

Clearwisdom Digest

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News and Events from Around the World

Falun Gong Appeals to U.S. Supreme Court

Attorneys for Falun Gong practitioners filed an appeal Monday in the U.S. Supreme Court in a civil lawsuit against former Chinese dictator Jiang Zemin. He is charged with torture, crimes against humanity, and genocide in connection with the persecution of Falun Gong that he initiated in July 1999. This case raises fundamental legal issues in U.S. law and in the relationship of U.S. law to international law.

Jiang Sued in Chicago

Jiang Zemin was served with this lawsuit, through his bodyguards, on October 22, 2002, during a visit to Chicago. At the time, Jiang was China's paramount leader, serving simultaneously as the General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party, the President of the government of China, and the head of China's armed forces. Jiang was succeeded by Hu Jintao as President on March 15, 2003, making Jiang a former head of state.

Neither Jiang Zemin nor any counsel for him has appeared in court to answer the Falun Gong practitioners' suit. In proceedings before the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, the U.S. Department of Justice in the guise of a friend of the court requested the dismissal of this case, arguing that heads of state and former heads of state are immune from prosecution.

In September 2003 the District Court dismissed the suit, and the plaintiffs appealed to the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago. That court heard oral arguments in May 2004, and then upheld the District Court's dismissal of the case in a decision in September 2004.

Jus Cogens Violations Have a Special Status

The Falun Gong practitioners are asking the Supreme Court to return the case to the District Court in which it began and to ask the District Court to rule on the defendant's responsibility for the acts he is alleged to have perpetrated against Falun Gong.

At issue in the appeal is whether former heads of state such as Jiang Zemin are entitled to claim head-of-state immunity, the protection offered by international law to heads of state against suits brought against them. The brief argues that whether former heads of state are entitled to immunity in some instances, they are not entitled to immunity for actions that are beyond their official authority (*ultra vires*) or that violate *jus cogens* standards of international law.

The key argument regards the status of the crimes Jiang is charged with. According to U.S. legal precedents and international law, torture, crimes against humanity and genocide are regarded as violations of *jus cogens* norms. Such norms are considered to

be the foundation for the most basic rules of law, and for civilization itself. Violation of these norms is therefore thought to be qualitatively different from other kinds of criminal conduct.

The Falun Gong brief cites many Circuit Court decisions from courts other than the 7th Circuit in Chicago that have denied immunity to former heads of state and former officials for such violations. One case cited describes violations of jus cogens as different by virtue of the "depths of depravity the conduct encompasses, the often countless toll of human suffering the misdeeds inflict upon their victims, and the consequential disruption of the domestic and international order they produce." The underlying justification for revoking immunity for officials who violate jus cogens norms of international law is that a sovereign state cannot defend these acts as official, legitimate functions of the state.

According to the Falun Gong brief, "the Seventh Circuit's decision stands alone among the circuits in holding that acts of torture and other jus cogens violations of a former head of state or foreign official can be considered protected and immune acts. The decision is unprecedented. Left undisturbed it will undermine the legislative intent of important congressional legislation."

Sometime in the next few months the Supreme Court will decide whether to hear this case.

South American Falun Gong Practitioners Expose the Persecution during Zeng Qinghong Visit to Peru

On January 26-28, 2005, one of the chief perpetrators responsible for the persecution of Falun Gong, Chinese vice president Zeng Qinghong, came to Peru. Before his visit, Falun Gong practitioners in Peru and Venezuela delivered materials to Peru President Toledo, Vice President Waisman and Minister of Foreign Affairs Rodriguez regarding Zeng Qinghong's participation in the persecution of Falun Gong in Mainland China, as well as persecution cases documented by the World Organization to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong. The practitioners hoped that the Peruvian Government would learn more about Falun Dafa and the underhanded nature of the Chinese Communist Party and Jiang's regime.

The day before Zeng Qinghong's visit, Falun Gong practitioners went to the police headquarters to file records, hoping that during Zeng Qinghong's visit to Peru, while Falun Gong practitioners held peacefully appeals, the Peruvian police would not allow practitioners to be assaulted like they were in Argentina. Surprisingly, it seemed as if the police didn't even know of the Chinese Vice President's upcoming visit.

During Zeng Qinghong's visit to Peru, the Jiang's regime employed people who didn't know the true story behind Falun Gong to pretend to be Falun Gong practitioners to interfere. Still, Falun Gong practitioners maintained a peaceful and compassionate mindset, and hoped that those people could learn the truth. During the activities, practitioners often communicated with the police and had conversations with them, learning that the Chinese Communist Party had exerted great pressure on Peruvian national police.

On the evening of January 27, 2005, when Falun Gong practitioners went to the Chinese Embassy to appeal, plainclothes police were everywhere. A Chinese man sat in a police car. Upon seeing practitioners holding photos depicting torture methods used to persecute Falun Gong practitioners in China, he became very angry and called for a van of police to force practitioners to remove all of the photos. Practitioners peacefully clarified the facts to the police, and when the police saw the photos that depict the Jiang regime's brutal persecution of Falun Gong, they were shocked and showed sympathy for the practitioners' ordeal. When witnessing the practitioners' peaceful, harmonious and kind actions, the police were touched. Some gave the practitioners a thumbs-up to show their support, and some took flyers from practitioners and told the practitioners that they would like to practice Falun Gong with their families. Before leaving, the police officers shook hands with each practitioner.

On the morning of January 28, Falun Gong practitioners from Peru, Venezuela and Argentina, together with their lawyer, went to the Peruvian National Prosecutor's Office to file a lawsuit against Zeng Qinghong, Jiang Zemin, Luo Gan and Bo Xilai.

Trying to Draw Public Attention Away from Zhao Ziyang's Death, Xinhua News Agency Publishes Hate Inciting Propaganda

On January 17, 2005, former Chinese leader Mr. Zhao Ziyang, who had been put under house arrest for fifteen years by the CCP, passed away. Mr. Zhao's death caused strong reactions in China and abroad. People, from the ordinary Chinese in China to top officials in the U.S., from Hong Kong representatives to the former Soviet Union leader Gorbachev, mourned his death, and gave high praise of his achievements. In contrast, the Chinese official media kept quiet about Zhao's death, and only reported his death with one sentence in the state newspaper.

The Chinese government apparatus went into high gear. Obituaries posted on the web by the official Xinhua News.net were quickly removed. It was easy to recognize the CCP's nervousness over this issue.

As expected, some pro-democratic individuals were put under close observation and house arrest. Plainclothes policemen were all over Beijing. Although the CCP had spared no effort to limit the news of his death, vehicles filled with wreathes and flower baskets arrived one after another. Calls for the redress of Zhao Ziyang became louder and more intense.

History has taught today's CCP leaders that the mourning of former leaders often leads to political realignment. One can only deduce that the CCP is most concerned and afraid of similar consequences arising out of Zhao's death.

To shift people's attention has always been, and still is, a most effective tool for the CCP. Two years ago, when the lies about SARS were exposed and the situation had reached a critical point, the Chinese official media broadcast 24-hour coverage of a Chinese mountain climbing team's ascent.

On January 18, 2005, the CCP remained true to their deceptive nature. The CCP's mouthpiece Xinhua News Agency broadcast the four year old CCP's staged "Tiananmen Square Self-Immolation" incident in attempt to shift the Chinese people's attention from Zhao's death and instill hatred against Falun Gong.

In the several years since the persecution started, the CCP and Jiang's regime have always incited hatred towards Falun Gong especially prior to Chinese holidays and important meetings. The Chinese New Year approaches, but the CCP and the Jiang regime's continued attempt to instigate hatred will not change the situation. The global trial for genocide, crimes against humanity and torture against Jiang and his followers cannot be stopped. The Chinese, and people around the world are gradually awakening and seeing through the CCP's tricks.

Falun Gong Practitioners in New York Call upon the Associated Press to Correct Its Misleading Report

On the morning of January 25, 2005, Falun Dafa practitioners in New York gathered to appeal in front of the Associated Press (AP) Headquarters in Manhattan. They called upon the AP to retract its report on the Tiananmen "Self-Immolation," which severely misleads its readers, to make a public apology for this mistake, and to report the facts surrounding the "self-immolation" incident and the persecution of Falun Gong to make up for the damage it has caused.

Background Information

Last Friday (January 21, 2005), the Associated Press (AP) published an article about the so-called "Tiananmen Self-Immolation." This "Self-Immolation" Incident is one of the primary tools used by Jiang Zemin's faction to turn public opinion against Falun Gong. Every January, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) brings forth some of the people that they allege took part in the "Self-Immolation," and uses them to denounce and slander Falun Gong. The AP article's content basically repeats the slanderous propaganda used by the CCP to attack Falun Gong. This type of article, which uncritically accepts propaganda from an unreliable source and reports it as fact, goes completely against journalistic integrity. In fact, this type of reporting supports the CCP's persecution of Falun Gong.

Foreign Journalists Have Never Had Real Freedom to Interview Practitioners

Foreign Journalists have never had real freedom to interview practitioners, because all the interviewees are arranged by the Party. The BBC quotes *Reporters Without Borders* in its report on December 4, 2001:

"Since the eradication campaign against Falun Gong was launched by the authorities, foreign journalists have systematically been hindered in their work on this topic. Foreign photographers and cameramen are prevented from working on and around Tiananmen Square where hundreds of Falun Gong followers have demonstrated for the passed years. According to Reporters Without Borders' estimations, at least 50 representatives of international media have been questioned. Some of them have been beaten by the police. The correspondents who have tried to cover the banned movement's activities have been harassed by the security services. Finally, many Falun Gong followers have been jailed for being interviewed by foreign journalists."

The reason the CCP is so afraid of independent media interviews is that it fears the truth about the persecution will become known by the general public.

Falun Dafa practitioner Mr. Zhao Ming was detained and tortured in China for twenty-two months. He revealed how Chinese labor camps deceive foreign media, based on his personal experience. He said, "One day in the second half of 2001, all Falun Dafa practitioners who refused to accept brainwashing and 'those not thoroughly brainwashed' were gathered in one place to watch videos. Later we found out this was because journalists were to conduct interviews at the Tuanhe Forced Labor Camp. The only ones left to be seen, whether doing labor or exercises, were those who had "met their brainwashing standards." Three people were interviewed, and they praised the living conditions and the human rights situation. These people were released early as a reward by the forced labor administration bureau. Some media were impressed by how they were allowed to interview the inmates freely. In fact they had no knowledge of the dark, behind-the-scene manipulation.

There are many suspicious elements about all of the purported immolators interviewed by the AP this time. Take Wang Jindong as an example, who reveals many contradictions even in the CCTV self-immolation footage. From the photos provided by CCTV, it is obvious that the Wang Jindong before and the Wang Jindong after the self-immolation are two different persons. CCTV used his sitting position and the words he shouted as evidence that Falun Dafa practitioners conducted the self-immolation. However, in the CCTV footage, the self-immolating Wang Jindong was not sitting in the position taught in Falun Gong, nor did the words he shouted comply with the teachings of Falun Gong. Anyone who genuinely understands Falun Gong would notice this immediately. Many other conflicting points were documented by an award winning TV program, *False Fire*, which can be found online at: <http://www.faluninfo.net/tiananmen/immolation.asp>

CCP Controls the Media in China

The CCP exerts outright control over the direction of the media in China, and it has done so ever since it came to power in 1949. The media in China is not journalism, but the means by which the CCP conveys information that the CCP wants the masses to receive. Thus it is merely a tool for the manipulation of thought in China.

For the persecution of Falun Gong specifically, the CCP-controlled media not only twists and turns events in ways to put a negative spin on Falun Gong, but even totally makes up stories to deceive people. The "Tiananmen Self-Immolation" is a perfect example of how the CCP's media, in cooperation with the CCP's police, staged an event and reported on it as though it were true. This carefully orchestrated "Self-Immolation," then became a key tool used to turn people in China against Falun Gong.

Media Should Report the Truth

Mr. Zhang Erping, a Mason Fellow of J.F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and President of the Falun Gong International Committee for Human Rights stated that it is common knowledge that Falun Dafa practitioners are being persecuted in China. The AP should be very clear on this fact. Some of their journalists have viewed the videotapes that reveal the truth of this staged "self-immolation" incident.

Zhang Erping stated that media should report the facts; however, the AP article is not based on facts, so it is helping the CCP slander Falun Gong. It damages Falun Gong practitioners' reputation, while at the same time presenting misinformation to the general public.

Mr. Zhang believes that in order to make up for the damage done, the AP is obligated to correct its mistake openly, apologize to Falun Gong practitioners, and report the truth of the Tiananmen "Self-Immolation" Incident.

Eastern Europe Welcomes and Supports Falun Dafa

In the sixty countries where Falun Gong is practiced, several of them are often mentioned by people due to their special history. They are the former communist countries of Eastern Europe, such as Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania, Belarus, Latvia, Lithuania, Ukraine, Estonia, Bulgaria, Croatia and Hungary.

At the end of the 1980s and the beginning of the 1990s, the political situation in Eastern Europe was changing rapidly. The communist system, which had been in control for decades, collapsed and the communist regimes in Eastern Europe failed one after another. In the process of breaking away from communist control and building up a democratic policy, people in these countries experienced a period of turbulence. A great amount of information about the persecution that was conducted and also hidden by the communist regimes was exposed to the light of day; people were shocked to see the Communist Party's true face of shame, evil and brutality.

During the five years that Falun Gong has been persecuted by the Chinese communist regime, people living in these former communist countries can understand more easily why a peaceful practice that is based on "Truthfulness, Compassion and Tolerance" would be persecuted so brutally, as they have personally experienced the horror and autocracy conducted by communist governments.

Forty-two-year-old Falun Gong practitioner Galina moved from Ukraine to Germany after the Ukraine communist government collapsed. She said, "I lived in Ukraine for thirty years. When I was in middle school, I already knew that the propaganda of the Communist Party was all lies. However, lies repeated a thousand times can become the truth of the people. China is also controlled by the Communist Party; the Chinese Communist Government used exactly the same measures to slander Falun Gong."

People who have gotten away from the tyranny have now regained their freedom of belief, and the light of "Truthfulness, Compassion and Tolerance" is shining all over Eastern Europe. Here, Falun Gong is extensively welcomed, and most people who practice Falun Gong in Eastern Europe are Westerners. While Falun Gong practitioners benefit from the improvement of both mind and body that the cultivation practice has brought them, they also make an effort to help practitioners in China, and sincerely hope that their fellow practitioners will obtain the freedom to practice that they deserve.

Voices of Justice

US Members of Congress Write to Ambassador of China to Again Express Their Serious Concerns about the Imprisonment of Dr. Charles Lee

On January 27, 2005, US Members of Congress Anna G. Eshoo and Tom Lantos jointly wrote a letter to Mr. Yang Jiechi, the Ambassador of China to the USA, to again express their serious concerns about the imprisonment of Dr. Charles Lee, who was arrested on January 22, 2003 upon arrival in Guangzhou Airport and has already served two years of his three year sentence on charges of sabotage. In light of Dr. Lee's heart condition and physical and mental abuses, the Members of Congress requested that he be released immediately.

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

January 27, 2005

Dear Ambassador Yang,

We're writing to again express our serious concerns about the imprisonment of Dr. Charles Lee, an American citizen. Dr. Lee was arrested on January 22, 2003 upon arrival in Guangzhou Airport and has already served two years of his three year sentence on charges of sabotage.

Since his incarceration, Dr. Lee has reported to U.S. officials that he's been physically and mentally abused. The reports are extremely disturbing, as are associated reports detailing the persecution of Falun Gong practitioners by Chinese authorities. We now understand that Dr. Lee has developed a heart condition in prison and is being monitored by prison doctors and U.S. Consular officials.

In light of Dr. Lee's failing health, and the long period of time he has already served, we are requesting that he be released from the final year of his sentence by granting him a medical parole.

We urge you to do everything possible to ensure Dr. Lee's safety and secure his immediate release.

Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

Tom Lantos
Member of Congress

Facts of the Persecution

China: Four Falun Gong Practitioners Receive Heavy Sentences for Exposing the Ms. Wei Xingyan's Incident

Mr. He Mingli (41 years old), Ms. Ma Shifang (56 years old), Mr. Yao Rongxuan (40 years old) and Ms. Wei Xiaoming (42 years old) were arrested for exposing the rape of Wei Xingyan (see below). On September 7, 2004, the Jiulongpo District Court in Chongqing City sentenced the four practitioners to prison. Mr. He received a sentence of 13 years of prison, while the other three practitioners received 7 years each. The so-called charge was "Utilizing an evil [*slanderous word omitted*] to hinder the enforcement of law." The practitioners filed an appeal as they thought the verdict was unjust. On November 15, 2004, the Intermediate Court of Chongqing City ruled that the original verdict is to be carried out. Both courts claimed that the Wei Xingyan incident was fabricated by practitioners.

In addition to the above four practitioners, other local practitioners including Chen Shumin, Lu Zhengqi, Yuan Qiuyan, Li Jian and Yin Yan, were also arrested and sentenced for their role in helping to expose the Wei Xingyan incident.

Background information: Ms. Wei Xingyan, 28, was a graduate student majoring in High Voltage Direct Current Transmission and Simulation Technology at Chongqing University. On May 11, 2003, she was arrested for clarifying the truth about Falun Gong and sent to the Shapingba District [610 Office](#) of Chongqing City to be interrogated. On the night of May 13, 2003, at the Baihelin Detention Center, a policeman raped her in front of two female detainees. Since then, Ms. Wei went on a hunger strike to protest the brutality of the police. Later, the police transferred her to an unknown location. After the rape of Wei Xingyan was exposed over the Internet, the 610 Office sealed all documents about Wei Xingyan at Chongqing University. They also ordered the university to claim that there was no such student named Wei Xingyan and that there was no such major of High Voltage Direct Current Transmission and Simulation Technology. The 610 Office also launched a mass arrest of local practitioners, as revenge for their exposing the truth.

Mr. Yang Xiaohai Given Illegal Trial, Court Appoints Strangers to Pose as Family Members in Jilin Province, China

At 8:20 a.m. on January 19, 2005, the Jiaohe City People's Court held an illegal trial of Falun Gong practitioner Mr. Yang Xiaohai from Naizishan, Jiaohe City, Jilin Province in Courtroom Eight on the second floor. Among the participants were officials from the Jiaohe Communist Party Committee and City Political and Judiciary Committee, members of the [610 Office](#), some staff from the Procurator's office, Chief Justice of the court and some office personnel. They even brought in some peasants from nearby villages to act as Yang Xiaohai's family members.

Before the trial, the court officials made the following arrangements: blocking information, not telling the family, not issuing a hearing permit (only the 610 Office could issue a permit in this trial against Yang Xiaohai), and denying hearing requests from family members.

During the illegal trial, the security in the courthouse was extremely tight. The gatekeepers were on duty outside the entrance, and from courtroom eight to the lobby. 610 Office personnel were all over the place. Outside the courtroom, police officers served as guards. Family members were kept away from the building. Mr. Yang Xiaohai was not allowed to hire a defense lawyer.

Yang's wife Guo Shiqing is 45 years old. Before she practiced Falun Gong, she was bedridden and could not live without the help of others. In 1995, she started to practice Falun Gong. Soon she regained her health and became capable of caring for herself and helping her husband to do farm work. After July 1999, when the government began to persecute Falun Gong, their home was repeatedly searched. Both of them were arrested, detained and their money was extorted. Police officer Wang Aisheng from the Naizishan Police Station even beat their young son.

Falun Gong Practitioner Zhang Peijin On Hunger Strike and on the Brink of Death in Chongqing, China

Falun Dafa practitioner Mr. Zhang Peijin worked at the Chongqing No. 9 People's Hospital. On December 18, 2004, Zhang Peijin was abducted and sent to the Yongchuan Labor Reeducation Prison. He has been holding a hunger strike since December 10, 2004 in protest of the illegal detention, and is severely dehydrated, emaciated, barely recognizable and is on the brink of death.

Mr. Zhang was illegally sentenced to three years of forced labor on August 31, 2000.

On August 20, 2004, Zhang Peijin was sent to the Beibei Police Department in Chongqing and was illegally held under criminal detention at Beibei Detention Center. He held a hunger strike for 42 days to resist the persecution. Authorities from the Beibei District Detention Center sent him to a hospital for treatment. Mr. Zhang's condition continuously declined during the more than one month of detention, and his body was swollen and weak. The authorities from the Beibei District Court and the detention center were afraid to take responsibility for his condition. On October 1, 2004, the perpetrators told his family to take him home on parole.

At 9:00 a.m. on December 10, 2004, perpetrators from the Beibei [Procuratorate](#) and from the Beibei Court broke into Zhang Peijin's home. They announced an illegal verdict of eight years of forced labor and abducted Mr. Zhang. It was freezing cold outside. The perpetrators took Zhang Peijin amid his family's heart-wrenching cries, without even permitting him to get dressed.

On December 18, 2004, Zhang Peijin was sent to the Yongchuan Labor Reeducation Prison. He started a hunger strike on December 10, 2004 and is now on the brink of death. Mr. Zhang was sent to the Yongchuan Prison Hospital on January 13, 2005.

After the Beibei District Court officials announced his sentence at his home, Zhang Peijin sent a letter of appeal to the Chongqing Intermediate Court, according to law. Within one week, before a verdict was reached, Mr. Zhang was sent to Yongchuan Prison Hospital, during which no legal procedures, such as questioning of the appellant and his lawyer, were followed.

A Call for Help to Save the 743 Falun Gong Practitioners Tortured in Masanjia Labor Camp, China

The Masanjia Labor Camp in Liaoning Province is the so-called "model" for Chinese labor camps where Falun Gong practitioners are being persecuted. The 743 Falun Gong practitioners currently detained there are being tortured physically and mentally, and have been deprived of their livelihoods.

After the past several years of persecution, the guards in Masanjia have become worse and more barbaric. In 2004 alone, there were many cases in which Falun Gong practitioners, after being tortured, became disabled, suffered mental collapse, and some have even died.

Ms. Lin Xiuqin, a Falun Gong practitioner from Benxi, was beaten by policemen Shi Yu, Zhang Chunguang and others. The beating caused several injuries and there are scars on her head and face even today. Ms. Lin is now mentally unstable as a result of the abuse. Ms. Zheng Juxiang, a Falun Gong practitioner from Dalian, was beaten by policewoman Lu Yaoqin. The severe beating resulted in Ms. Zheng suffering a mental collapse. Ms. Guo Xiuli, a practitioner from Benxi, was beaten and lost three teeth. Wang Shuhua from Shenyang was hung up and beaten for a week. Ms. Gao Yaxian, a practitioner from Shenyang, was forced to sit on an iron chair in the small cell with her mouth taped shut. Ms. Huang Yanjin, a practitioner from Chaoyang, was forced to hold the pose known as "flying an airplane" while standing on a chair with a sandbag hanging from her neck. These practitioners are still being jailed today.

The Masanjia Labor Camp abuses the practitioners who refuse to renounce their belief in Falun Gong with beatings, locking them up in a small cell, and forcing them sit on steel chairs. Beside these torture methods, the guards also use other methods, such as starving practitioners. Practitioners are given only a tiny pancake made of corn flour every day, with no vegetable of any kind or water. They forbid the practitioners from taking a bath for a long period of time, forbid them from using the restroom, and force the practitioners to work for excessively long shifts. The abuses are applied to practitioners of all ages, including those in their 20s, up to people in their 70s. During a 20 day period of "intensified persecution," organized by the Provincial Political and Judiciary Bureau and the Provincial Department of Public Security to break the will of steadfast practitioners, the brutality reached an extreme. While these practitioners endured heightened torture, sleep deprivation, brainwashing, and long hours of hard labor, they were prevented from making their situation known, as they were carefully hidden from visitors.

Other torture methods used at Masanjia include hanging practitioners up and beating them, shocking them with electric batons, tying practitioners' legs in the lotus position [*where the practitioner is seated with the legs crossed, one on top of the other*] for long periods

of time, and arbitrarily increasing the length of practitioners' prison terms. Some practitioners have been incarcerated for as long as five years. Sometimes the guards lock the practitioners in the restroom or storage rooms, and insult and humiliate them by tearing off their clothes. As further humiliation, they write slanderous anti-Dafa slogans on practitioners' bodies and hang defamatory placards on their necks. They also forbid practitioners' relatives from visiting their loved ones. Some of the relatives are allowed to visit, but are forced to stay in rooms that have been wiretapped, so the practitioners are not free to tell their family members about the abuses that take place at Masanjia.

The Masanjia Labor Camp also persecutes the practitioners financially. They do not allow relatives to bring in food or daily necessities, so practitioners have to buy them in the labor camp stores at exorbitant prices. The cost for lodging at Masanjia is equivalent to an expensive hotel. The guards also take away the practitioner's tea and sugar, as well as their commodity stipend of 12 [yuan](#), provided for the detainees' daily use according to labor camp rules. In five years, more than 5,000 practitioners have been incarcerated at Masanjia. Where did all the income from their labor go? In 2004, the 400,000 yuan income earned by the forced labor of practitioners planting in the spring and harvesting in the autumn, was all confiscated by the labor camp guards.

Since January 1, 2005, thirty practitioners in the First Team have been on a hunger strike to protest the abuse and illegal detention, and other practitioners are also protesting in the same way, and using other methods, to support them.

We call on all righteous people in the world to please help the practitioners in Masanjia Labor Camp.

Media Reports and Opinions

FDI: Homes Across U.S., Europe Get Chinese Communist Propaganda Phone Calls

Falun Dafa Information Center(FDI) reports: Scores of individuals in the U.S., Canada, and at least a dozen countries throughout Europe reported receiving phone calls today with recorded messages unmistakably from China's Communist regime. The messages contained propaganda demonizing Falun Gong and claiming the Chinese Government is defending "human rights" by "saving" people from the traditional Chinese practice.

Individuals described receiving such calls as "shocking," "disturbing," "outrageous," and "frightening." Most report receiving multiple phone calls; some received as many as six calls. The messages were in both Chinese and English. Calls came throughout the day, each carrying the same recorded message.

In all likelihood **this marks the first time in U.S. history that agents of a Communist nation have, undoubtedly under that state's direction, done a mass calling to U.S. homes and cell phones with recorded propaganda.** To FDI's knowledge this was not seen even in the cold war era. That China's Communist regime -- which now enjoys WTO status, UN Security Council Membership, and describes itself as a "friend" in the war on terrorism -- would do such a thing bespeaks of the regime's bizarre, irrational, destructive obsession with Falun Gong. While hundreds of millions in China live in poverty without healthcare or access to education China's leaders are doing tele-hate-marketing in foreign nations. What a sad day for China and its people.

Contents of the message are identical to propaganda from China's five-year-old campaign against Falun Gong. The message centered on reports by the Beijing regime attempting to link Falun Gong with an alleged self-immolation incident in 2001, which has since been exposed as a hoax. Sadly, the propaganda this time appropriates a recent article by the Associated Press-Beijing in an apparent attempt to gain credibility. (statement)

Of greatest concern is that these intrusive phone calls fit into the Communist regime's larger Falun Gong purge. The regime has worked tirelessly for years to discredit and demonize Falun Gong, hoping to bend public opinion. Human rights attorneys have likened China's vilifications to the deadly tactics of Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels (against the Jewish people in Nazi Germany) and those in Genocide-stricken Rwanda.

And now these vilifications are reaching into homes across North America and Europe.

Radio Free Asia: Event to Rescue Charles Lee Receives Support from U.S. Congress Members

Falun Gong practitioners from San Francisco area conducted a series of activities over the past few days to demand that the Chinese government release American citizen and Falun Gong practitioner Charles Lee, who has been incarcerated for two years in China. Their activities received support from U.S. Congress members. The following is a transcript of a report by Radio Free Asia correspondent in San Francisco, CK.

The Falun Gong activity was held in Union Square located in downtown San Francisco. According to Ms. Zhao Chen, the coordinator of the activity, since Charles Lee was arrested and sentenced to jail, the U.S. Consulate in Shanghai has negotiated with related Chinese authorities and reached the agreement that the U.S. Consulate can send an official periodically to visit Charles in Nanjing Prison. The U.S. Consulate in Shanghai would then update Charles' situation to San Francisco practitioners and Charles' fiancée Yeong-ching Foo through the U.S. Department of State.

Zhao Chen: According to recent news from the U.S. Department of State, Charles Lee has encountered some heart problems. We are very concerned about his health. Because of long periods of torture many Falun Gong practitioners' health has failed, and some have even died as a result.

Charles Lee was arrested at Baiyun Airport in Guangzhou City on January 22, 2003 when he went back from the U.S. to his home in Yangzhou, China. On March 22, the Yangzhou Court sentenced Charles to three years in prison for "sabotaging broadcast equipment" without any accurate evidence. Charles Lee went on hunger strike to protest his imprisonment in Nanjing Prison over the past two years, but he was force-fed. He was forced to work more than 10 hours a day. What is especially intolerable for Charles was the mental torture. Yeong-ching Foo once recounted his situation to this reporter.

Yeong-ching Foo: The Jiang group used various means to force Charles Lee to give up his practice of Falun Gong. When Charles did not do so, they then forced him to attend brainwashing classes.

Recently, Falun Gong practitioners' activities also received support from San Francisco Congresswoman, Minority Leader in the House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi and Co-Chairman of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, Tom Lantos. Pelosi met with Charles Lee's fiancée Yeong-ching Foo last week in Washington DC. Ms. Farrar from Lantos' office came to the Union Square to read a statement in support of Falun Gong practitioners.

Mr. Lantos' statement, read by Ms. Farrar, pointed out that we must make our stand clear to the Chinese government that we refuse to accept the physical and mental torture experienced by Charles Lee. We refuse to accept the unjust treatment toward hundreds of thousands of Falun Gong practitioners, until they are all released.

Daily Herald (Chicago): Mom, Son Reunite Despite Persecution

She missed eight years of her son's life and three years of her grandson's firsts - first words, first laughs, first steps.

He missed his father's funeral and he missed his mother. Very much.

Tuesday night at O'Hare International Airport, eight years of a personal and political struggle merged in a teary embrace between a mother and son who were separated, they say, because of communist China's crackdown on their [spiritual] beliefs.

Zhiwei "Tommy" Xu, a 34-year-old software engineer at Motorola in Schaumburg, and his mother Cui Zhang, 63, practice Falun Gong, a meditation its followers say leads to better health, less stress and more peace.

They've paid for that practice.

Zhang, who lives south of Beijing, has been jailed twice. Both have been stripped of their passports by the Chinese government, as has Xu's wife, Jing Zuo.

Thanks to the family's persistence and letters to the Chinese government in Beijing from the offices of U.S. Sen. Barak Obama and U.S. Rep. Melissa Bean, a Barrington Democrat, Zhang was able to secure a visa that will let her stay for one year with her son and his family in their Hoffman Estates home.

"To bring a mom here to visit her son is a common thing," Xu said. "But it's taken years."

Falun Gong is one of a number of groups perceived as a challenge to the authority of the Chinese government, in part because they number more than 70 million in China, said Alistair Hodgett, a spokesman for Amnesty International.

The government banned the practice of Falun Gong, also called Falun Dafa, in 1999. Since then, thousands of followers have been arrested and hundreds have died in police custody, Hodgett said.

"It's a crackdown," Hodgett said.

The Chinese consulate in Chicago did not return phone calls seeking comment.

Xu's hope is that the situation in China will end within the year, so his mother can safely return home. He wants to go back as well. If nothing changes in China, Xu said he will petition the United States government to allow his mother more time here.

But first, he said he hopes to make up for lost time, spending a sweeter-than-ever Chinese New Year with his family together. All except his father, who died in July 2003.

"My mom didn't tell me until after the funeral," Xu said. "She was afraid I'd go back and face the same persecution."

Following the 13-hour flight from Beijing, Zhang was greeted by her son, daughter-in-law, and about a dozen practitioners of Falun Gong, holding signs that read "Falun Dafa is good" and "Welcome Falun Gong practitioner Zhang Cui to the U.S."

After the embrace with her son, her eyes focused immediately on Henry, the grandson she never met.

"I love you," Zhang said to Henry, who seemed overwhelmed by it all. "I love you."

Marco Island Sun Times: Blacklisted Falun Gong Speaker Visits Rotary

Invited to the Noontime Rotary at the Olde Marco Inn Jan. 20, Zhang related a tale that many Rotary members later said they found "almost unbelievable."

Zhang is a Mason Fellow at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government in New York. He has degrees in diplomacy, law and psychology and a master's in education.

In 1994, when he was a visiting student at Harvard, he returned to Beijing to visit friends and family. While there, he observed his colleagues in the foreign ministry practicing an exercise that was described to him as Falun Gong, a "gentle form of self-enhancement emphasizing principles of truthfulness, compassion and tolerance." Zhang found it appealing enough to attend two seminars on his return to New York.

In the early 1990s, according to Zhang, the Chinese government promoted Falun Gong for its moral precepts and health benefits. Large groups of citizens throughout the country were encouraged to practice the exercises and meditation, and its teachers were awarded honors. The exercises are similar to those of T'ai Chi and the general philosophy is to "refine the body and mind through exercise and meditation." Lectures were given outside the country as well, including to a United Nations group in Geneva, Switzerland.

While the Chinese government was counting the amount of money it might save in health care from its citizens involved in daily Falun Gong, they were also aware that from 70 to 100 million people, including many members of the Communist Party were participating.

Falun Gong transcended all boundaries, Zhang said, and spread quickly by word of mouth.

"Communist ideology is based on atheism," said Zhang. "They try to suppress any kind of traditional teaching and values. They considered Falun Gong a threat and began to prevent people from practicing it. At first, the population reacted with a peaceful appeal, but on July 20, 1999, 100,000 practitioners were sent to labor camps and jails, and persecution began. Wherever Falun Gong practitioners met, they were arrested, beaten, taken to labor camps and reform centers and tortured."

Zhang showed a series of photos that had been smuggled out of China by foreign journalists. They told a gruesome tale of a university professor whose vocal chords were slit; eventually she died.

Rotary members asked why the practitioners of Falun Gong are being persecuted - are they plotting against the government? What else are they doing?

When Falun Gong was banned in China, no reasons were given, Zhang said, but obviously the number of practitioners exceeded the number of Communists.

"What other reasons are there?" Zhang asked.

Because of his knowledge, Zhang was recruited as a spokesperson on behalf of Falun Gong in America, and after testifying before the United States Congress, the United Nations, and other human liberties and rights associations, found he has been blacklisted and is no longer welcome in his mother country.

Between teaching assignments, he said, he travels in the United States to inform people about the situation and to encourage American companies not to import Chinese labor camp products that are made by Falun Gong prisoners.

Zhang was accompanied to Marco Island by Pia Maria Sandas, who explained the exercises and how they are aimed at physical health, energy, vitality and stress reduction. She led the Rotary members through the series of five exercises - four standing and one sitting to meditate - assuring everyone that there are no memberships or fees.

Falun Gong practitioners all over the world donate their time to teach others. Their instruction manual, music, and information are free to download from their Internet site at www.falundafa.org.

In cities with large Chinese communities, such as New York, Toronto and San Francisco, it is not uncommon to see silent protests in the main streets as Falun Gong practitioners and sympathizers hand out informational brochures. That's what happened to Rotary President Vince Magee on a business trip to New York recently.

"I was handed this flyer and I read it on the plane," he said. "I knew we had to help spread the word here."

McGee invited Zhang to come and speak to the Rotary Jan. 20.

One of the films at the Marco Island Film Festival was *Sandstorm*, a movie written and directed by Canadian Michael Mahonen.

It's not a film for the faint at heart. It shows, "the vicious persecution of 100 million people in China who are Falun Gong practitioners. It's a total cultivation practice that has spread by word of mouth, from village to village," said Mahonen, when he was on Marco Island, explaining that efforts by the Chinese government to suppress his movie

have actually increased its popularity. He deliberately made his main character a policeman who is responsible for trying to "convert" Falun Gong practitioners, although he realizes they are innocent of wrongdoing.

Zhang and Sandas plan to return to Marco Island in the near future by request, to teach the exercises to interested parties.

Falun Gong Practitioners' Noble Actions in China

Great Changes Occurred In the Entire Situation when We Closely Coordinated to Clarify the Truth

There are three Falun Gong practitioners who work at a day care center in Northeastern China and four practitioners retired from the center. In order to clarify the truth to their co-workers, they met a couple of times, analyzed every employee's attitude toward Falun Gong, coordinated with each other and clarified the truth directly to individuals.

For those co-workers who were deeply poisoned by the Chinese Communist Party's lies and were against Falun Gong, they sent two practitioners with some fruit to visit their homes. One practitioner sent out pure thoughts to cleanse the hostile environment, while the other practitioner clarified the truth to the deceived co-worker. It was very effective.

Now all the workers in the day care center; more than 50 people ranging from supervisors to the common workers have all accepted the truth about Falun Gong. Five people have started to learn Falun Gong, beginning their journey of cultivation. The company employees can now talk about Falun Gong in public and the practitioners can openly read the books.

On December 20th, 2004, a truth-clarifying material site received a donation of 700 yuan. That 700 yuan came from detained practitioners who had saved the money that their families had sent them to buy daily necessities in prison. Even though they were often body searched by prison guards, they still managed to save and transfer the money safely out of the prison. They requested that the money be used to make truth-clarifying materials. The detained practitioners told us, "What we are not able to do well [in clarifying the truth] in prison, so you must do well outside for us. Treasure your environment, and in the meantime maintain your powerful, righteous mindset, which strengthens detained practitioners."

Recently the temperature in many areas of Northern China has dropped extremely low and there has been a lot of heavy snowfall. In a village in Hebei province, after vehicles drove over the snow on the road, it became very slippery and many people fell down. When practitioners in the village saw this, they spent four days cleaning all the snow off the streets throughout the village.

Many passersby praised the practitioners. Some people gave them "thumbs up" and said, "Falun Gong is good!" Even the village officials were deeply moved, continuously saying, "You Falun Gong practitioners are all good people!" People on the street were all talking about how Falun Gong is good and how those people who practice Falun Gong are good people.

Faced with a Falun Gong Practitioner's Righteous Questions, a Chinese KGB Agent Flees in a Hurry

One local Falun Gong practitioner assertively upholds the reputation of Falun Dafa in all environments. His sister has been illegally sentenced to ten years for making Falun Gong truth-clarifying materials. He and his family members frequently appealed to the relevant departments and requested the release of his innocent sister.

One day in January 2005, he went to the local court with one of his family members to inquire about the details of his sister's case and her illegal sentence. As soon as he walked out of the court, he spotted a plainclothes special agent from the National Security Department holding a bicycle and closely following him. He did not panic, but turned around and walked toward the special agent while sending forth righteous thoughts. He asked the special agent assertively, "Who are you? Why are you following me? What's your name?"

The agent was shocked by the sudden and upright questions, dared not to answer anything, and hurriedly turned and ran away. The practitioner followed closely behind him. The special agent ran until he came to a police van. He got into the van with his bicycle, closed the door and hurriedly drove away.

Resisting the Persecution in Masanjia Forced Labor Camp

In May 2004, Falun Gong practitioner Wang Shuyan, who was illegally imprisoned in the First Brigade at Masanjia Forced Labor Camp, was taken to the "training building" to be "transformed". She had been on a hunger strike and her body was very weak. While the prison guards followed their orders to try and force Ms. Wang to renounce her belief, they also showed some sympathy, by offering her leftover food. Gradually, she recovered her strength. One day, the supervisor, Su Jing, came to ask Ms. Wang if she would give up her belief, but she refused. Su Jing became very angry and kicked Ms. Wang. Wang Shuyan told Su: "Tear down your hypocritical facade, all those methods you tried on me do not work!" Hearing these words, Su Jing was dumbfounded and embarrassed.

Toward the end of November 2004, a heavy snow caused branches to break off from many of the trees surrounding the labor camp, resulting in a power failure for over ten hours. That evening, Ms. Wang Shuyan and several other practitioners from different brigades who were also isolated in the so-called "Education Office," immediately started the meditation known as "sending righteous thoughts," in which practitioners send out pure, upright thoughts to eliminate the evil factors behind the persecution. When Wang Xiaofeng, the brigade head saw what Ms. Wang was doing, he ordered the criminal inmates who were in charge of watching the practitioners to hold down Ms. Wang's hand [*when sending righteous thoughts, practitioners hold the right hand vertically in front of the chest*]. His order, however, was ignored.

After running out of methods to stop Ms. Wang from sending forth righteous thoughts, Wang Xiaofeng finally said, "OK, OK, Wang Shuyan, you just send forth righteous thoughts here, and you don't have to go back to your cell to sleep." So Ms. Wang Shuyan sent forth righteous thoughts for an hour in the "Education Office" undisturbed. Later, she continually sent forth righteous thoughts and clarified the truth about Falun Gong. When the guards took her to the bathroom, she shouted, "Falun Gong is good!"

A guard found a cloth used for polishing shoes and stuffed it into Ms. Wang's mouth, but this still couldn't stop her from saying that Falun Gong is good. The guards then tried to distract Ms. Wang by tickling her underarms. They also dug at her eyes with their fingers and bent Ms. Wang's hands. Finally, they used packing tape to tape her mouth shut, wrapping it around her head several times. Even then, Ms. Wang still continued sending forth righteous thoughts.

Fellow Practitioners Acted as One Body to Free Me from Detention

In 2004, the police arrested me from my office because I practice Falun Gong. The local Falun Gong practitioners immediately started working as one body, using righteous thoughts and actions to eliminate the evil factors that were responsible for this big tribulation. Six months later, I was unconditionally released.

After I was arrested, one fellow practitioner visited another, whose brother is the chief of the local police station, to brainstorm on ways to free me. This practitioner had some concerns about her brother, so she hesitated at first. Another practitioner encouraged her, saying, "A fellow practitioner's well-being is our well-being. If a fellow practitioner has tribulations, we should help him." Finally, she faced her brother with courage. With her pure intentions, she aroused her brother's goodness and persuaded him not to report my case to the higher authorities. He also agreed that I had not done anything illegal.

In the meantime, my relatives also acted. They frequently visited my employer, as well as the local [610 Office](#) and the police department, to ask for my release. Falun Gong disciples also advised them and helped them by clearing away interference with their pure and upright thoughts. My colleagues also helped. Because of my previous truth clarification work, and that of other practitioners in my workplace, my colleagues had a good impression of Falun Gong. In fact, they actively clarified the facts to my boss. They also wrote a letter that objectively and justly summarized my work record and my character. My boss, too, sent a letter to the higher authorities. My classmates helped me by making phone calls.

The local practitioners joined together to do the meditation of "Sending Forth Righteous Thoughts" to eliminate evil interference, and cooperated very well as one body. Some of them meditated in front of the police station to cleanse that environment. Their efforts effectively eliminated the evil factors. Some practitioners also called the chief of the police station, sent him letters to expose the lies behind the persecution, and called for my immediate release.

I also looked within myself to find the cause of my tribulation. I had attachments to doing Falun Gong work and could not study the Fa with a calm mind. I was not diligent in my cultivation. I did not fully assimilate to the characteristics of Truthfulness, Compassion, and Tolerance, and I did not keep up with the things a Dafa practitioner should do in this crucial period. I spent less time on the Righteous Thoughts meditation and it became less effective. I was not diligent about driving out interference and did not cleanse my environment. Thus, the evil gained a chance to take advantages of my gaps.

Through studying the Fa, I realized that the most important reason that I did not thoroughly deny the invalid arrangement of being sent to the labor camp is that I had not put enough emphasis on studying the Fa. I did not fully understand how our shortcomings could be taken advantage of by the evil factors behind the persecution. If we maintain righteous thoughts and have a clear understanding of the Fa at all times, we will be immune to such interference. We can walk our righteous path only if we do well in all three things we are responsible for: Studying the Fa, sending forth Righteous Thoughts, and clarifying the truth to those deceived by the slanderous propaganda against Falun Dafa.

After I understood my situation from the perspective of the Fa, I began to study the Fa and recite the Fa with a calm mind and did the “Righteous Thoughts” meditation every hour. I felt my environment become more pure. In our physical dimension, this manifested in my unconditional release.

Our Teacher’s guidance and the help of my fellow practitioners made it possible for me to break through the tribulation. I am so grateful for our Teacher's compassion and my fellow practitioners' efforts. I will walk my path more righteously in the future. This tribulation caused me to realize that the power of righteous thoughts is infinite. As long as Falun Gong disciples cooperate as one body, we can definitely stop the persecution.

If a Falun Gong disciple in your area is illegally detained, local practitioners should share understandings based on the Fa and help to free this disciple. By clarifying the facts to all those concerned and sending forth righteous thoughts the desired effect can be achieved. It is an integral part of our important responsibilities during this crucial period.

Illegal Trial Fails to Reach a Verdict in Changyi District Court, Jilin City

On the morning of January 17, 2005, the Jilin City Changyi District Court held an illegal hearing to try four practitioners in courtroom four. The practitioners tried were Sun Jingyun, Wu Yuzhen, You Jinmei and Liu Chunhua.

Local practitioners learned about the trial several days beforehand and immediately organized several small conferences. They discussed how to expose the evil in Jilin City, how to clarify the facts, how to save people, and how to rescue fellow practitioners.

Some practitioners collected background material and phone numbers of key organizations as well as the phone numbers of those responsible. They sent the information to the Minghui website for worldwide publication. They also made flyers telling how the Changyi police are persecuting Falun Gong practitioners and giving news about the trial. They posted the flyers throughout the city to let everyone know about the upcoming trial. Some practitioners visited the families of the practitioners on trial and told them that their loved ones were innocent.

Practitioners located the courthouse near the river and informed everyone who planned to participate in the hearing of the location. Practitioners reminded one another to be rational and calm. They were determined to give the highest priority to truth clarification and saving from being deceived by the slanderous lies against Falun Dafa. They also began to send out their pure, upright thoughts to clear away all evil factors and interference.

Around 9:00 a.m. on January 17, 2005, before the trial started, dozens of practitioners arrived at the courthouse and waited at the front gate. Fearing public exposure of the illegal trial, the court had not informed the families of the practitioners to be tried, but some practitioners' family members still found their way to the hearing.

When the judge made slanderous remarks about Falun Dafa, practitioners Sun Jingyun, Wu Yuzhen and You Jinmei shouted aloud, "Falun Dafa is righteous! Falun Dafa is great!" They also clarified the facts about Dafa to everyone in the court.

When the judge suggested that court-appointed lawyers would "defend" the practitioners, Sun Jingyun, Wu Yuzhen and You Jinmei told the lawyers, "If you really want to defend us and argue for our innocence, then we agree to allow you to represent us. Otherwise, we do not agree to use you as our lawyers." The three lawyers were very embarrassed and, without a word, left the courtroom with their briefcases under their arms.

During the trial, the court only allowed people to say the things the court approved of, otherwise people were not allowed to speak. But this could hardly stop practitioners from speaking the truth and upholding the reputation of Falun Dafa.

Sun Jingyun, Wu Yuzhen and You Jinmei pleaded not guilty and demanded their immediate release. They kept calling out, "Falun Dafa is righteous! Falun Dafa is good!" The judge didn't know what to do and finally closed the session without a verdict.

The People Awaken to the Truth

A Veteran Policeman: "The Self-immolation Incident Was Faked"

While talking about the truth of Falun Gong to one of my relatives, a veteran policeman who just finished his service with the Beijing Police Force, told me, "The Chinese Communist Party is truly very dark. Whenever there was any conflict in my troop, the only solution was to fight and beat each other. Veteran police officers beating or extorting money from newer officers is regarded as a very normal thing. During the Chinese New Year of 2004, Falun Gong banners and flyers were hung or posted in our headquarters compound. The chief officers ordered that three layers of sentries be stationed around the police headquarters. The officers posted on the two outermost perimeters were dressed in plainclothes while police on the inside perimeter were in uniform. Police sentries were posted 24 hours a day during the entire first month of the new year. They were responsible for questioning all visitors and police officers, in order to catch Falun Gong practitioners."

He also said, "Sentries in Tiananmen Square were set up in the same way. Three circles of sentries were stationed. The police officers stationed on the outside and inside perimeters were uniformed, while officers in the middle were dressed in plainclothes. The number of policemen in plainclothes exceeded the numbers of visitors on the Square every day. It would be absolutely impossible for a person to have enough time to sit down, get into the lotus position [*both legs crossed, one on top of the other*], pour gasoline on oneself, then drink gasoline. They would not have the time or opportunity to act in this way on Tiananmen Square because as soon as they sat down, 7 or 8 plainclothes policemen would have appeared in front of them and dragged them to police cars. Those people who looked honest and well behaved were unable to pass the second perimeter of sentries. Police officers who have served as sentries on Tiananmen Square don't need to have the truth [*of the self-immolation incident*] explained to them; being aware of how sentries are arranged by their superior officers, they all understand that the self-immolation was faked."

From Monitoring Falun Gong Practitioners to Starting to Learn Falun Gong

The following story happened in Changtu County, Liaoning Province. One evening two years ago, a young man from the village and his dog were hanging around outside my house. I invited him to come inside and asked him, "What are you doing?"

He said, "I have nothing to do, just hanging around." I said, "I know the village arranged for you to watch Falun Gong practitioners." He said, "I am only trying to earn some money. I won't bother you if you practice at home." I said to him, "I know you are also doing this against your will. However, you should know that Dafa practitioners practice Truth, Compassion, and Tolerance. They are all good people. It is a sin if you persecute these good people."

Afterwards, I told him some detailed cases about those who treated Dafa with kindness being rewarded with good fortune and those persecuting Dafa receiving karmic retribution. After he heard this, he asked, "Is it really true?" I said, "How could it be not true? Think about it, you want to earn some more money, so you monitor Dafa practitioners; but your wife was sent to the emergency room on the evening of the Chinese New Year this year, and then was sent to the hospital for treatment. You couldn't have a good New Year, and spent over two thousand yuan to treat her illness. The money you earned by doing this was just enough to cover your wife's sickness. Would you say it is not true?"

After he heard that, it seemed like he understood. He said to me, "In fact, I do know that you practitioners are good people. I only want to earn some money. If I had known the consequences earlier, I wouldn't have done this at all, no matter what."

After that he asked me, "Aunt [*a respectful term for addressing an elder*], what should I do then?" I told him, "You must remember that Falun Dafa is good, Truthfulness, Compassion, and Tolerance are good, and treat practitioners with kindness. Protect practitioners, and you will receive good fortune." He said, "I will remember. From now on, I will no longer monitor Falun Gong practitioners."

After that he told me, "I also want to practice Falun Gong, do you think I could practice?" I said, "Our Teacher is compassionate; anyone can practice. If you really want to learn, I will come to your home to teach you, or you come to my home to learn. It will all be fine." He said, "Great. I will learn with you from now on."

The local officials take advantage of people's shortsighted personal interest to entice them to monitor their fellow villagers and do things against the law and against their will. What's heartening is that this young man has come to realize the truth, and has chosen a bright path for himself.

A Sympathetic Farmer Decides to Foster the Orphan of Two Falun Gong Practitioners

A farmer from Jilin City, Jilin Province is honest and kind to others. His neighbor is a Falun Gong practitioner, and he admires practitioners for their noble character, as they follow the principles of Truthfulness, Compassion, and Tolerance at all times. When he saw that practitioners were seized, put into labor camps, sentenced, and even murdered for clarifying the facts to save others from being deceived by the slanderous lies against Falun Dafa, and their children were left with no one to take care of them, he was very troubled. He talked it over with his wife and they decided to take care of an orphan whose parents were Falun Gong practitioners.

His family is not rich at all, and their livelihood depends on hard labor and his little bit of farmland. One time, he gave 100 yuan to a Dafa practitioner and said: "This is just a small way of showing our regard for you. Use it to clarify the facts and save the world's people." He often reads truth-clarifying materials and understands that Jiang's regime uses deception to persecute Falun Dafa practitioners. He also tells his friends and relatives to treat Dafa practitioners well and to try to follow the principles of Truthfulness, Compassion, and Tolerance. He tells them that if they do this, good fortune will then surely come in the future.

Falun Gong Practitioners' Personal Experiences

My Sister Practiced Falun Gong and Her Life-threatening Illness Disappeared

By a Falun Gong Practitioner from Liaoning Province

In the summer of 1995 my sister was 16 years old. One day that summer she felt a sudden pain in the area of her cervical vertebrae, and her fingers became numb. It was so painful that she could not hold back her tears. In March 1997, my sister's fingers became numb again. The numbness then spread to her back, and became increasingly serious. She then had a magnetic resonance (MRI) test at the local hospital and discovered the illness. The test result indicated that there was a tumor the size of a grain of sorghum between the fourth and fifth vertebrae. The doctor told my parents that the hospital was not able to treat it, that they must seek treatment at a hospital in Beijing. My parents became very worried.

On April 8, 1997, the local hospital referred us to Xuanwu Hospital of Capital University of Medical Sciences in Beijing, a nationally recognized hospital that specialized in the treatment of neurological and internal illnesses. My mother and sister went together to this hospital. By that time, my sister had difficulty walking or raising her hands, because the tumor had grown larger.

When they reached the hospital, experts examined my sister. The results were conveyed. The doctor asked my mother why my father had not come with them. My mother said that my father wasn't well, that he had heart disease and cerebral thrombosis. The doctor said my sister's condition was serious and he feared that my mother might not be able to make the decision alone. He advised that my father come to the hospital to discuss my sister's treatment options. Without any other choice, my ill father went to the hospital in Beijing.

The doctor met with my father and told him that hope for my sister's recovery was minimal. The tumor not only pressed against a limb nerve, but also pressed against a nerve of the respiratory system. That was why her breathing was labored. The doctor indicated that she would not get off the operating table if the respiratory system nerve was harmed. The doctor didn't have any confidence about surgery being successful for her. They had never treated this kind of case. My sister's situation was a tough one.

After more than 20 days in the Xuanwu Hospital, the doctor suggested that we take my sister home, since she did not look ill and was still able to move around. The doctor, however, believed that, because the tumor was growing, my sister would soon become paralyzed. The doctor indicated that when this happened, we could bring her to the hospital again. The doctor thought there were several benefits to this approach. First, the patient would not suffer a sudden death, she would have more time to live. Secondly, my parents would not have to suffer the grief of immediately losing a child,

as my sister could lie in a bed for a period of time. With a later surgery, even if it were unsuccessful, the family would not suffer as much, and if the surgery would be successful, then we would be very fortunate. Since modern medical technology could not cure my sister's illness, having more money would not have made any difference.

On May 8, 1997, my parents and my sister came back home and waited helplessly. Just as the doctor had predicted, my sister soon had to stay in bed. My parents, in their 60s, took care of all of her daily needs. My sister could only talk a little and raise her hands. Her breathing became more and more labored. The situation was very painful for her and for my parents.

My parents would not give up; they kept searching for a cure. They tried the approach of Chinese traditional medicine to treat her illness. My sister also took various drugs. Nothing worked. Her condition became increasingly worse with each day.

One day I received a letter from one of my grandparent's brother. In the letter he recommended Falun Gong and said Falun Gong was the only hope for my sister. The next morning my parents, full of hope, went searching for a Falun Gong practice site. They met Falun Gong practitioners, borrowed a cassette of exercise music, and located a practice site. My sister started listening to Teacher's recorded lectures. A miracle occurred right away: her labored breathing became normal again. Very quickly she could manage to change sides of the cassette by herself. On the third day, miraculously, she was able to sit up. The family was amazed. Three days later she could manage to get out of bed and relieve herself. On the 7th day, my father joyfully went to the practice site and learned the exercises. It took him two mornings to learn the exercises. On the 9th day, he began to teach the exercises to my sister. When they were doing the 4th exercise (the Falun Heavenly Circuit) my sister's hands could not extend below her knee. My father told her to try her best, but she still could not do so. The next day, (her second attempt to practice) she was able to reach her hand to the full position. On the 7th day of practicing the exercises, my sister expressed that she wanted to go to the practice site. My parents worried about her mobility. My sister said that she would be fine, she could try to walk a little and then stop to rest a bit. She got up at 4:30 a.m. the next morning and walked to the practice site without stop. When she reached her destination my parents were so amazed and happy that they did not know what to do or say. All of these miracles that occurred were unbelievable. However, they did happen. My sister was so touched she could not hold back her tears. She survived because of Falun Dafa, which gave her a second chance at life. Falun Dafa brought renewed happiness to my family. My whole family did not know how to express our gratitude to Teacher. My father bought Dafa books and Teacher's recorded lecture, and started to joyfully practice Falun Gong with my sister. Later, my mother and I began practicing as well, and we were bathed in Buddha's infinite grace.

In the past my father's heart wasn't well. He often took heart medicine. In 1992, he suffered cerebral thrombosis. At one point he had to stay in a hospital for a few months. His condition was not good. After practicing Falun Gong my father no longer needed to take drugs, as the cerebral thrombosis had disappeared. In addition to the miracle that occurred with my sister, the whole family was indescribably happy. Every time we mentioned Teacher's compassion, we were moved and tears poured down. It is hard to describe the feelings we had.

Today my sister has resumed work at her previous company. She's married and has a child. Her family lives a happy and fulfilling life. Many people in our circle of friends know about the miracle. One of my friends once hosted a wedding party for a couple. At the party he heard someone slander Falun Gong and my friend spoke up to clarify the truth to that person. He said, "My friend's sister was once paralyzed and after she learned Dafa she was able to stand up, I saw it with my own eyes. What you see on TV is fabrication." In 2003, he hosted my sister's wedding. At the wedding, my father said the following, "To my daughter's new life. Who I should thank for it you all know...." That was right, the people who went to the wedding all knew about it. It was Teacher, Li Hongzhi who saved my sister. It was Falun Dafa that gave my sister another life. Because of this family and friends had the opportunity to come together and celebrate the wedding.

I write our story to share our experiences, and to tell people, "Falun Dafa is Good, Falun Dafa is a righteous way." We want to share the goodness of Falun Dafa with all compassionate people in this world. Falun Dafa has brought so much happiness to my family. We also wish that those who have been misled by Jiang and his followers' lies will see through the fabrications and wake up quickly. Only then, like us, will you be given the same great heavenly fortune from Falun Dafa.