

Clearwisdom Review

An Update on Falun Dafa Worldwide

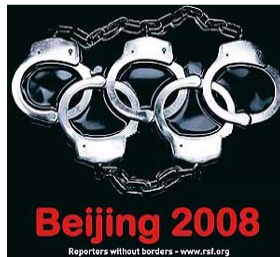
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Hundreds of Falun Gong Practitioners Arrested in Preparation for Olympics

(Clearwisdom.net) Chinese security agencies have been conducting large-scale arrests of Falun Gong practitioners throughout China in recent months before the Olympic Games in August, according to the Falun Dafa Information Center. In recent weeks, the Center has been receiving regular reports from practitioners and their families inside China. According to statistics compiled from these reports, there have been 1,878 arrests across the country since January 1, 2008; 156 of them took place in Beijing.

The Center released details of 67 cases of individuals detained in Beijing since December 2007. Out of this group, 16 adherents were arrested from Chaoyang District, which is set to host the beach volleyball and tennis events, and 10 from Shunyi District, the site of the Olympic rowing and kayaking venues. "The International community had hoped that awarding the Olympics to China would spur an improvement in human rights," said Information Center representative Erping Zhang. "But the facts tell a very different story. The Olympics seem to have given the Beijing regime a new incentive, and excuse, to hasten its abuses of citizens' rights."

According to the reports, many of the arrests follow a common pattern, whereby officers come to the practitioner's home or workplace, conduct a search for any Falun Gong-related materials, and take the individual into custody. Some family members or co-workers who do not practice Falun Gong have been taken into custody as well.



(Photo by Amnesty International)

In many cities a reward system has been put in place offering 500-3,000 yuan (~US \$60-\$360) for identifying Falun Gong practitioner to the authorities. In Zibo City, Shandong Province, announcements posted in local administration offices offered 2,000-3,000 yuan for information leading to the arrest of a Falun Gong adherent. In an October 8, 2007, *USA Today* article, a taxi driver named Liu Chunfa was quoted saying, "I have attended several meetings with police lecturers. They told us if we report suspicious people, like believers in Falun Gong, we could get a 2,000-yuan reward."

A Feb. 21, 2001, a Reuters report cited the state-run Xinhua propaganda outlet as saying the government had given citations to 110 organizations and 271 individuals for anti-Falun Gong work and to wipe out Falun Gong.

A July 17, 2001, report from the Australian Broadcasting Corporation disclosed that after Beijing landed the 2008 Olympics, China's then Vice Premier declared that winning the Olympics was "justification for the country's crackdown on the Falun Gong."

According to Amnesty International, former Public Security Minister Zhou Yongkang issued the following order in the context of successfully holding the Olympics: "We must strike hard at hostile forces at home and abroad, such as ethnic separatists, religious extremists, violent terrorists and the Falun Gong."

Introduction to Falun Dafa

Falun Dafa, also known as Falun Gong, is a practice for benefiting physical health and elevating the mind. Introduced by Mr. Li Hongzhi in China, the practice consists of five gentle exercises including meditation, and diligent effort on the part of practitioners to follow the universal principles of Truthfulness-Compassion-Forbearance in daily life. Falun Gong is not only beneficial to one's own health and well-being, it also benefits others. Although the practice originated in China, today it is practiced throughout the world by people of all races and walks of life. In the face of the most brutal and vicious persecution perpetrated on them by the Chinese Communist Party, Falun Gong practitioners have found the spiritual strength to resist peacefully and tirelessly by upholding the principles of Truthfulness-Compassion-Forbearance.



About Clearwisdom

Clearwisdom.net is the most authoritative source of information about the practice of Falun Gong and about the persecution of Falun Gong in China, reporting timely news and events happening inside China as well as from the more than 70 countries around the world where Falun Gong is practiced. Clearwisdom responsibly publishes the experiences and understandings of practitioners themselves, who submit the majority of the articles.

Falun Dafa Saves a Person at Death's Door

(Clearwisdom.net) On December 31, 2007, my sister was hospitalized. Her whole body was swollen; she had cardiac hypertrophy, and her heart vibrated. On January 3, 2008, I went to the hospital to visit her. I almost could not recognize her. Her son and daughter feared that she would not recover this time. The doctor told them that she could lose her life at any time.

I believed that Dafa could save my sister, so I told her to sincerely repeat the words, "Falun Dafa is good," and, "Truth-Compassion-Forbearance is good." I also told her that I would bring the recording of Teacher's lectures to her so that she could listen. She said that she could not listen because of her heart vibration. I still brought a tape player and the recording to the hospital. After arriving at the hospital, I held the earphone for my sister, and she listened.

I later returned to the hospital to visit her. My sister was sitting on the bed, clearly enjoying the fruit she was eating. Her swollen body had returned to normal; her heart did not vibrate anymore, and her stomach was comfortable – she could eat anything. She said that she recovered after listening to one tape.

A person at death's door turned the corner just because she sincerely believes that Falun Dafa is good. She was able to return home in just ten days. Now that she is home, my sister studies the teaching of Falun Dafa every day.

Florida: Promoting Falun Dafa at Miami Asian Heritage Festival

(Clearwisdom.net) On March 1 and 2, 2008, the Falun Dafa Association of South Florida was invited to the Miami Asian Heritage Festival at Tropical Park in Dade County. Enjoying the mild spring breeze under Florida's sunshine, a few thousand visitors came to the festival to taste Asian food and take in traditional performances including martial arts, dance, drums, and music. The booths also displayed arts and crafts, clothing, flowers, as well as educational materials.

The Falun Dafa booth displayed information about how the practice has spread throughout the world, as well as truth-clarification materials about the Chinese Communist Party's persecution of Falun Gong in China. A high school student from Brazil spent a long time in front of the booth and said that he had seen an anti-torture exhibition in New York City a few years ago. There he saw an elderly practitioner demonstrating how Falun Gong practitioners are locked in a small cage and beaten severely. After learning more about the inhuman persecution of Falun Gong in China, the young man was very upset about it and said that he hoped the persecution would end soon. He said he has had a special affinity with Asian culture ever since he was young and dreamed of saving enough money for a trip to Asia. He pointed to a photo of Qi Xiaochun's Erhu performance at the Divine Performing Arts Chinese Spectacular and said excitedly, "I have heard this musical instrument on the radio. It was beautiful." After hearing that Divine Performing Arts had performed in south Florida and will return this year, he took a flier and said he would be sure to go to the show this time.

A family of four from India came to the Falun Dafa booth. The mother said that they had met a Falun Dafa practitioner in Singapore a few months ago and were interested in the practice. When they arrived in Florida, they have been looking for further information about Dafa and happened to see the Falun Dafa booth at the festival.

When the practitioners were demonstrating the five sets of exercises, a little girl asked her father to bring her into the demonstration. She wanted to learn the exercises. The 4-year-old girl was named Hope. As soon as she sat down, she could pull up both of her legs across each other in the full lotus position and she held her hands in the "conjoin hands" gesture. She was so lovely that her father took a lot of photos of her.



Visitors at the Falun Dafa booth collecting informational materials

Among the visitors there were many scholars who teach Asian culture in colleges in south Florida. They asked for more materials about Falun Dafa and some said they planned to invite Falun Gong practitioners to come to their classes to talk to their students about the practice and the persecution in China.

For more current information of Falun Dafa worldwide, please visit www.clearwisdom.net

To learn more about Falun Dafa as a practice, please visit www.falundafa.org