

Clearwisdom Digest

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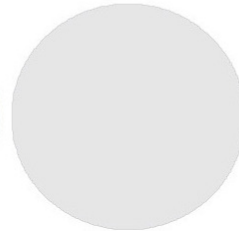
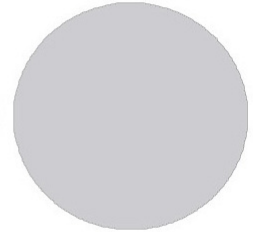
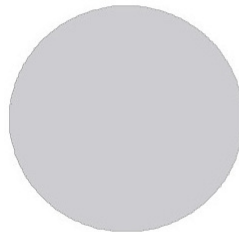
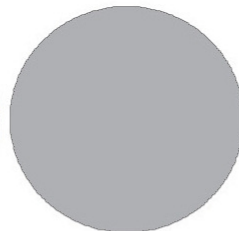
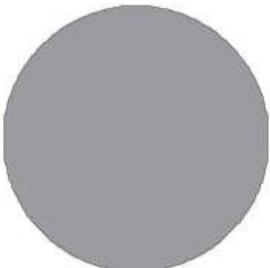


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News and Events from Around the World



Washington DC: Two Thousand Falun Gong Practitioners Hold Candlelight Vigil to Mark Eight Years of Persecution



On the evening of July 20, 2007, more than two thousand Falun Gong practitioners gathered for a candlelight vigil, commemorating their fellow practitioners tortured to death by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), calling for an end to the eight-year-long brutal persecution, and hoping the world's people will awaken to the facts.



Lisa Fan, one of the organizers of the event, said, "In the face of brutal persecution and even killing, Falun Gong practitioners compassionately, peacefully, and relentlessly spread the facts to those deceived by CCP lies.

The persecution should not happen. It is so brutal that practitioners in China suffer great hardship. It is a challenge of conscience for every person in China. Falun Gong practitioners come to Washington each July to hold activities that help more and more people learn the truth about the persecution of Falun Gong, and take steps to end it.

Persecution of Falun Gong Demonstrates the CCP's Evil Nature for the Whole World to See

Mr. Kan Hung-cheung from Hong Kong said, "The large scale deportation and denial entry of Falun Gong practitioners to Hong Kong in late June and early July was ordered by Zeng Qinghong, one of the prime culprits in the persecution of Falun Gong. The purpose is to maintain the persecution and to bring more people into the crime."

He pointed out that the mass deportations showed the world that the CCP's promise of "no changes for 50 years" in Hong Kong is a lie. Wherever the CCP is, there are human rights infringements. He believes that the persecution of Falun Gong will be the CCP's final struggle as it forces itself into a dead end due to its persecution of Falun Gong.

Falun Gong Brings Practitioners Great Benefits, So Naturally They Stand Up to Defend the Practice and Call for an End to the Persecution

A practitioner from Japan started practicing Falun Gong in 1998. She brought two sons and her nephew to participate in activities in Washington this week. Asked why she traveled thousands of miles across the Pacific Ocean, she said, "After practicing Falun Gong, I benefited both physically and mentally. My family also benefits. I feel I must spread the facts and call for an end to the persecution."

She said she had heart disease since she was young. After giving birth, her health deteriorated. After practicing Dafa for one month, she became healthy and her hot temper also changed. Her sister saw her change and started practicing Falun Gong. After the persecution started, her family advised her to give up practicing. After thinking it over, she realized, "I have made the right choice. I choose to continue practicing Falun Gong."

The practitioner from Japan pointed out that CCP's lies deceived many Chinese people. Experiencing the grace of Dafa and as Chinese people, she said she wanted to explain the fact to those Chinese people deceived by CCP.

Katarina Hallf, a practitioner from Switzerland, has practiced Falun Gong for near ten years. Sissel Thomsen from Norway has practiced for five and a half years. They indicated that they have benefited greatly from practicing Falun Gong and feel compelled to call for an end to the persecution and have more people learn the facts.

"The persecution must be stopped."

Darveen, a tourist from India, said that he and his mother passed by and heard the melodious music. They walked toward the music and were moved by the solemn and grand scene they encountered. Hearing about the brutal persecution in China, he said, "This persecution must be stopped."

Falun Gong Practitioners Establish a Moral Milestone Illuminating Eternally for Human Beings

Ms. Lisa Fan pointed out, "In the persecution, the CCP damages basic standards of human morality and drives itself into a dead end. Falun Dafa practitioners validate the principles of Truth-Compassion-Tolerance with their lives, safeguarding justice and peace, establishing a moral milestone that will be long remembered by humanity."

Vancouver, Canada: Falun Gong Group Holds a Rally to Protest Violent Assault Incident

On the afternoon of August 4, 2007, Falun Gong practitioners held a rally in front of the Chinese Consulate in Vancouver. They protested against the Chinese Consulate for continuously spreading hate propaganda overseas to smear Falun Gong. They also protested the incident that occurred on August 2 when three gunmen violently assaulted and intimidated a peacefully protesting Falun Gong practitioner in front of the Chinese Consulate. The practitioners called on the police to conduct a thorough investigation so as to bring the perpetrators and instigators behind the scenes to justice as soon as possible. The chairman of the trade union at the British Columbia Hospital, a former MP and the chairman of Friends of Falun Gong and other dignitaries attended the rally.

At 5:30 a.m. on August 2, 2007, three Asian men intimidated and violently assaulted a Falun Gong practitioner in front of the Chinese Consulate in Vancouver. The thugs tore up the persecution-protest display boards, and kicked several large holes in the blue wooden hut that has sheltered practitioners who have maintained a vigil there for five years. One of the men held a handgun and confronted practitioner Mr. Zhang Chunyu, who was meditating. The man held his gun to Mr. Zhang's temple, and shouted, "Go away, you should not be here." He then punched Mr. Zhang in the eyes and head, causing Mr. Zhang to sustain a fractured bone under his left eye and bleeding in his left eye.

A representative from the Falun Dafa Association read a statement at the rally. The statement said that incidents of assault, intimidation and harassment have often occurred against Falun Gong practitioners during the past few years in Canada. These incidents have often been directly linked to the Chinese Embassy and Consulates, or residents of the community who were under the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) officials' direct command, or caused by hate propaganda against Falun Gong spread by the CCP diplomatic missions.

Over the past eight years of the CCP's persecution of Falun Gong, many practitioners in Canada have also been subjected to serious spiritual persecution, such as the CCP's blacklist, being monitored by CCP special agents, and receiving physical threats, and threats against their family members in China. Falun Gong practitioners have often been harassed by phone calls originating in China, and have had their email accounts attacked. Some practitioners have been deprived of their rights. For example their visa applications and renewals of Chinese passports are denied or delayed, and the Chinese community does not recognize Falun Gong due to the CCP's instigation.

The Falun Dafa Association of Canada called on the Canadian government and police agencies to pursue responsibility of the assault incident, and stop Chinese Consulate officials from harassing practitioners and spreading hatred.

The chairman of the trade union at British Columbia Hospital Fred Muzin said that this was an unusual intimidation incident. The gunmen's purpose was to scare these protesters into leaving the site. The violent attack on Falun Gong practitioners is not only a human rights violation against a single group, but also a human rights violation against all Canadian people.

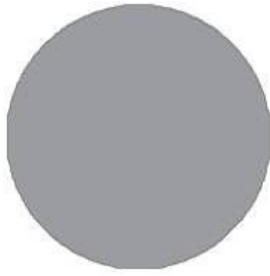
Former MP Cima said that the attack on Falun Gong is not the first and we should learn a lesson. She called on Canadian Prime Minister Harper and the Foreign Affairs Minister to investigate every individual who works in the Chinese Consulate in Vancouver, and put all perpetrators in jail. She said that Falun Gong was being attacked, which means that no one else is safe.

The chairman of Friends of Falun Gong Sadie Kuehn said that it is known that the Chinese Consulate set up a video camera to monitor Falun Gong practitioners' protests. If we want to know who the gunmen were, the simplest way is to ask the Chinese Consulate to make its videotape available to the public, and then everything will be clear. Moreover, the Chinese Consulate serves on the soil of Canada and should abide by the law, cooperate with the police and hand over the videotape to assist in the investigation.

She said that the CCP is undoubtedly persecuting Falun Gong practitioners in China. However, Canada does not allow such a thing to happen. She called on the three levels of Canadian government and the judicial system to seriously investigate this vicious assault incident, punish the perpetrators according to the law, and ensure that Falun Gong practitioners' human rights are not violated.

Falun Gong practitioner Zhang Chunyu also attended the rally. He said that he still felt horrified recalling the scene. Zhang said that it is very simple to see who was behind this incident. It was those who do not want to see Falun Gong practitioners protesting at the Consulate. Zhang said that he will not be intimidated, and will continue protesting there.

Facts of the Persecution



The Deaths of 20 Falun Gong Practitioners Confirmed in June 2007

The deaths of an additional 20 Falun Gong practitioners as the result of persecution have been confirmed in June 2007. Fourteen practitioners died between January 2007 and June 2007; six died in June 2007. Fourteen were women, accounting for 70 percent of the overall death toll. Eight were older than 50. Liu Liang from Jiaozhou City, Shandong Province was 24, the youngest victim.

Since the Chinese Communist regime and Jiang Zemin's group launched the persecution targeting Falun Gong on July 20, 1999, the deaths of at least 3,062 Falun Gong practitioners in China have been verified. Many more cases--including practitioners whose organs were harvested while alive--remain covered up due to the Communist regime's information blockade.

Falun Gong practitioners are persecuted and forced into exile; they are illegally fired from their jobs or expelled from schools; their families are destroyed; they endure numerous forms of torture including psychiatric abuse, sexual assault, and brainwashing; and some are killed through live organ removal--all because they remain steadfast in their belief in Truthfulness-Compassion-Tolerance and insist on their right to be good people. They are guarding the interests of all humankind as they struggle to uphold the right to be good people.

The 20 deaths exposed in June took place in ten provinces and cities. Four were in Hebei Province, four in Shandong Province, three in Jilin Province, and three in Beijing. One incident happened in each of the following provinces: Liaoning, Hunan, Hubei, Guangdong, and Shanxi.

Many practitioners were killed during the most recent round of CCP-ordered persecution. According to media reports, Security Deputy Minister Liu Jing has been told to eradicate Falun Gong before the 2008 Beijing Olympics Games. He has issued orders to police departments throughout the country, demanding concerted efforts to achieve this goal. Security Minister Zhou Yongkang issued an order to launch another round of escalated persecution followed by large-scale arrests of Falun Gong practitioners.

Ms. Wei Fengju Dies after Six Years of Persecution in Forced Labor Camps

Ms. Wei Fengju was a teacher at the 4th Middle School, Dongfeng County in Jilin Province. For practicing Falun Gong, she was [illegally sentenced](#) to forced labor three times, for a total of almost six years. During the detention she became very debilitated and was no longer able to work. On April 13, 2007, she was released and returned home. After three months, her health still had not recovered. She was very thin and not able to take care of herself. At 4:15 p.m. on July 12, 2007, she died at the age of 50.

While in detention, Ms. Wei was subjected to all kinds of torture. Guards shocked her with electric batons. Her mouth became disfigured. When she was detained in the labor camp the last time, around the 2007 Chinese New Year, she had pain in her abdomen and could not eat. She asked to see a doctor. Since the doctor of the camp clinic was not around, her pain was not treated until she was released. After going home, she became emaciated and could not eat. Her situation got worse and worse, and in the end, her urine became bloody.



Wei Fengju on July 11, 2007, the day before she passed away

Wei Fengju started cultivating Falun Gong before 1998, and many illnesses she had disappeared without a trace. After the Jiang regime started to persecute Falun Gong on July 20, 1999, she still sincerely cultivated. She was arrested on December 30, 1999, because she went to Beijing to appeal for Falun Gong. On the night of January 1, 2000, policeman Chen Shuangyou from the Dongfeng County Political Security Section (now the National Security Team) in Jilin Province escorted her back by train. She was detained in the First Division of the Heizuizi Forced Labor Camp for a year.

In the First Division of the Heizuizi Labor Camp, practitioners were forced to work hard for 17 to 20 hours per day. They could only sleep for an hour or two at night. Sometimes they were not allowed to sleep at all. The guards also ordered other inmates to take turns watching the practitioners. They did not allow practitioners to talk to each other. In winter, practitioners had to use icy cold water to shower. One day, all the team leaders, guards from the First Division, policeman Yang, and Chief Lian from the administration section forced the practitioners in the First Division to stand in line.

They shocked every practitioner with electric batons. The guards shocked Wei Fengju's chest.

Wei Fengju's term was extended by two months. She was released in March 2001. The school did not restore her position, so she had no source of income. Her husband divorced her and did not leave her any property. She did not have a place to stay. Her child was just 15 years old at that time and there was no one to take care of the child.

On January 15, 2002, Wei Fengju was arrested again because she [clarified the truth](#) about Falun Gong. She was detained in the Heizuizi Forced Labor Camp in Changchun City for over three years. She was released in the first half of 2005. She went to her old school to ask for her job back, but the school did not restore her position. The [610 Office](#), the politics and law committee, the education bureau, and the school in Dongfeng County shifted responsibility from one to the other. Later they framed her and asked her if she still practiced Falun Gong. She said, "Yes." Then they told her to sign a document. After she signed the document, they took the document as "evidence" for her arrest. They followed her for twenty days and arrested her again in October 2005. She was detained in the Heizuizi Forced Labor Camp for one and a half years, and was released on April 30, 2007.

While Wei Fengju was detained, her mother passed away after being paralyzed and bedridden for 18 years. Camp officials did not allow Wei Fengju to go home and see her mother's face for the last time. The camp never allowed her family members to visit her.

After going home, Wei Fengju never regained her health. She could not take care of herself and was very thin. Only her 70-year-old father took care of her. Soon, his health became worse and by the time of her death he could barely walk.

Shijiazhuang City Police Arrest Falun Gong Practitioners

In June 2007, many Falun Gong practitioners in Shijiazhuang City were arrested. Shijiazhuang authorities converted a building inside Shijiazhuang Forced Labor Camp and established a brainwashing center meant for Falun Gong practitioners. There were two people in each room, a practitioner and an unemployed person hired by authorities to watch the single practitioner around the clock. The police arrested practitioners and handed them over to their employers. The practitioners' families or employers had to pay the so-called "tuition" for the brainwashing center.

Police officers in Shijiazhuang have often used the excuse of "someone reported you giving out fliers about Falun Gong" to harass, search, or [illegally arrest](#) practitioners. Police often arrest practitioners at will. It is mandatory for every police officer to "visit" four practitioners and arrest them if possible. Practitioners who were recently arrested are persecuted in the newly established brainwashing center in Shijiazhuang Forced Labor Camp. Several practitioners from Shijiazhuang and Baoding are already being held in the brainwashing center.

Practitioner Mr. Yang Yulu used to work in Shijiazhuang Financial Bureau. On June 18, 2007, Mr. Yang's employer talked to him about his cultivation practice. Mr. Yang talked about how his health had improved after practicing Falun Gong. On June 20, 2007, the local police arrested Mr. Yang and put him in prison, where he remains to this day.

At noon on June 22, 2007, the policemen from Qiaoxi District Branch arrested practitioner Song Aichang at his home.

On June 21, 2007, Deng Fang from Shijiazhuang National Security Group arrested practitioner Mr. Cui Lixin. Deng and officers from Yucai Police Station searched his home. Mr. Cui refused to cooperate with the unreasonable demands of the police and was beaten many times. His head and arms were injured and he was locked up in Zanhuang County Prison. Mr. Cui went on a hunger strike and was later released.

On the afternoon of June 21, 2007, Li Jun, deputy chief of Yuhua District Police Branch, received an order from the higher authorities and commanded all police officers in the district to participate in a series of actions to arrest Falun Gong practitioners.

On June 21, 2007, police from Yuhua Street Police Station arrested practitioner Hua Fengxiang, who used to work for Xinhua News Agency. The police searched Hua's home at night but found nothing. Hua strongly protested and was released. On the evening of June 22, an officer from the district in which Hua lived arrested Hua at home. The next morning, Hua was sent to a brainwashing center from the Yuhua Street Office.

Practitioner Zhang Wenjing was from Gangtou Village, Shijiazhuang. On the afternoon of June 21, 2007, officials from Yuhua Street Police Station went to search Zhang's home with the excuse of "someone reported you giving out Falun Gong-related fliers and contacting practitioners in Hong Kong." Zhang wasn't home at the time.

Authorities from Yuhua District Police Branch and Yudong Police Station subpoenaed Mr. Gai Wufan and his wife many times. Mr. Gai was sent to a brainwashing center in June.

Zhuodong Police Station officials arrested Mr. Du and his wife (friends of Gai Wufan) and confiscated their child's computer. Because Mr. Du and his wife were concerned about the trial of practitioner Wang Bo, the police interrogated them many times about the trial. The two practitioners were later released.

At 3:00 p.m. on June 21, 2007, a dozen police officers from Yuhua District Police Branch went to practitioner Mr. Liang Yening's workplace and took away his work computer. Later, the police went to Mr. Liang's home to conduct a search. Four of the officers stayed at Mr. Liang's home, waiting to arrest him, and did not leave until later that night.

Ms. Yang Congmei on the Verge of Death, Police Refuse to Release Her

Ms. Yang Congmei is a Falun Gong practitioner from Xindu District, Chengdu City, Sichuan Province. Her father has requested again and again to see his daughter ever since she was arrested three months ago. The chief of Xinmin Town Judicatory Office, Liu Qingquan, and officials from Hedun Group agreed to pass the word to the other officers, allowing the visitation. When he finally saw his daughter in the Xindu County Hospital on July 13 and 14, 2007, she was on the verge of death.

When Ms. Yang's father saw her, she had a black eye, her lip was bruised, her face was pale, and she was on the verge of death. Even in this frail condition, she was still wearing heavy shackles.

Her father requested that she be released and allowed to return home. The guards said that even if she died, they did not care. They would allow him to see his daughter, but they would not release her.

Since April 4, 2007, when Ms. Yang Congmei was arrested by the police of Xindu District Police Branch and Sanhe Police Station, her family had been looking for her everywhere. The related departments refused to allow them to see her. Her husband, Zhou Houchun, was working out of town when he heard the tragic news. Mr. Zhou quit his job and planned to go home, but was arrested by the police from Jiuchi Town in Pengzhou City where he worked.

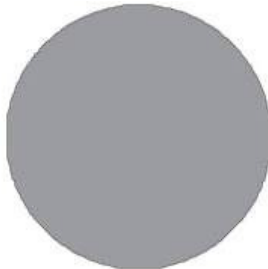
Ms. Yang Congmei lived in Hetun Village, Xinmin Town. She started to learn Falun Gong in 2002 at a detention center from other practitioners who were also detained there. She was originally sent there due to a criminal conviction. Since that time, she has changed her character and lived according to the principles of Truthfulness, Compassion, and Forbearance. Her physical health and mentality underwent a great change.

On April 4, 2007, at 10 a.m., four police cars transporting a dozen police officers arrived and the policemen broke into Ms. Yang's beauty shop, pushed her to the ground, then went to search her home. She was taken to a brainwashing center and later sent to Xindu Detention Center.

On June 29, Ms. Yang's mother Fan Xiuying went to Xindu Hospital to see her daughter while Ms. Yang was on a hunger strike, but her request was denied by the guards. The guards of the detention center dialed 110 (emergency) and called several police officers to surround and beat Fan Xiuying, injuring her limbs and pushing her into a police car, while abusing, insulting, and intimidating her.

Ms. Yang Congmei is on the verge of death, and even though the officers agreed to a family visit, they refused to release her.

Voice of Justice



Spokesman for Doctors Against Organ Harvesting: "We believe that the most atrocious violations of ethical standards in medicine in the 21st century take place in China - right now."

On July 19, 2007, Falun Gong practitioners from Europe, the United States, Asia and other places around the world held a rally on Capitol Hill in the United States to call for the disintegration of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and an end to the persecution. A number of U.S. Congress members, officials from non-governmental organizations, human rights lawyers and victims of the persecution spoke at the rally. They urged the CCP to immediately stop the persecution of Falun Gong that has persisted for eight years. The following is a statement by Dr. Torsten Trey, spokesman for Doctors Against Organ Harvesting.

Greetings Everyone!

First, let me thank the organizers for inviting me to this rally. I am speaking today on behalf of Doctors Against Organ Harvesting, a not-for-profit organization with the mission to inform the medical community and patients about allegations of forced live organ harvesting in China. We do not oppose ethical practices of organ donations performed with the voluntary and fully informed consent of the donor. But we were alarmed by reports emerging from China of forced organ removals that are performed against the will and without the consent of the donor. We are greatly concerned about ever-accumulating evidence, indicating that the recent transplantation boom in China is based on unethical and unacceptable medical practices. We believe that the most atrocious violations of ethical standards in medicine in the 21st century take place in China - right now.

In recent years, tens of thousands of transplantations were performed in China in the absence of a public voluntary organ donation program and without an established tradition of organ donations. Although the Chinese government has recently admitted that organs are taken from executed criminals, the number of executions does not match the number of transplants performed in China. Moreover, it was reported that Falun Gong practitioners are routinely blood typed and forced to undergo medical exams, whereas regular prisoners are not.

To cut it short, the number of transplantations performed in China today suggests a large pool of potential 'donors' that can be tapped on demand and on short notice.

Independent investigators have compiled significant evidence showing that this pool of 'donors' is most likely composed of living Falun Gong practitioners, waiting in detention to be killed on demand and for profit. We consider such practices as gross violations of all ethical standards applicable to the medical field.

The Hippocratic Oath demands that the physician must not do harm to the patient. At Doctors Against Organ Harvesting, we fear that in China some doctors do not even hesitate to *murder* innocent people in order to sell the harvested organs and thereby turn a physical body into an estimated half million dollars.

Transplantation medicine in China has apparently been turned into a criminal business. The noble practice of medicine has apparently been hijacked in the pursuit of profit: The lives of innocent people are put in jeopardy; they are robbed of their vital organs. The remaining body is cremated, the evidence destroyed and only the profits remain.

At this point, some of you may still say: "Isn't this an internal Chinese problem? Is it really our business to judge the Chinese government on their well-known abominable human rights record? " But at DAOH we think that this phenomenon is not only an internal China problem, as the Chinese government would like to have us believe. We at DAOH believe it affects the state of medicine around the globe!

Let me give you a few examples:

- We fear that surgeons around the world may be tempted to send their patients to China because transplants in China can be provided without long waiting time and some patients may otherwise not be eligible for transplants in the Western medicine.
- Patients in desperate need of transplants, frustrated by the necessarily long waiting time for donor organs in the West may travel to seek help in China.

However the wicked downside of this practice is that patients who ask for a transplant unknowingly *cause* the death of a healthy young person. The patient in need unknowingly becomes an accomplice of the communist regime in the persecution of Falun Gong.

* The National Kidney Foundation, in a statement dated August 15, 2006 warns: "Transplant candidates and professionals should be aware that there are other risks in so-called "transplant tourism" (traveling to another country for the purposes of transplantation). These risks may include the possibility of exploitation of the donors through coercive practices including paid donation."

* Transplant centers in Western countries may become unwitting accomplices to organ harvesting for profit by providing training for Chinese transplant surgeons,

* and Western medical journals may be tempted to publish the results of studies performed by Chinese research groups who have acquired data using unethical means.

In short: time honored ethical standards of medicine are at stake.

At *Doctors Against Organ Harvesting*, we looked also at the socio-political concepts behind these practices. We raise the questions: Has the CCP used transplant medicine to shift the state-run persecution of Falun Gong into the medical field by inducing medical doctors to violate their professional oaths?

Are doctors whose stated mission it is to help patients, cure diseases, and alleviate suffering, goaded into assisting government agencies with murder?

Are patients who understandably wish to cure their life-threatening conditions deceived by the CCP, thus unknowingly becoming accomplices in the death of Falun Gong practitioners?

Transplant candidates from Western and Asian countries are known to have traveled to China for transplants. We demand to know whether the CCP turns doctors and patients into participants in unspeakable crimes at the beginning of the 21st century!

In Nazi Germany, medical doctors were used by the political regime to be instrumental in preparing the way for the Holocaust to become possible; today it appears that medical doctors in China are again used by a political regime to be instrumental in the state-run persecution of Falun Gong practitioners. We detect a serious danger to global ethical standards.

If we do not take a stand against such practices in time, we, as a society may be at risk to slowly become desensitized to the problem of unethical medicine if the profits become high. To prevent this cancer from spreading, we need to speak up right now.

We therefore call upon the international medical community and governments worldwide to stand up against the ongoing live organ harvesting in China and to call for an end of these practices. We demand an independent international investigation to verify the termination of these practices.

Thank you for your attention.

*Suzanne Scholte, the President of the Defense Forum Foundation, Speaks
Out Against Persecution of Falun Gong*

On July 19, 2007, Falun Gong practitioners from Europe, the United States, Asia and other areas around the world held a rally in front of Capitol Hill in the United States. They called for the disintegration of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and an end to the persecution. Several U.S. Congress members, officials from non-governmental organizations, human rights lawyers and victims of the persecution made speeches. They urged the CCP to immediately stop the persecution of Falun Gong that has persisted for eight years.

Suzanne Scholte, the President of the Defense Forum Foundation, gave the speech below.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this important rally to call for the end of the persecution of Falun Gong. It is an honor to join you and be here with Freedom House and the Friends of Falun Gong.

I come to you today as someone who has been actively fighting against another atrocity by the government of China - their violent repatriation of North Korean refugees. In violation of international law, China's government has a policy to send these refugees back to North Korea knowing they will face torture, imprisonment, and even execution.

I also come to you today as a Christian who believes that every human being is precious in the eyes of God and has the God-given right of free will. When anyone is unjustly persecuted, we all suffer and we must all stand up for those who are persecuted.

The U.S. State Department reported that citizens of China who are specially targeted for arbitrary detention and arrest include Falun Gong practitioners, as well as political activists, domestic and foreign journalists, unregistered religious leaders, political prisoners and their families. Those languishing in China's prisons include Falun Gong practitioners along with trade union activists, underground religious believers, and members of the banned China Democratic Party.

I have wondered, why does China's Communist Party so violently repress Falun Gong? How can the government of China be so threatened by people who wish to practice Truthfulness, Benevolence, and Forbearance?

I believe it is because of their intent to repress the human desire to practice the first and foremost freedom: the freedom of thought, conscience and religion. When our own nation was founded, our Founding Fathers believed that "first freedom" was a God-given right, and was the most important because all freedoms are derived from it.

Because of their desire to practice this basic God-given freedom, right now Falun Gong is one of the groups that is on the front lines in the battle for human rights in China - but not by their choice. As Falun Gong founder, Li Hongzhi has stated, they are not against any government. They have no enemies. Yet, they have been drawn into the front lines because of the persecution and torture against them - a violent and ongoing persecution begun by China's Communist Party in 1999 - simply for practicing this basic freedom.

Everyone who wishes to see reform and human rights come to China needs to speak out. We need to stand with the citizens of China whether Falun Gong practitioners, democracy advocates, trade union activists, journalists, Christians, Muslims, Buddhists, or reformers, because otherwise the persecutors in China's government will gain ground and the movement for human rights in China will be crushed.

When the Olympic Committee chose Beijing as the site of the 2008 Olympics, the Committee justified that it would promote human rights in China. However, human rights organizations instead report an increasing rise in human rights violations and it is not just the Chinese people who are suffering. The government of China's policies also affect human rights around the world - just look at the suffering they have caused North Koreans, look at the suffering they have caused for the people of Darfur, Tibet, Burma, and other nations.

With the upcoming Olympics, a symbol of goodwill among nations, it is even more urgent and critical that we show solidarity with all of those who wish to practice their God-given right to freedom of thought and conscience. As a Christian, I take comfort in knowing that God has seen every tear that has been shed, every drop of blood that has been spilt, and witnessed every atrocity that has been committed against Falun Gong. He is against all those who do evil and promises to be close to the brokenhearted and those who are crushed in spirit.

So, we stand with those in China suffering today to say that you are not suffering in vain. Do not be brokenhearted or crushed in spirit. You are remembered and we are with you.

Thank you and God bless you.

U.S. Congressman Dana Rohrabacher: We Should Not Send a Team to the Olympics in a Country That Is Run by a Government that Represses Its Own People

On July 19, 2007, Falun Gong practitioners from Europe, the United States, Asia and other areas around the world held a rally in front of Capitol Hill in the United States. They called for the disintegration of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and an end to the persecution. Several U.S. Congress members, officials from non-governmental organizations, human rights lawyers and victims of the persecution made speeches. They urged the CCP to immediately stop the persecution of Falun Gong that has persisted for eight years.



U.S. Congressman Dana Rohrabacher of California, a prominent spokesman for human rights around the world, attended the July 19th rally and gave a speech. As a senior member of the International Relations Committee, Congressman Rohrabacher pointed out that we should not participate in the Olympics hosted in a country that is run by a government that represses its own people. "We will not permit our people to participate in that if they will not permit the people of China to worship God, and to seek their own spiritual levels free from government oppression."

The following is Congressman Dana Rohrabacher's statement at the rally held by Washington Falun Gong practitioners.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I appreciate the fact that each and every one of you is standing in this heat, or is sitting in this heat, in order to speak out and try to capture the attention of the American people, and to touch their souls. We will not change the world until we can touch the hearts of people in the United States, and touch the hearts of those gangsters who are now running the government on the mainland of China. They don't need to be gangsters, they can be decent human beings if we reach out to them and let them know, but we must speak out forcefully if we are going to achieve that goal. We must step

forward as you are today, if we are to get the attention and commitment of the American people.

I'm very proud to say that I represent Huntington Beach, California, and I'm very proud that in our Fourth of July parade, the day when we celebrate what is the essence of America, there was a large contingent in our parade of the Falun Gong who are representing the true battle for freedom today on this planet, and they were a part of our Fourth of July parade (applause). Other cities, as you know, have succumbed to pressure from the dictators from the regime that controls the mainland of China not to permit the Falun Gong to speak out, and to participate in things like Fourth of July parades. That shows you the insidiousness of the people in the United States, what will happen to us if we ignore an evil that's going on, on the other side of the world.

We tried to ignore the Taliban, and it came back to hurt us on 9/11. If we continue to ignore the repression, and just do business as usual with China, we will feel the sting of that immorality in the years to come. The American people will suffer, so it is in our interest to do what is the moral thing, which is to stand with you, and all people who are struggling for freedom on the mainland of China.

That being so, let me say this, we can start by being realistic, and not just using phraseology and words. You've heard a lot of people talk about standing with you today. It's about time we do something real, that perhaps the government can understand in Beijing. This isn't just words, because a lot of times we have an arrogance, getting up giving wonderful speeches in front of the capitol, but the only actions that the government in China sees, is billions of dollars worth of business being done by Americans, who are making a profit off the current regime in China.

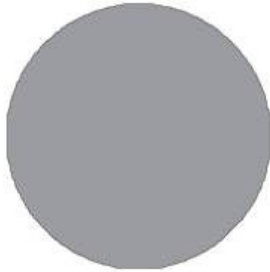
So what shall we do to make it real? Let me just say, that I will be supporting legislation, if not authoring legislation, that will put people on the line to see just exactly if they do believe in what they are saying. Because we should not, as a country, be sending a team to the Olympics in a country that is run by a government that represses its own people. We should demand, that before we send any of our Olympic athletes to China, that the Chinese government publicly give up its position that it has a right to suppress the freedom of religion of their own people. At the very least, let us say, "We will not compete on the fields, of the Olympic fields, which represent a greater aspect of human, of the human soul, that we will not permit our people to participate in that if they will not permit the people of China to worship God, and to seek their own spiritual levels free from government oppression." That is the demand that we should make (applause).

There is a problem that seems to be surfacing, and it's something that finally is catching the attention of the American people, and that is that much of the food that is coming from China, not only food, but other things, like toothpaste, contain poisons. I would suggest this, that we will not be able to stop the poisons that are flowing from China

into our society in terms of goods until we end the poison of tyranny that oppresses the people of China (applause.) We need to do more than simply stop tubes of toothpaste that have poison in them, we need to make sure that that poison, the source of that poison, which is the dictatorship, and the corruption, that exists in Beijing that represses the people of China, and their ability to step forward in a moral way and be part of a coalition of decent people in this world; the only thing that stands in their way, is this repressive and corrupt dictatorship.

End that dictatorship, and we will end the poison that comes from China. We will then become part of a community that cares about one another, instead of a community that's run on one side by vicious dictators and corrupt leaders, and on another side by businessmen who don't mind if they make billions of dollars off blood money dealing with dictators. We need to speak up as a coalition of people, between the coalition of the people of the United States, and the people of China. This is the greatest alliance for the long-term peace of the world that I can possibly imagine. That's what will bring peace to the world, when we manage to get around, or at least, and even eliminate this bond between American business, and these gangsters who run China. That is up to us, we must do that. And I am proud to be with you today, and thank you, all of you, for doing your part and we'll try to do ours. God bless you, thank you (applause).

Media Reports and Opinions



Radio Free Asia: Human Rights Torch Lighting Next Week Calls Attention to Human Rights in China

Several human rights groups recently announced that a Human Rights Torch will be lit next Wednesday in Athens and then relayed around the world to remind the world about the horrifying human rights conditions in China.

According to a report from Radio Free Asia on August 2, the Human Rights Torch Relay was initiated by the Coalition to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong (CIPFG) and the project has received support from many overseas human rights groups. A press conference about the torch relay project was held in the Longworth Building of the U.S. House of Representatives at noon on Aug. 2, 2007. Two U.S. Congressmen spoke out at the press conference to voice lawmakers' support.

A spokesman for the CIPFG said that the organization had sent out an open statement to the Chinese Communist regime. [Among others demands,] the statement demanded the regime allow international groups to enter China to investigate the persecution of Falun Gong and warned that CIPFG would start the Human Rights Torch Relay project if the regime failed to respond to the demands within three months. Because the Communist regime has not made any response to CIPFG, the group will light the planned Human Rights Torch in Athens, Greece on Wednesday, August 8.

At the press conference, California Congressman Dana Rohrabacher said that the Olympic Games are a symbol of good in the world and it is totally unacceptable if such a symbol is associated with the most evil power on earth.

Rohrabacher said that he was planning to submit a proposal for the U.S. to boycott the Olympic Games in Beijing. He emphasized that criticism of human rights in China targets the Chinese Communist regime and by no means targets the Chinese people. He believes that the people in China also hope to have democracy and human rights and to have protection of their rights.

New Jersey Congressman Donald M. Payne said that the international community welcomes the rise of China's economy, yet China must undertake its international responsibility and stop its human rights abuses.

Payne said that the conduct of the Communist regime has always been problematic. In the UN Security Council, the Chinese Communist regime has been blocking a resolution that addresses genocide in Darfur. Because the regime vetoed and threatened to veto all efforts to end the genocide in the region, 400,000 have been killed. The Chinese Communist regime supports the Sudanese government because Sudan has oil. In addition, the Communist regime also violates the UN weapons embargo regulations and sells weapons to Sudan.

Payne said that he supports the Human Rights Torch Relay project and boycotting the Olympic Games in Beijing, and hoped that these activities will draw international attention to human rights in China.

Reportedly, the Human Rights Torch will be relayed in more than 100 cities in twenty countries and thousands of lawmakers, attorneys and human rights activists from those countries are expected to participate.

Washington Times: Deportation of Falun Gong Practitioners an Indicator of Beijing's Restrictions on Hong Kong's Freedom

The Washington Times published an article on July 22, 2007, entitled "Falun Gong Blames Beijing for Barring," and did a follow-up report regarding Hong Kong authorities' deporting Taiwanese Falun Gong practitioners who went to Hong Kong. The article also contained an interview with Taiwan's *Sound of Hope* radio reporter Ms. Ko I-Chun, who experienced the deportation incident, and also interviews with some China experts and a spokesperson for the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in the United States.

The article said, "Dozens [484, according to best estimates of Falun Gong practitioners] of Taiwanese Falun Gong practitioners were barred from entering Hong Kong recently, serving as a reminder that the city's constitutional freedoms are ultimately subject to Beijing's authority, according to outside analysts and Falun Gong activists."

Taiwanese *Sound of Hope* radio reporter Ko I-Chun said in Washington last week, "This cannot be taken as an isolated thing for the Falun Gong group, because the Falun Gong is an indicator for freedom and democracy in Hong Kong." "The way they were treated could be applied to any group."

"Ms. Ko, a Falun Gong practitioner and one of those detained, said all of the group's members had valid visas for entering Hong Kong but were stopped between June 24 and June 30."

"Hong Kong immigration officials at the international airport were accompanied by plainclothes security agents whom Ms. Ko said she identified by their accents as coming from mainland China."

She said, "Some of the travelers were held for hours without access to food and water while others were placed in restraints before being put on flights back to Taiwan."

"Ms. Ko and a companion, Liaw Shu-Huey, said 484 Falun Gong members were turned back at the airport, although Hong Kong's South China Morning Post reported on June 29 the number was closer to 140."

John J. Tkacik Jr., a China scholar at the Washington-based Heritage Foundation said, "The action served to limit protests against Chinese President Hu Jintao during a visit to Hong Kong on July 1, the 10th anniversary of the city's return to Chinese rule."

Mr. Tkacik said, "The fact that Hong Kong immigration deals differently with Falun Gong adherents now than it did 10 years ago is a clear indication that China has

strengthened its hold on the [territory's] domestic politics." "It's a disturbing reminder that Hong Kong is not wholly independent from Beijing's influence."

Daniel McAtee, a spokesperson for the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Washington said, "Hong Kong officials offered no official explanation for the incident. The Hong Kong immigration department does not comment on individual cases."

"Although Hong Kong has been part of Communist China since the British left in 1997, it enjoys a high degree of political autonomy and more social and economic freedom than the mainland --- conditions that many see as vital in the city's continued role as a global financial center."

"Falun Gong members say they are the victims of ongoing persecution, imprisonment and torture in mainland China."

Mr. McAtee said, "Falun Gong remains legal in Hong Kong under Chinese rule, and the group stages protests regularly. Hong Kong's constitution, known as the Basic Law, enshrines for residents such liberties as a free press, free expression and the right to demonstrate."

"Although individual members of Falun Gong are sometimes barred from entering the city, Ms. Ko said 2003 was the last time a large number -about 80 people-was stopped at one time."

Southwest View (Las Vegas, Nevada, USA): Mind Exercise - Falun Dafa participants practice at Desert Breeze park

Imagine being arrested for meditating, learning principles to help you live a good life and exercising. In modern-day China, this is a reality for practitioners of Falun Dafa.

Las Vegas resident Tian Bo lived in China before moving to the United States. He lived an average, quiet lifestyle, worked at a hotel and read books. He was voted "Best Employee" at work one year. He also meditated and exercised his right to believe in the philosophy of Falun Dafa -- until he was arrested by Chinese police.

Falun Dafa, or Falun Gong, is a mind and body practice from China that was introduced publicly in 1992. Participants study principles, practice meditation and exercise, and all classes are free and taught by volunteers.

In Las Vegas, Falun Dafa followers meet and practice at Desert Breeze Park, located at 8275 Spring Mountain Road, seven days a week. Practice starts on Monday through Saturday at 7:55 a.m., and meets between the children's playground and the public restrooms. Sunday sessions start at 8:55 a.m. and are held in front of the municipal pool building. The classes are two hours long each and include movement exercises, philosophy readings and meditation. All meetings are open to the public and free.

In 1999, it was declared an act of war against the Chinese Communist Party to practice Falun Dafa anywhere in China. Practitioners were asked to sign forms renouncing their beliefs, and if they didn't, were jailed.

"For talking to a newspaper, I would be arrested," Tian said.

Since 1999, the 44-year-old has been arrested three times in his home country.

"In one night we are totally different," Tian continued. "The government treated us like animals."

Tian explained that after the law was proclaimed, police officers required all those who frequented the Falun Dafa meetings to register their identification with the police. It was the only group asked to register to practice in China's public parks, according to Tian.

According to Sandy St. John, a local Falun Dafa follower, the Chinese Communist Party wanted to place some of its members within the governing body of Falun Dafa. Because the [practice] has no hierarchy, the communist party could not do so.

"When they couldn't control it, they saw it as a threat," she said.

According to St. John, the goal of Falun Dafa is to bring the conscious mind into enlightenment, and practitioners work to be able to control their thoughts and minds.

"(The Chinese Communist Party) thinks they can't control people's minds who practice Falun Dafa. That's why they are so scared," said Las Vegas practitioner Magala Moa.

During Tian's third imprisonment in China, he heard the screams of people being tortured, and said that for 24 hours, he was not able to move. "When people are really being tortured, it sounds like a cow screaming. It's not like a movie. When people are really being tortured, it sounds different," he said.

Tian recalled one man, about 50 or 60 years old, who was taken outside during winter. He was ordered to take off his shoes and socks and squat outside in the snow from midnight to the next morning. When Tian saw him next, he could barely open his eyes and looked like he was frozen through.

"Billions of dollars are generated by trade with China, so the CCP can get away with anything -- it's still happening in China," St. John said.

In mainland China, television, radio and the news are all controlled by the Chinese Communist Party, and, according to Tian, "there are a lot of secret police." Because of that, he said, people are afraid to speak their minds because they don't want their families to be threatened.

"The party is above the law," Magala said. "People in the Western world don't know what's going on. We do have a right to believe. Please call your local government to help."

Magala also said she hopes that people will check out Falun Dafa's Web site and sign the group's petition online.

"Help Chinese people have freedom like us. Stand up and say, 'I don't want to buy that,' " she said of Chinese goods. "It's the consumer that changes everything."

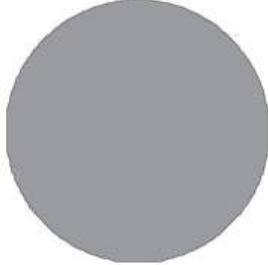
Falun Dafa practitioners host "peaceful appeals" at the Chinese New Year celebration in Chinatown Plaza every year, and practitioners all over the country stage them in public places where many people will see their cause. They also pass out graphic information documenting practitioners' deaths as a result of torture inflicted by the Chinese Communist Party.

"People just don't know how bad it is," Magala said. "They are taking organs from people while they are still alive."

"If someone needs an organ transplant, they'll condemn the person to death and sell their organs," St. John said.

More information about the philosophy or the situation in China can be found by visiting www.falundafa.org.

Falun Gong Practitioners' Personal Experiences



The Wonders of Falun Gong -- a Blind Man Recovers Eyesight

By Yifan

I am going to share with you a true story of a family in Jiaozhou City, Shandong Province in China.

The three people in this family were miserable. The father was 62 years old, suffering from serious necrosis (death of cells) at the top of his femur (thigh bone) and a prolapse (to slip down or forward) of a lumbar intervertebral disc. He could barely work. The mother was 57 years old and suffered from peri-arthritis in her shoulder which made it hard for her to do any physical work. The worst misery was with their son, Gao Shan (alias), 32 years old, who was blind since birth. The family had lived a very hard life. One day, the father read in a flyer that Falun Gong has magical health benefits. He wanted to give it a try.

One day, the father encountered a Falun Gong practitioner who once again shared with him the magical effects of Falun Gong. He invited the practitioner to his home. It's dangerous to do so in China's menacing environment but the father was too desperate to do otherwise. After the practitioner clarified truth to him, he asked the practitioner to teach him Falun Gong. The miserable family began to practice Falun Gong. Gao Shan was still blind, and couldn't learn the exercises, so the practitioner told him to chant, "Falun Dafa is good." The practitioner said, "The more faithfully you do it, the better."

In a month, Gao Shan could see his fingers. Sure enough, it delighted the family. They told the practitioner who taught them the exercises, and then Gao Shan began to practice Falun Gong as well.

Before long, someone died in the village and a funeral was held. It's customary for everyone in the village to attend a funeral in China, so Gao Shan went along as well. Many neighbors came to greet him. How could they ignore such a miracle?

Someone tested his eyesight, asking him the number of wires on electric poles, etc. Gao Shan counted the wires correctly. All the neighbors were astonished.

Someone asked Gao Shan curiously, "How did you recover your eyesight?" Gao Shan answered, "It was Falun Gong that cured my blindness."

In a few days, it was time to dig potatoes. Gao Shan wanted to dig potatoes also. His parents didn't agree as Gao Shan had just recovered from blindness. If the parents had still suffered from their many illnesses, it would not have been easy for them to dig up all the potatoes in a field of 2.7 mu (a half acre). However, the old couple easily finished

the task, attributing this to the recovery of their son that brought new hope to the family, and to the fact that the couple had been very healthy since cultivating Falun Gong.

I would like to share with you my opinion. For the time being, I am not able to release the family's name and address because of the persecution of Falun Gong in China. It may not be easy for you to believe such a miracle. Had it not happened in front of my own eyes, I would not have easily believed it either.

Glossary

Falun Gong (also called **Falun Dafa**) is an ancient form of *qigong*; the practice of refining the body and mind through special exercises and meditation. Like *tai chi*, *qigong* is a vital part of many people's lives in Asia; almost every Chinese park is brimming by the break of dawn with people practicing these arts.

Only a few years after its public introduction in 1992, Falun Dafa quickly grew to become the most popular form of *qigong* ever in Chinese history. The major reason for this is that Falun Dafa distinguishes itself from other *qigong* practices by emphasizing not only physical cultivation, but also cultivation of one's moral character in daily life according to higher principles taught by Mr. Li Hongzhi, Falun Dafa's founder. The practice involves slow, gentle movements and meditation. It is easy to learn, enjoyable to practice, and free of charge. Its principles are based on Truth, Compassion, and Tolerance. Falun Gong is practiced by over 100 million people in 60 countries. The main works of Falun Gong are available in over 30 languages.

Zhuan Falun: This book comprises the principal teachings of Falun Dafa.

"April 25": This refers to the "sensitive" anniversary of April 25, 1999, on which date ten thousand Falun Gong practitioners peacefully gathered outside the Zhongnanhai compound (China's central government building) and successfully appealed for the release of forty-five practitioners who had been illegally arrested in Tianjin City.

Clarifying the Truth: Because of the persecution in China and the unrelenting hate campaign carried out by China's state-controlled media, Falun Gong practitioners have been actively "clarifying the truth" -- explaining to the public the facts about Falun Gong and exposing the persecution. Truth clarification activities include face-to-face conversations with people, posting notices and posters, handing out flyers, and hanging banners. Outside of China, where Falun Gong is freely practiced, practitioners further expose the persecution through anti-torture reenactments, art exhibits, Internet websites, books, magazines, newspapers, movies and letter writing. The goal of clarifying the truth is to help people understand Falun Gong, to dispel the lies of the communist regime in China and to raise public support to end the persecution. (Variations: "clarifying the truth", "truth clarifying", "truth-clarifying", "truth clarification", "truth-clarification", "clarifying the facts", "clarified the truth", and "clarified the facts")

Death Bed torture: A practitioner is tied to a bed with his hands handcuffed above his head to the bed rails, and his legs tied with thin nylon ropes. The rope is then tightly

wrapped around the practitioner's body and the bed, from his legs to his chest. The rope is wrapped so tightly that the practitioner has difficulty breathing and eventually loses consciousness.

The 610 Office is an agency specifically created to persecute Falun Gong, with absolute power over each level of administration in the Party and all other political and judiciary systems. It was established on June 10th hence it's name.

Illegally arrested: Contrary to what former Chinese leader Jiang Zemin, who initiated the persecution, and the Chinese Communist Party would like the world to believe, practicing Falun Gong is NOT illegal in China. Although the Public Security Department issued an unconstitutional set of restraints on the practice at the onset of the persecution in 1999, no laws have been passed by the only legislative body in China, the People's Congress, banning Falun Gong or granting the police the authority to arrest Falun Gong practitioners for practicing the exercises or distributing flyers.

Nine Commentaries on the Communist Party is a series of essays published in late 2004 that reveal the true nature of the Communist Party. The *Nine Commentaries* have led millions of people to renounce their membership in the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). It is "A book that has shocked all Chinese around the world. A book that is disintegrating the Communist Party." (<http://ninecommentaries.com>)

"Reform or Transform": Implementation of brainwashing and torture in order to force a practitioner to renounce Falun Gong. (Variations: "**reform**", "**transform**", "**reformed**", "**reforming**", "**transformed**", "**transforming**", and "**transformation**")

Three Statements: Practitioners are coerced under brainwashing and torture to write a "Repentance Statement," "Guarantee Statement" or "Dissociation Statement" as proof that they have given up their belief. In the statement, the practitioner is forced to admit remorse for practicing Falun Gong, promise to give up Falun Gong, and never again associate with other practitioners or go to Beijing to appeal for Falun Gong.

Collaborators: Former practitioners who have turned against Falun Gong under brainwashing and torture. They are then made to assist in brainwashing and torturing practitioners.

Sensitive Dates: National holidays or political meetings, or dates that hold significance to Falun Dafa; the authorities are afraid that practitioners will publicly appeal on these dates.

Yuan is the Chinese currency; 500 yuan is equal to the average monthly income of an urban worker in China.