their beliefs. Hundreds of thousands have reportedly been sent to labor “re-education” camps—China’s gulag system—without any legal trial. Many healthy, normal Falun Gong practitioners have been committed to psychiatric wards where they are abused with nerve-damaging drugs. As of January 2009, 3,242 deaths have been documented, mostly from torture, of which there are over 87,000 accounts in total. The real death toll is believed to be in the tens of thousands. As outlined in this report, in 2008, the persecutory campaign further escalated as China’s rulers took advantage of the Olympic games to catalyze and justify the large-scale arrest, imprisonment, and monitoring of Chinese citizens known to adhere to the spiritual practice. As the ten-year anniversary of the ban on Falun Gong approaches, many of those detained ahead of the games have been sentenced to labor camp and prison terms extending several years, while others continue to be arbitrarily arrested.

4. How have Falun Gong practitioners responded to the persecution?

Falun Gong has responded with markedly nonviolent means, refusing to use force throughout nearly ten years of suppression. Inside China, adherents’ response has consisted of trying to file petitions or writing letters to China’s rulers, informing fellow citizens about the persecution they face and its illegality, meditating in public, hanging banners and posters in visible places, calling labor camps and prisons to directly speak with the perpetrators, and publishing records of the persecution online.

Overseas, practitioners have been holding round-the-clock vigils for years outside Chinese embassies and consulates, have held parades, rallies, hunger strikes, and cross-country car tours to raise awareness of the persecution in China. Other activities have included compiling reports for United Nations special rapporteurs, holding forums, producing printed, electronic, and broadcast media about the persecution, as well as developing advanced software to help Chinese break through China’s Internet firewall.

5. How has the rest of the world responded to the persecution?

First, it should be noted that Chinese people both in China and abroad are increasingly standing up in defense of Falun Gong. Chinese lawyers like Guo Guoting and Gao Zhisheng, in particular, have risked and lost their careers trying to defend Falun Gong practitioners in recent years. After initially being greatly influenced by mainland propaganda and pressures, overseas Chinese have also become more supportive recently, and have given Falun Gong awards recognizing its contributions to the community and to the cause of freedom in China.

Prominent individuals, including leading members of the Jewish religious community, have been speaking out about the killing of Falun Gong practitioners for their organs. Amnesty International and other human rights organizations have issued urgent appeals for Falun Gong practitioners and have helped document the persecution. The U.N. Special Rapporteur on Torture has repeatedly queried the Chinese authorities and issued reports in which cases of Falun Gong torture comprise the majority of the China section. The U.S. Department of State has highlighted the persecution of Falun Gong in its annual reports, as have other countries. Two resolutions condemning the persecution have been passed in Congress and others have been passed in European parliaments. With the notable exception of Taiwan, however, executive branches throughout the world have yet to firmly speak out. After an initial interest in the story, the Western press has been largely avoiding the issue.

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Key statistics related to Falun Gong

- **70 million-100 million practicing in China before the ban**

While some have attributed the estimate to Falun Gong sources, the number originates from the Chinese authorities and was cited on multiple occasions by Western media outlets such as the *New York Times* and *Associated Press* prior to the ban in July 1999. Shortly after the launch of the persecution, the Chinese regime shrank the estimate dramatically to 2 million as part of its propaganda campaign and a means of downplaying the scale of violations.

- **100,000+ in labor camps**

Multiple sources, including U.S. State Department reports and testimony of petitioners documented by Human Rights Watch and Chinese Human Rights Defenders, indicate that Falun Gong practitioners make up the majority of detainees in China's labor camps. Though the total number of prisoners in the camps is a "state secret" and remains unpublished, it is estimated to range between 250,000 and several million. As the single largest group among detainees, Falun Gong is the largest population of prisoners of conscience in China.

- **87,000+ torture cases**

As noted by international rights groups, Chinese lawyers, Western media reports, and former prisoners of conscience, the use of torture to force adherents to renounce their beliefs is pervasive and has been a central aspect of the campaign against Falun Gong. Overseas Falun Gong groups have documented the details of more than 87,000 instances of abuse, ranging from beatings to rape to shocking with electric batons to injection with unknown psychiatric drugs. In 2006, the U.N. Special Rapporteur on Torture stated that 66 percent of the cases reported to his office had Falun Gong practitioners as victims.

- **Thousands of disappearances**

Although the exact number of Falun Gong adherents forced into homelessness is currently unknown, countless testimonies of adherents missing in China suggest destitution is extensive. Many adherents have become homeless in order to avoid further persecution. Others, according to prominent Canadians David Matas and David Kilgour, have peacefully gone to petition to the government, been detained, chosen not to disclose their names in order to protect their acquaintances back home, and never heard from again. Overseas practitioners have only begun to systematically track such cases in recent years from information supplied by family and friends. Over the period of 2006-2008, they have already compiled the names and details of 1,500 missing individuals.

- **3,242+ deaths**

From 1999 to the end of 2008, the Falun Dafa Information Center has documented the details of 3,242 Falun Gong practitioners who have died as a result of abuse in police custody or other forms of persecution. Due to extreme difficulty in discovering and verifying information in China related to wrongful deaths, this figure likely understates the true death toll. In October 2001, government sources inside China reported that the actual death toll was well over 1,600, while at that time, the Center's confirmed count was 323. Using this same proportionality, the true death toll today could be over 16,000.

Appendix A: Documented Falun Gong Deaths in 2008

Falun Dafa Information Center

	Chinese Name	Pinyin Name	Gender	Province	City	Date of Death	Most Recent Detention
1	金德洙	Jin Dezhu	M	Jilin	Longjing City, Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture	2008-12-31	Yinmahe Labor Camp
2	庞定容	Pang Dingrong	F	Sichuan	Chongqing City	2008-12-26	Shabao Women's Labor Camp
3	钟凯	Zhong Kai	M	Xinjiang	Ahkesu City	2008-12-26	Shihezi Beiyue Prison
4	肖玉彬	Xiao Yupin	M	Liaoning		2008-12-26	
5	李银菊	Li Yinju	F	Liaoning	Zhengzhou City	2008-12-18	18 Mile River Women's Labor Camp
6	李洪喜	Li Hongxi	M	Hebei	Xushui County, Baoding City	2008-11-25	Xushui County Detention Centre
7	杨家业	Yang Jiaye	M	Guangxi	Qinzhou City	2008-11-18	Guangxi Men's Labor Camp
8	张立田	Zhang Litian	M	Shandong	Jinzhou City	2008-11-17	Jinzhou No. 1 Detention Center
9	李军峡	Li Junxia	F	Hubei	Wuhan City	2008-11-07	Yangyuan Brainwashing Center
10	吕岱新	Lu Daixin	?	Liaoning	Dalian City	2008-11-03	Yaojia Detention Center in Dalian City
11	郑友梅	Zheng Youmei	F	Sichuan	Chengdu City	2008-11-02	Namusi Labor Camp
12	董凤山	Dong Fengshan	M	Jilin	Siping City	2008-10-29	Siping City Tieling Prison
13	樊艳丽	Fan Yanli	F	Henan	Nanyang City	2008-10-27	YuanshangZhuang(Village) Detention Center
14	刘天厚	Liu Tianhou	M	Sichuan	Leshan City	2008-10-27	Wumaping Forced Labor Camp
15	刘晓莲	Liu Xiaolian	F	Hubei	Chibi city	2008-10-26	Puqi City General Textile Mill Hospital
16	张世民	Zhang Shimin	M	Liaoning	Liaoyang City	2008-10-20	Shizuizi Labor Camp
17	赵国吉	Zhao Guoji	M	Sichuan	Leshan City	2008-10-18	Majiaping Prison
18	章秋红	Zhang QiuHong	F	Anhui	Hefei City	2008-10-18	Hefei City First Hospital
19	张桂云	Zhang Guiyun	F	Heilongjiang	Hulan District, Harbin City	2008-10-16	
20	张佩兰	Zhang Peilan	F	Liaoning	Shenyang City	2008-10-07	Masanjia Forced labor camp
21	王艳峰	Wang Yanfeng	F	Hubei	Guangshui City / Anlu City	2008-10	Guangshui No. 1 Detention Center
22	张明同	Zhang Mingtong	M	Henan	Shawo Township, Qi county	2008-10-02	Henan Province Labor Camp
23	黄桂熙	Huang Guixi	M	Jilin	Yanji City	2008-09-25	Yinmahe Labor Camp
24	夏元波	Xia Yuanbo	M	Heilongjiang	Shuangcheng City	2008-09-21	Changlinzi Labor Camp

25	董连太	Dong Liantai	M	Heilongjiang	Shuangcheng City	2008-09-19	Changlinzi Labor Camp
26	李玉昆	Li Yukun	M	Shandong		2008-09-17	
27	王守仁	Wang Shouren	M	Henan	Zhengzhou City	2008-09-14	Zhengzhou City Baimiao Labor Camp
28	刘艳云	Liu Yanyun	F	Heilongjiang	Jiamusi City	2008-09-13	Harbin City Women's Prison
29	钱世光	Qian Shiguang	M	Gansu	Lanzhou City	2008-09-08	Gongjiawan Brainwashing Center
30		Liao Yongyi	F	Sichuan	Chengdu City	2008-09	Chengdu City First Detention Center
31	秦大群	Qin Daqun	M	Chongqing	Chongqing City	2008-09-05	Xishanping Labor Camp
32	曹秀霞	Cao Xiuxia	F	Heilongjiang	Jiamusi City	2008-08-31	
33	陈西卜	Chen Xibo	M	Hebei	Dashizhunag Village, Xinji City	2008-08-31	Jidong Prison of Tangshan City
34	沈玉霞	Shen Yuxia	F	Hunan	Changsha City	2008-08-27	Zhanjiang City First Detention Center / Mazhang Detention Center
35	杨光	Yang Guang	M	Jilin	Jilin City	2008-08-25	Jilin Province Prison
36	王崇俊	Wang Chongjun	M	Beijing	Longzhuashu Village, Xiaohongmen Township, Chaoyang District	2008-08-23	Tuanhe Forced Labor Camp
37	吴美艳	Wu Meiyang	F	Heilongjiang	Hegang City	2008-08-19	Heilongjiang Province Women's Prison in Harbin City
38	郑守君	Zheng Shoujun	M	Liaoning	Shenyang City	2008-08-18	Liaozhong County Detention Center
39	杨景芬	Yang Jingfen	F	Liaoning	Panjin City	2008-08-18	
40	刘宏涛	Liu Hongtao	M	Heilongjiang	Daowai District, Harbin City	2008-08-17	Nan'gang Detention Center in Haerbin City
41	张月兰	Zhang Yuelan	F	Shandong	Anqiu City	2008-08-15	
42	黄敏	Huang Min	F	Sichuan	Chengdu City	2008-08-15	Xinhuashe District Health Service Center
43	张延荣	Zhang Yanrong	M	Gansu	Yongchang County	2008-08-15	Jiuquan Prison
44	代晓玲	Dai Xiaoling	F	Heilongjiang	Shuangyashan City	2008-08-11	
45	周云天	Zhou Yuntian	F	Shanghai	Shanghai, Changning district	2008-08-08	Changning District Detention Center
46	胡和平	Hu Heping	M	Hunan	Yueyang City	2008-08-07	Yueyang City First Detention Center
47	樊友军	Fan Youjun	M	Hubei	Tianmen City	2008-07-29	
48	刘国淑	Liu Guoshu	F	Sichuan	Wanyuan City	2008-07-17	
49	陈玉梅	Chen Yumei	F	Liaoning	Shenyang City	2008-07-04	
50		Li Zengfeng	M	Shandong	Xifanzhuang Village, Guan County	2008-07-01	Liaocheng brainwashing center
51	薛军利	Xue Junli	M	Shaanxi	Xi'an City	2008-07	unknown brainwashing center

52	吴新明	Wu Xinming	M	Shaanxi	Xuanwuo Town, Hanyin County	2008-06-26	Zaozhihe Forced Labor Camp
53	李正灵(二娃)	Li Zhengling	M	Sichuan	Gulin County	2008-06-24	Deyang Prison
54	肖素敏	Xiao Sumin	F	Shandong	Pingdu City	2008-06-20	
55	赵庆山	Zhao Qingshan	M	Heilongjiang	Harbin City	2008-06-18	Daqing Prison
56	马莲湖	Ma Lianhu	?	Beijing	Beijing	2008-06-16	
57	姜秋来	Jiang Qiulai	M	Hebei	Renqiu City	2008-06-11	Renqiu City Detention Center
58	辛超	Xin Zhao	M	Shaanxi		2008-06-10	Baoji Jintai Detention Center
59	刘廷恒	Liu Tingheng	M	Liaoning	Benxi City	2008-06-09	Benxi City Forced Labor Camp
60	善振昌	Shan Zhenchang	M	Heilongjiang	Shuangyashan City	2008-06	Shuangyashan City Detention Center
61	陈敏	Chen Min	M	Hunan	Changsha	2008-06	Xinkaipu Forced Labor Camp
62	谢楚华	Xia Chuhua	M	Guangdong		2008-06	Meizhou City Prison
63	李小文	Li Xiaowen	M	Sichuan	Shuangliu County	2008-06	Chengdu City Legal Education Center, a Brainwashing Center
64	康老太太	Ms. Kang	F	Beijing		2008-05-29	Huayuan Street Police Station
65	马永安	Ma Yongan	F	Hubei	Hongmiao Village, Guohe Town, Xiantao City	2008-05-23	Sanshui Labor Camp
66	徐家荣	Xu Jiarong	F	Guizhou	Anshun City	2008-05-13	Yang'ai Prison
67	唐慈保	Tang Cibao	M	Hunan	Lengshuitan District, Yongzhou City	2008-05-13	Xinkaipu Forced Labor Camp
68	王淑霞	Wang Shuxia	F	Liaoning	Shenyang City	2008-05-05	Shenyang City Prison
69	邓淑芬	Deng Shufen	F	Sichuan	Jitian Town, Shuangliu County, Chengdu City	2008-05-05	Chengdu City Legal Education Center (a brainwashing center)
70	刘权	Liu Quan	M	Liaoning	Dalian City	2008-05-04	Nanguanling Prison in Dalian City
71	金永男	Jin Yongnan	M	Jilin	Tumen City	2008-05-03	Jiutai Forced Labor Camp
72	赵寿柱	Zhao Shouzhu	M	Liaoning	Xinmin City	2008-04-20	Xinmin City Detention Center
73	范德震	Fan Dezhen	M	Liaoning	Suizhong County	2008-04-20	Suizhong County Detention Center
74	吕仁清	Lu Renqing	M	Liaoning	Tieling City	2008-04-19	Tieling Prison
75	顾群	Gu Qun	M	Liaoning	Dalian City	2008-04-09	Yaojia Detention Center in Dalian City
76	栾福生	Luan Fusheng	M	Hebei	Shijiazhuang City	2008-04-08	Jinzhong Prison in Shanxi Province
77	郭汉坡	Guo Hanpo	M	Hebei	Baoding City	2008-04-05	Baoding City First Prison
78	杨先凤	Yang Xianfeng	F	Hubei	Shashi District, Jinzhou City	2008-04-03	Tangxunhu Brainwashing Center in Wuhan City
79	周慧敏	Zhou Huimin	F	Sichuan	Chengdu City	2008-03-13	Qingyang District People's Hospital
80	顾建敏	Gu Jianmin	F	Shanghai	Pudong New District	2008-03-13	Yangjing Police Station

81	缪晓路	Miao Xiaolu	F	Heilongjiang	Qiqihar City	2008-03-11	Harbin City Women's Prison
82	程元龙	Cheng Yuanlong	M	Liaoning	Shuncheng District, Fushun City	2008-03-07	Xihu Prison of Benxi City
83	徐辉碧	Xu Huibi	F	Chongqing	Jiulongpo District	2008-03-07	Chongqing City Yongchuan Women's Prison
84	陈宝凤	Chen Baofeng	M	Liaoning	Chaoyang City	2008-03-03	Chaoyang City First Detention Center
85	邹继芹	Zou Jiqin	F	Heilongjiang	Jiamusi City	2008-02-29	Jiamusi City Labor Camp
86	王贵明	Wang Guiming	M	Jilin	Changchun City	2008-02-29	Chaoyanggou Forced Labor Camp in Changchun City
87	陈文艾	Chen Wenai	F	Sichuan	Leshan City	2008-02-24	Sichuan Province Women's Prison located in Jiansyang City
88	宗秀霞	Zong Xiuxia	F	Shandong	Weifang City	2008-02-22	Weifang City People's Hospital
89	谭志阳	Tan Zhiyang	M	Hunan	Xiangxiang City	2008-02-19	Wuling Prison in Changde City
90	柳全国	Liu Quanguo	M	Heilongjiang	Qiansanjiazi Village, Handian Town, Shuangcheng City	2008-02-16	Changlinzi Labor Camp
91	伊福全	Yi Fuquan	M	Heilongjiang	Yanhe Village, Jincheng Township, Shuangcheng City	2008-02-13	Tailai Prison
92	张桂芝	Zhang Guizhi	F	Liaoning	Shenyang City	2008-02-12	Liaoning Province Women's Prison in Shenyang City
93	胡增祥	Hu Zengxiang	M	Shandong	Qiansuozhuang Village, Guozhuang Township, Lu County	2008-02-12	Qiansuozhuang Village
94	徐林山	Xu Linshan	M	Heilongjiang	Qiqihar City	2008-02-11	Tailai Prison
95	刘增林	Liu Zenglin	M	Hebei	Yuxiaozi Village, Gucheng County	2008-02-09	Tangshan City Forced Labor Camp
96	于宙	Yu Zhou	M	Beijing	Hengshui City	2008-02-06	Qinghe Emergency Center
97	种存杰	Chong Cunjie	M	Hebei	Huangce Village, Yuchu Township, Gaoling County	2008-02-05	
98	张金兰	Zhang Jinlan	F	Shaanxi	Tonghua County	2008-02-01	Ankang (Mental) Hospital in Xi'an City
99	李淑珍	Li Shuzhen	F	Jilin	Nanchang City	2008-01-30	Tonghua County Police Department
100	张淑君	Zhang Shujun	F	Jiangxi	Hulan District, Harbin City	2008-01-20	Jiangxi Province Women's Prison
101	倪淑芝	Ni Shuzhi	F	Heilongjiang		2008-01-19	Haerbin City Women's Prison

102	张庆英	Zhang Qingying	F	Tianjin	Xingyeli Neighborhood, Dongli District	2008-01-08	Dongli District Detention Center
103	白鹤国	Bai Heguo	M	Liaoning	Dalian City	2008-01-05	Nanguanling Prison in Dalian City
104	其日麦拉图	Qirimailatu	M	Inner Mongolia	Huhhot City	2008-01-05	Inner-Mongolia Detention Center

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Appendix B

Yu Zhou dies as China launches pre-Olympic purge of Falun Gong

Michael Sheridan in Hong Kong
The Sunday Times (London), April 20, 2008

MEMBERS of a peaceful Chinese spiritual movement say that more than 1,500 of its supporters have been detained in the run-up to the Olympic Games and that one of them, a popular folk singer, has died in custody.

The arrests have been carried out against Falun Gong, a group that practises traditional meditation and exercise. The Chinese government banned Falun Gong in 1999, [...].

The official media have not reported the arrests, but there has been lively discussion among music fans on Chinese websites over the fate of the singer Yu Zhou, 42. "F*** authority. Another beautiful soul has left the world," commented one distraught fan.

Falun Gong representatives said Yu was arrested on January 26 while returning home from a concert in Beijing. His family were called to the Qinghe district emergency centre on February 6 to view his body, which was covered in a white sheet.

Yu's relatives were told that he had died of diabetes or as the result of a hunger strike. They replied that he had never suffered from diabetes and refused official demands for an immediate cremation, the group said.

Yu won a following among young Chinese for his mellow folk ballads. His group, Xiao Juan and Residents from the Valley, released two successful CDs and appeared on the Phoenix television channel.

Yu was a graduate of Beijing University. He married Xu Na, 40, a poet and painter who was imprisoned between 2001 and 2006 for her association with Falun Gong. The group said she was also arrested on January 26 and remains in custody.

It was not possible to verify Falun Gong's allegations. Officers at the Tongzhou district detention centre

would not respond to telephone inquiries.

Friends and colleagues of Yu said they have lost contact with the parents of the couple, whose homes were said to be under police surveillance.

However, a member of Yu's band, contacted by telephone, said in response to a question about his reported death: "It is not suitable to answer this question. As you know, if I answer it I will be in trouble."

While global attention has focused on the uprising in Tibet, the renewed attack on Falun Gong shows that the state security apparatus is determined to crush any domestic opposition before the Beijing Games start in August.

"It is increasingly clear that much of the current wave of repression is occurring not in spite of the Olympics but actually because of the Olympics," said Amnesty International, which has detailed numerous arrests and the harassment of Chinese civil rights activists.

Now operating from exile, Falun Gong said that at least 1,878 of its adherents had been arrested since January 1. The detainees included 156 people in Beijing. Of these, 26 were residents of the Chaoyang and Shunyi districts, which host Olympic venues.

Falun Gong was founded in 1992 by Li Hongzhi, a former government grain clerk who is said to have achieved enlightenment. At first it attracted little official attention. As it grew in numbers, however, the group clashed with the authorities and a ferocious crackdown was launched.

The US State Department estimates that at least 100,000 Falun Gong members have been imprisoned, locked up in psychiatric hospitals or sent to "reeducation" camps, where they are made to denounce Li.

The group itself says several thousand of its followers have died in prison as a result of torture and beatings.

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/asia/china/article3779899.ece>

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Appendix C

China sentences Falungong follower to three years in jail: lawyer

Agence France Presse, Nov 24, 2008

BEIJING (AFP) — The wife of a man who died in police custody in China ahead of the Beijing Olympics was sentenced to prison on Tuesday for supporting the outlawed Falungong spiritual group, her lawyer said.

A Beijing court jailed Xu Na for three years for “using a heretical organisation to undermine the implementation of the law,” lawyer Cheng Hai told AFP, referring to Falungong, which was banned in 1999.

“During her trial Xu plead not guilty and cited the freedom of religious belief guaranteed by (China’s) constitution,” Cheng said.

“We will appeal the verdict.”

Xu and her husband, Yu Zhou, were detained at a roadside police check point ahead of the Beijing Olympics when authorities discovered they had material published by Falungong, according to Cheng.

Xu was convicted of possessing and intending to distribute 53 documents and eight computer disks of Falungong material, he said.

Beijing Chongwen district court, where Cheng said the trial took place, refused to comment on Xu’s case when contacted by AFP.

According to the US-based Falun Dafa Information Centre, Xu, 40, previously served five years in prison for her support of the spiritual group.

Eleven days after their arrests, Xu’s 42-year-old husband was pronounced dead at the Beijing detention centre where he was being held, it said, calling him a victim of state oppression ahead of the Beijing Games.

Cheng also said Yu died in custody.

“There are suspicions that he was beaten to death while in prison, but so far we have been unable to collect any evidence,” Cheng said of Yu, once a well-known folk musician.

The detention centre in Beijing’s Tongzhou district named by Cheng and the information centre denied any knowledge of the case.

“We know nothing about this person or his wife,” a person answering the phone told AFP on Tuesday.

Falungong, which is loosely based on Buddhist, Taoist and Confucian philosophies, was founded in 1992.

The sect grew to include tens of millions of followers in 1999, prompting the government to ban it [...].

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hVz9l5v3-NroyDGALZT2Nv6Paw2Q>

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Appendix D

Screws tighten on persecuted sect

Mary-Anne Toy in Beijing, *Sydney Morning Herald*
July 26, 2008

HELEN, a university graduate who speaks English and another European language fluently, lives in poverty in a rundown apartment block in a Chinese city we cannot identify to protect her.

The flats on either side of her are occupied by the mistresses of Chinese businessmen.

Helen, not her real name, also lives a secret life - one that is far more dangerous and less acceptable to China's Communist leaders than being or keeping a mistress.

She believes in Falun Gong, a quasi-Buddhist spiritual movement preaching "truth, forbearance and compassion" and teaches qi gong - ancient Chinese breathing exercises - to improve health and allegedly even cure illnesses and injuries.

Practising Falun Gong is punishable by jail, torture and even death in China. [...].

There have been at least 3000 documented deaths and 63,000 cases of torture of Falun Gong practitioners in China. Helen, who refuses to denounce Falun Gong, has survived two stints in labour camps but does not think she could survive a third, hence her life on the run.

The Olympic Games are less than two weeks away, and the country's vast security network has stepped up efforts to ensure an incident-free Games. This includes random sweeps of housing compounds to ensure that "undesirables" are picked up or scared away into someone else's jurisdiction, making life even more precarious for people like Helen.

The Herald interviewed several underground Falun Gong believers in China, including three new recruits, to see how the movement was faring after nine years of persecution and in the lead-up to the Olympics.

Falun Gong was banned in July 1999 after the Government became alarmed by its sudden popularity and its ability to organise mass protests. The famous silent protest of April 1999, when 10,000 practitioners surrounded Zhongnanhai, the Communist Party leadership's compound in Beijing, was the final straw for the president at the time, Jiang Zemin, who ordered the movement eradicated.

Falun Gong was founded in 1992 by Li Hongzhi, a former soldier turned qi gong expert. It was the most popular of many qi gong groups then in vogue as people looked for meaning in a post-communist, quasi-capitalist but still one-party controlled China.

By the time Falun Gong was banned, the state-run media estimated it had 70 million followers in China, including government and party cadres.

A savage propaganda campaign involving every level of government and society followed, reminiscent of previous Communist purges such as the Cultural Revolution. [...]

Thousands of members were forced to recant or suffer torture and death in labour camps. Followers were sacked, expelled from universities, deprived of health care and pensions. Some spouses filed for divorce. The Government says several members set fire to themselves in Tiananmen Square, an incident that Falun Gong claims was fabricated.

Outside China, Falun Gong kept growing. Members in 70 countries, including Australia, wage a guerilla campaign against the Communist Party, claiming, among other things, that 6000 Falun Gong detainees were being harvested for their organs.

The Chinese Government denies this. It says Falun Gong could provoke serious social disorder and that it has acted lawfully in suppressing it. The US State Department and Congress, the United Nations and

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Appendix D

Screws tighten on persecuted sect (continued)

human rights groups such as Amnesty International say that persecution of Falun Gong in China is a continuing abuse of human rights.

Since Helen was released from a labour camp in 2005 she has been living on the edges of society, frequently moving but still doing the one thing that the Government fears most: spreading the word about Falun Gong.

“More and more people are becoming practitioners,” she says quietly. “Even under such persecution ... it is becoming a strong force that the CPC [Communist Party of China] will not be able to stop one day soon.”

The Herald’s security precautions for this visit include not involving any Chinese staff in our plans, leaving behind our mobile phone to prevent it being tracked and circuitous routing to disguise our destination.

“There is an enormous vacuum in every Chinese person’s heart - no belief, no moral standards - and in this situation when they meet a Falun Gong person or read a Falun Gong book which teaches them how to be a good person and gives moral guidelines for living, they are really awakened and shaken,” Helen says.

“Li” and “Wang”, both just 17, plan to leave high school after learning Falun Gong through Helen. Another recruit, “Susan”, is halfway through university. She intends to complete her course even though she doubts the value of the education she is receiving, because she is too timid, she says, to buck the system entirely.

Li’s parents knew of Helen’s past and her two stints in labour camps, but she was an old family friend and an English teacher who could possibly help their surly and sometimes suicidal teenager as a tutor, so they welcomed her into their home.

He had resisted learning English for years but when Helen began telling him about Falun Gong he was hooked. Li says it has given his life purpose. He now loves studying but plans to leave what he says is the

soul-destroying rote-learning education system. He has found a job so he can move out and practise in peace.

Li’s parents were furious when they found out. A threat by his father to report Helen to the police was neutralised after his mother met Helen and listened to what she had to say. The mother then threatened to disgrace her husband by talking publicly about his mistress if he tried to turn in Helen and their son.

Susan, a top student with a quiet manner, becomes agitated as she describes how she knew nothing about the Cultural Revolution or the murder of student protesters at Tiananmen Square in 1989 until meeting Helen and learning about Falun Gong.

“I couldn’t understand why the Government didn’t allow us to know these things,” Susan says. “It makes me wonder how can I still trust the textbooks.” People in China are not encouraged to think independently, just to get good marks so they can make money, she says.

A few months ago she offended a roommate when she suggested that it was irrational to boycott the French supermarket chain Carrefour - as many Chinese nationalists have done - because of its alleged support for the Dalai Lama.

Li introduced his best friend, “Wang”, to Helen when Wang became disillusioned with school and society. Formerly an enthusiastic class monitor, Wang had been punished by teachers for highlighting student welfare issues and passing on suggestions from other students.

“Chinese schools are only a place to cram Communist Party philosophy into students, not to give you knowledge,” Wang says. “The authorities penalise teachers who want to be good teachers, so they are victims too.”

Asked if she will protest at the Olympics, Helen says she was initially keen but has realised she has more important work.

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Screws tighten on persecuted sect (continued)

“Many people like me have really risked our lives including in jail to try and let the world know what is happening, and that is enough in my opinion,” Helen says. “We’re not trying to push people. When I asked Li and Wang about going to Tiananmen Square they said, ‘Of course we want to do that but there are so many people who need help here [to hear about Falun Gong].’”

John Deller, a spokesman for Falun Gong Australia, says the movement is indigenous to China and has the welfare of Chinese people at heart, and so does not want to upset the Olympics. Followers also fear the Government would use any protests to discredit Falun Gong. “The problem is that the powers that be are using the Games to persecute people,” he says.

Helen’s bare, concrete-floored flat - stifling in summer - is rented in a friend’s name. She sneaks in and out of the housing compound early in the morning and late at night, when most people are asleep or not yet up. The gaps around the windows are stuffed with newspaper and the window coverings are always kept closed to disguise the light and muffle sound.

She stays as quiet as possible, a habit that has given her a speaking voice so soft that you have to strain to hear her. She never answers the door unless she is expecting a friend, and they have a special code, frequently changed, to identify themselves. When she hears of a security sweep or if the housing committee is asking too many questions about her, Helen leaves, hiding out wherever she can until she thinks it is safe to return. She stays in touch with other practitioners and her family through the internet and occasional phone calls.

She still manages to meet people and, if she thinks they would be interested, shares Falun Gong with them. Every time she is risking her life, but trusting and hoping that the person in whom she has confided will keep her secret. So far, in three years on the run, they have.

“We’re not trying to overthrow the Government,” she says. “We’re just trying to help people understand the CPC’s evil nature and that they can break free.

“How can I overthrow the Government? I don’t have a weapon and I have to be careful all the time.”

<http://www.smh.com.au/news/world/screws-tighten-on-persecuted-sect/2008/07/25/1216492734168.html?page=fullpage#contentSwap2>

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Appendix E

Liulitun Website



A Chinese government website in Liulitun neighborhood of Beijing's Chaoyang district, home to venues such as the Bird's Nest. The page describes a January 2008 meeting of local officials on how to deal with Falun Gong ahead of the Olympics. Among the directives issued at the meeting by the 610 Office was the need to "mobilize the power of the masses of residents to report promptly if they find anyone handing out [Falun Gong] materials." Since then, at least 36 adherents have been detained in Chaoyang and are at serious risk of torture and long sentencing.

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Appendix F

Congressional-Executive Commission on China, Annual Report 2008 (excerpts)

“The central government intensified its nine-year campaign of persecution against Falun Gong practitioners in the months leading up to the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympic Games... Official accounts of the crack-down were publicly available on Web sites for all 31 of China’s provincial-level jurisdictions in 2007-2008.” - 2008 Annual Report, Congressional-Executive Commission on China

FREEDOM OF RELIGION

Findings

The central government’s “6-10 Office” (established in 1999 to implement the policy that outlaws Falun Gong) issued an internal directive to local governments nationwide mandating propaganda activities to prevent Falun Gong from “interfering with or harming” the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. Beijing and Shanghai Public Security Bureaus also issued local directives providing rewards for informants who report Falun Gong activities to the police. Stories published in the state-controlled media, as well as statements made by Chinese officials, sought to link Falun Gong with terrorist threats in the lead-up to the Olympics.

Recommendations

Include in China-related legislation and statements, calls for the Chinese government to guarantee freedom of religion to all Chinese citizens in accordance with Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Call for the release of Chinese citizens confined, detained, or imprisoned in retaliation for pursuing their right to freedom of religion (including the right to hold and exercise spiritual beliefs). Such prisoners include: Wang Zhiwen (Falun Gong practitioner who continues to serve a 16-year sentence for alleged crimes related to cults and acquiring state secrets). Support continued funding for non-governmental organizations that collect information on conditions for religious freedom in China and that inform Chinese citizens of how to

defend their right to freedom of religion against Chinese government abuses. Encourage U.S. government-funded programs to orient priorities toward expanded coverage of different religious and spiritual communities within China.

Reeducation Through Labor

The reeducation through labor (RTL) system operates outside of the judicial system and the Criminal Procedure Law (CPL); it is an administrative measure that enables Chinese law enforcement officials to detain Chinese citizens for up to four years.⁵⁵ As Professor Jerome Cohen explained recently, RTL enables the police to “punish anyone for virtually anything,” without the accused having the benefit of “the modest protections” of the CPL.⁵⁶ According to Chinese government statistics, more than 500,000 individuals were serving sentences in 310 RTL centers in 2005.⁵⁷ The list of offenses punishable by RTL is vaguely defined, and RTL is frequently used against petitioners, activists, house church leaders, Falun Gong adherents, and others deemed to be “troublemakers.”

[...]

TORTURE AND ABUSE IN CUSTODY

During this past year, human rights lawyers and activists, Falun Gong adherents, and Tibetans detained in the wake of the March protests were among those subjected to torture and abuse in custody... According to the Falun Dafa Information Center, since the beginning of 2008 at least nine Falun Gong adherents in Beijing have died in police custody.⁷³ In April, Falun Gong adherent and popular Beijing-based folk singer Yu Zhou died in police custody within two weeks of being detained on his way home from a concert.⁷⁴

[...]

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Appendix F

Congressional-Executive Commission on China, Annual Report 2008 (continued)

FAIRNESS OF CRIMINAL TRIAL

There is a strong presumption of guilt in criminal cases, and a guilty verdict is a virtual certainty in politically sensitive cases.\95\ The procedural rights of political dissidents and other targeted groups, such as Falun Gong adherents, house church pastors, and ethnic minority activists, are frequently violated.\96\

[...]

CENSORSHIP OF THE MEDIA AND INTERNET SERVES THE PARTY AND GOVERNMENT'S INTERESTS

Censorship of Media and Publishing

In June 2008, authorities detained Ha Jingbo and Jiang Ruoling, two middle school teachers from Dongfeng county in Jilin province, for distributing educational leaflets about Falun Gong.\41\

[...]

In response to foreign reporters' complaints over blocked Web sites, a Chinese Olympics official publicly acknowledged in late July 2008 that sites relating to Falun Gong were blocked and would remain blocked despite the Olympics. Following those complaints, foreign media reported that some previously blocked sites, including those for Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and Radio Free Asia, became accessible at the Olympic village.\58\

[...]

In October 2008, Information Warfare Monitor and ONI Asia issued a report detailing a large-scale surveillance system of Internet text messages sent by customers of Tom-Skype, a joint venture between a Chinese company and eBay, which owns Skype. They found that text messages relating to Falun Gong, Taiwan independence, the Chinese Communist Party, and words such as democracy, earthquake, and milk powder had

been censored, and that customers' personal information, text messages, and chat conversations between users in China and outside China had been recorded.\66\ Skype's president said that the company was aware that the Chinese government was monitoring chat messages but not that its Chinese partner was storing those messages deemed politically sensitive.\67\

[...]

Controls over religious publications: In 2005, authorities reported confiscating 4.62 million items of Falun Gong and "other cult organization propaganda material" nationwide.\23\

[...]

Religious prisoners

Ha Jingbo and Jiang Ruoling, two middle school teachers from Dongfeng county in Jilin province, whom authorities detained in June 2008 for distributing educational leaflets about Falun Gong. After taking the two women to the Dayang Public Security Bureau, male officers severely beat them in an attempt to coerce confessions. The women are currently held in Dongfeng County Detention Center on unknown charges.

Yang Xiyao, a 68-year-old resident of Yanshan county in Hebei province, whom authorities detained on May 20, 2008, after raiding his home and confiscating Falun Gong publications. Yang served 6 years of a 10-year prison sentence in Baoding Prison from 2000 to 2006 for professing belief in Falun Gong. Officials released him in 2006 to receive medical treatment for heart palpitations and injuries reportedly caused by torture. Yang is once again in Baoding Prison. It is unclear whether he is continuing to serve his existing sentence, or if officials extended his sentence as a result of new criminal charges.

[...]

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Falun Gong

On June 10, 1999, former President Jiang Zemin and Politburo member Luo Gan established an extrajudicial security apparatus called the “6-10 Office.”¹¹⁵ This entity was charged with the mission of enforcing a ban on Falun Gong and carrying out a crackdown against its practitioners, which commenced on July 22, 1999, when the government formally outlawed the movement.¹¹⁶ Falun Gong practitioners describe it as a “traditional Chinese spiritual discipline that is Buddhist in nature,” which consists of “moral teachings, a meditation, and four gentle exercises that resemble tai-chi and are known in Chinese culture as ‘qigong.’”¹¹⁷ Tens of millions of Chinese citizens practiced Falun Gong in the 1990s and adherents to the spiritual movement inside of China are estimated to still number in the hundreds of thousands despite the government’s ongoing crackdown.¹¹⁸

The central government intensified its nine-year campaign of persecution against Falun Gong practitioners in the months leading up to the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympic Games. Chinese security forces continued to detain and imprison Falun Gong practitioners and subjected some who refused to disavow the practice to torture and other forms of abuse in reeducation through labor (RTL) camps and other detention facilities.¹¹⁹ In September 2007, Zhou Yongkang, then-Minister of Public Security and current member of the Politburo Standing Committee, ordered that all police and public security forces “strike hard on overseas and domestic hostile forces, ethnic splittists, religious extremists, violent terrorists, and the Falun Gong cult” to safeguard “social stability” for the 17th Party Congress and the Olympics.¹²⁰ Official accounts of the crackdown were publicly available on Web sites for all 31 of China’s provincial-level jurisdictions in 2007-2008.¹²¹ Since the government outlawed Falun Gong in July 1999, it has detained thousands--most likely hundreds of thousands--of practitioners.¹²²

Chinese government Web sites regularly report detentions of Falun Gong “criminal suspects” and some provincial and local authorities offer rewards as high as 5,000 yuan (US\$732) to informants who report Falun Gong “escaped criminals.”¹²³ In July, Chinese state media reported the arrest of 25 Falun Gong practitioners and the destruction of 7 Falun Gong publishing operations in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region.¹²⁴ In 2007, Yingshang county government in Anhui province revealed that it had detained 13 “Falun Gong and other cult criminals,” held another in “public security detention,” and “reeducated and reprimanded” more than 1,600.¹²⁵ During the same period, Miyi county in Sichuan province recorded detentions of 62 practitioners as part of its “strike hard” campaign and claimed to have “transformed” 14 of them.¹²⁶ Relying on reports from practitioners and their families in China, sources outside of China, not all of whom are themselves Falun Gong practitioners, estimate that Chinese authorities detained “at least 8,037” practitioners between December 2007 and the end of June 2008 in a nationwide pre-Olympics crackdown.¹²⁷ International observers believe that Falun Gong practitioners constitute a large percentage--some say as many as half--of the total number of Chinese imprisoned in RTL camps.¹²⁸ Falun Gong sources report that at least 200,000 practitioners are being held in RTL and other forms of detention.¹²⁹ As of April 2008, Falun Gong sources in the United States had documented over 3,000 deaths of practitioners as a result of government persecution as well as over 63,000 cases of torture since 1999.¹³⁰ From 2000 to 2005, Falun Gong practitioners accounted for 66 percent of all cases of alleged torture by Chinese authorities reported to the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture.¹³¹

As this Commission reported in 2006, Chinese government persecution of Falun Gong practitioners contravenes the standards in Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which China

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has signed but not ratified.\132\ The Chinese government asserts its anti-Falun Gong campaign is necessary to protect public safety, order, and morals in accordance with Article 36 of the Constitution.\133\ The UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, however, has rejected this argument.\134\

6-10 OFFICE

Publicly available government documents detail the central role of the 6-10 Office in the persecution of Falun Gong. Since its inception, the 6-10 Office has also expanded its targets to include other religious and qigong groups that the central government deems “harmful.” \135\ According to Nanjing City Public Security provisions published in June 2008, the 6-10 Office is at the forefront of “organizing and leading the struggle against Falun Gong.” Its responsibilities include “directing investigations into significant cases,” “digging deep to uncover covert plots and organizers,” “gathering intelligence,” and “organizing and coordinating the prevention, control, and punishment of Falun Gong and other harmful qigong organizations by municipal public security forces.” \136\ A notice posted on a Yunnan provincial government Web site in March 2008 declares that the government must “sternly guard against” Falun Gong, calling it a “cultic, anti-Communist Party, anti-socialist organization.” It warns government workers that “if [you] hear of Falun Gong reactionary propaganda immediately notify your unit leader and the public security ‘610’ Office.” \137\

An April 2008 notice posted on the Gutian county government Web site in Fujian province describes the central government’s “basic policy” outlawing the practice of Falun Gong and outlines five primary tasks to implement: (1) “explicitly order the dissemination of information regarding the ban [on Falun Gong],” (2) “carry out comprehensive administration [of the policy],” (3)

“fully utilize all legal weapons, sternly punish the criminal activities of cult ringleaders and key members,” (4) “do a good job at transformation through reeducation for the great majority of practitioners,” and (5) “prevent external cults from seeping into the area, reduce the conditions that allow cults to propagate.” \138\

Several reports mention “three zeroes” that security officials should aim to achieve. An official report from the Communist Party Political-Legal Committee of Wuling district in the city of Changde in Hunan province urges cadres to “resolutely achieve the ‘three zeroes goal’ in 6-10 management work,” which is defined as “no petitions in Beijing, zero incidents of local assemblies and protests, zero incidents of interference with television broadcasts.” \139\ The same report also stresses the need to carry out four tasks to this end: (1) “strengthen the prevention, control, and management [of Falun Gong] and conscientiously keep an unflinching eye on Falun Gong practitioners,” (2) “strengthen the use of transformation through reeducation as a line of attack against their fortifications, use all your might to transform obstinate Falun Gong elements,” (3) “strengthen strikes against and punishment of [Falun Gong], give the ‘Falun Gong’ underground gang a forceful scare,” and (4) “strengthen anti-cult cautionary education, reinforce the people’s ability to recognize, prevent, and oppose cults.” \140\

Aggressive surveillance is a key aspect of the 6-10 Office’s work. The Wuling Party Political-Legal Committee describes having implemented a set of three “responsibility measures” to ensure that “more than 600 Falun Gong practitioners” are closely monitored by the district police, neighborhood committee, and their own relatives.\141\ The Committee also instructs security officials to organize an “inspect and control” system whereby local police are to conduct home “visits” of Falun Gong practitioners three times per day.\142\

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In order to monitor more “die-hard” practitioners, public security forces are to form an “inspection and control small group” to carry out “24-hour surveillance.”¹⁴³ A county report from Jiangxi province also stresses the need to “dispatch inspection and control personnel” during “important periods of time” in order to ascertain a practitioner’s “movement 24 hours a day,” and report “unusual situations” in a timely manner to the 6-10 Office.¹⁴⁴ In addition to surveillance, the 6-10 Office is also required to develop broad “intelligence channels” that allow them to “know whenever the enemy moves.”¹⁴⁵

6-10 Offices throughout China maintain extrajudicial “transformation through reeducation” facilities that are used specifically to detain Falun Gong practitioners who have completed terms in reeducation through labor (RTL) camps but whom authorities refuse to release.¹⁴⁶ The term “transformation through reeducation” (jiaoyu zhuanhua) describes a process of ideological reprogramming whereby practitioners are subjected to various methods of physical and psychological coercion until they recant their belief in Falun Gong.¹⁴⁷ In 2002, local officials in Hunan joined with the 6-10 Office to establish a “transformation through reeducation camp” for Falun Gong practitioners where “management methods” such as solitary confinement are employed. Four years after opening, the camp claimed a “transformation rate” of 70 percent for the 77 detainees in custody.¹⁴⁸ In reporting on a transformation camp in Weifang city in 2000, Pulitzer Prize winner Ian Johnson writes that it was “at these unofficial prisons that the killings [of Falun Gong practitioners] occurred.”¹⁴⁹

Chinese government sources contain many references to the 6-10 Office calling for the “punishment” (chengzhi) of Falun Gong practitioners.¹⁵⁰ In Hunan’s Changde city, Wuling district officials boast of having “cracked” 31 Falun Gong cases that produced 33 “public security detentions,” 19 “reeducation through

labor sentences,” 29 “criminal detentions,” 20 “arrests,” as well as the “destruction of 12 underground nests” between 2002 and 2006.¹⁵¹ A city government Web site in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region lauded a security official for his role in “striking against” and “disposing of” over 1,000 cases involving “core members” of Falun Gong and the Disciples sect.¹⁵² A report to the 9th CCP Representative Assembly in Guandu District of Kunming City in Yunnan province acknowledges the capture of “26 Falun Gong criminal suspects” in 2005. Eleven of these “suspects” were formally arrested and six were sentenced to RTL camps.¹⁵³ Officials from a township in Anhui province posted a report stating that after several years of “strikes against and cleansing” (daji qingli) of Falun Gong, the majority of local practitioners had “realized their errors and mended their ways.”¹⁵⁴

Gao Zhisheng, a lawyer who has defended various Chinese activists, exposed numerous forms of torture and violence employed by the 6-10 Office against Falun Gong practitioners.¹⁵⁵ Gao describes the 6-10 Office as a “Gestapo-like organization” with “powers that no civilized state in the world would even consider trying to obtain.” He further notes that “of all the true accounts of incredible violence that I have heard, of all the records of the government’s inhuman torture of its own people, what has shaken me most is the routine practice on the part of the 6-10 Office and the police of assaulting women’s genitals.”¹⁵⁶ Gao went missing in September 2007 following the public release of a letter he sent to the U.S. Congress and remains in detention at an undisclosed location.¹⁵⁷

ANTI-CULT ASSOCIATIONS

Working in concert with the 6-10 Office to undermine Chinese citizens’ right to believe in and practice Falun Gong and other banned religious sects is a national network of “anti-cult associations” (fanxiejiao xiehui).¹⁵⁸

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Local anti-cult associations can be found at the provincial, county, municipal, and neighborhood level.\159\ Such associations have emerged as a prominent information channel for the government's campaign against Falun Gong, as they widely disseminate anti-Falun Gong propaganda by holding study sessions and other community activities to raise "anti-cult awareness." \160\ The Beijing-based China Anti-Cult Association was founded in November 2000 and claims to be a "non-profit, social welfare organization" that was "voluntarily formed" and "registered according to the law." \161\ The government's hand, however, can be clearly discerned in the publications and activities of anti-cult associations. An anti-cult association in Guizhou province admitted in one report that it was founded "under the leadership of the Party and government." \162\ Anti-cult association publications often expose connections with the 6-10 Office.\163\ A May 2007 report from Changchun revealed that the Jilin Provincial Anti-Cult Association partnered with provincial and municipal 6-10 Offices to "jointly organize and launch" anti-cult activities at 87 middle schools throughout the provincial capital.\164\

DIRECTIVES AND MEASURES RELATED TO FALUN GONG AND THE OLYMPICS

In April 2008, the central government 6-10 Office issued an internal directive to local governments nationwide mandating propaganda activities to prevent Falun Gong from "interfering with or harming" the Olympics.\165\ References to the directive appear on official Web sites in every province and at every level of government.\166\ Most official reports focus on demonstrating that local authorities have stepped up security and fulfilled the requirement to "educate" target audiences on the directive's content.\167\ Local authorities distributed the directive widely in an effort to raise public awareness.

References can be found on various Web sites ranging from public entities with indirect relations with the

state (state-run enterprises, public schools, universities, parks, TV stations, meteorological bureaus, etc.) to commercial and social entities with no obvious ties to the state.\168\ Anti-cult associations also actively circulated and promoted the 6-10 Office's Olympic directive.\169\

Olympic and municipal officials in Shanghai and Beijing also issued directives pertaining to Falun Gong in the lead-up to the 2008 Olympic Games. The Shanghai Public Security Bureau sent a warning to Falun Gong practitioners and other dissidents in April 2008 demanding that they remain in the city during the Olympics and report to the public security office at least once a week until the end of October. The notice threatened to detain or punish anyone who violates the order.\170\ In November 2007, Beijing Olympic organizers reminded visitors to the games that possession of Falun Gong writings is strictly forbidden and that no exceptions would be made for international visitors.\171\ The Beijing Public Security Bureau issued a public notice offering a reward of up to 500,000 yuan (US\$73,100) for informants who report Falun Gong plans to "sabotage" the Olympics.\172\ From January to June 2008, public security agents reportedly arrested at least 208 practitioners from all 18 districts and counties in Beijing municipality. Falun Gong sources have documented the names and other information for 141 of the 208 practitioners who were detained in Beijing, 30 of whom are now reportedly being held in reeducation through labor camps with sentences as long as two-and-a-half years.\173\

Chinese security officials made statements prior to the Olympics that sought to link Falun Gong with terrorist threats, but produced no evidence to substantiate these claims.\174\ Tian Yixiang, the head of the Military Affairs Department of the Beijing Olympics Protection Group, listed Falun Gong among the groups that might "use various means, even extreme violence, to interfere with or harm the smooth execution of the Olympic Games." \175\ Li Wei, Chairman of the Center for Counterterrorism Studies at the quasi-official China

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Institute of Contemporary International Relations, categorized Falun Gong as among the top five terrorist threats to the 2008 Olympic Games.\176\

Domestic institutional sources of anti-Falun Gong activity

The PRC Constitution stipulates that the state “protects the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese nationals residing abroad and protects the lawful rights and interests of returned Chinese and of the family members of Chinese nationals residing abroad.” \177\ The primary government institution to which the Constitution assigns this role is the State Council—the executive body at the pinnacle of state power and administration.\178\ Within the State Council, the office responsible for implementing this mandate is the State Council’s Overseas Chinese Affairs Office (OCAO)

In 2001, then OCAO director, Guo Dongpo, urged cadres to “wake up and see that the struggle with the ‘Falun Gong’ cult is a serious political struggle.” \179\ Guo called for marshaling OCAO resources to “unite all powers that can be united... make them understand and support the Chinese government’s position and policy of handling the ‘Falun Gong’ problem according to the law.” Guo also called for “striking against the overseas forces of the ‘Falun Gong’ cult, stop them from spreading, and eliminate their bad influence.” \180\ An official report on the January 2007 OCAO directors’ meeting, in which OCAO provincial and municipal leaders gathered with the national leadership in Beijing, stated that the “OCAO also coordinates the launching of anti ‘Falun Gong’ struggles overseas by relevant departments.” \181\

A 2005 OCAO report urges overseas Chinese and returned overseas Chinese to “firmly establish the concept of ‘greater overseas Chinese affairs,’” and to “aggressively expand domestic Chinese and overseas Chinese friendship ties.”

labor sentences, “29 “criminal detentions,” 20 Specifically, overseas Chinese should “aggressively expand the struggle with Taiwanese independence forces, the Falun Gong cult, ethnic separatism and other enemy forces in order to contribute to the defense of state security.” \182\ A similar provincial report published on the OCAO Web site devotes a section to “resolutely implementing and executing the Party line, the Party’s guiding principles, and the Party’s policies.” Within this section, OCAO cadres are called to “attach a high degree of importance to launching struggles to oppose the ‘Falun Gong’ cult and to the work of ‘safeguarding stability.” \183\ In an OCAO online research journal, a cadre from the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) discusses the formation of an “Overseas Chinese Work Corps.” The cadre writes that within the XUAR Overseas Chinese Work Corps system, “more than 30,000 overseas Chinese” operate under the “correct leadership of the Party Work Corps,” and are charged with “resolutely implementing and executing each and every policy task in the Party’s and nation’s overseas Chinese work.” One such policy task is defined as “launching a resolute struggle against enemy forces, ethnic separatists, Taiwanese independence forces, and the Falun Gong cult organization.” \184\

In 2006, Chen Yujie, the Director of the OCAO, “expressed his admiration” to a visiting delegation of overseas Chinese and Chinese-Americans from Chicago for their “positive contributions” in the “struggle against ‘Falun Gong’ and other enemy forces.” \185\ Reports of similar appeals to take action against Falun Gong have appeared in Europe, with the China Anti-Cult Association taking a leading role in spreading anti-Falun Gong propaganda there.\186\ In September 2008, the OCAO Web site reported that the Chinese Ambassador to Argentina attended an award ceremony in which a local Chinese man was honored for “organizing members of the China Peaceful Unification Promotion

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Association of Argentina to aggressively struggle against 'Falun Gong elements' and Tibetan independence" during the Olympic torch relay.\187\

In July 2008, the OCAO held a meeting in Beijing to discuss their "integrated preparations and deployment during the Olympic period." A high-ranking official used this occasion to stress to OCAO cadres that "inviting overseas Chinese to attend the opening and closing ceremonies is a heavy task for our office. We must adopt strict organizational measures, thorough security services, and good security defense."

Immediately thereafter, the official reminded his audience to "strengthen network security protections and the

security of internal office secrets" because "the activities of Falun Gong elements grow wilder by the day." \188\

[...]

HONG KONG

The Hong Kong Falun Dafa Association also said that three Falun Gong practitioners--two Taiwanese and one American--were denied entry to the city in August.\24\

To view the full report (including footnotes), see: http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_house_hearings&docid=f:45233.wais

Sit by my side
Closing your eyes
Together in silence
We call for
The end of torturing
The end of killing
The end of the persecution
Compassion grows in our hearts
Together in silence
Our wishes can make a difference



In the coming months, Falun Gong practitioners and their supporters around the world will be holding activities to commemorate the victims of ten years of persecution in China and call for an end to their suffering.

We invite you to join us.

For more information: contact@faluninfo.net

Falun Dafa Information Center Online

The Falun Dafa Information Center invites you to visit our new website, relaunched in June 2008 and complete with features like: FAQs, timelines about Falun Gong and the persecution, NGO and investigative media reports, first-hand accounts of human rights abuses, and an easily searchable database of press releases. And while you are visiting, we invite you to sign up for our news bulletins and press releases. www.faluninfo.net

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Danielle works tirelessly to free her father who was sentenced to 16 years in prison and tortured because he practices Falun Gong.

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FALUN GONG: PRACTICE & BELIEFS

Falun Gong is a traditional Chinese spiritual discipline that is Buddhist in nature. It consists of moral teachings for daily life, a meditation, and four gentle exercises. Falun Gong is always taught free of charge and is practiced in over 80 countries.

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While Falun Gong is practiced openly in 70 countries, today in its homeland of China it is subject to severe human rights violations. The scale and scope of abuses taking place make it possibly the largest religious persecution in the world today.

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