



The Senate  
State of Hawaii

STATE CAPITOL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

Ambassador Yang Jiechi  
People's Republic of China  
Embassy of the People's Republic of China  
2300 Connecticut Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20008

Dear Ambassador Yang:

I am a Hawaii State Senator, and a Chinese American. This letter concerns the apparent suppression of the Falun Gong in China. As the Chair of the Senate Committee on Human Services, and with the large Chinese population in my district, it is incumbent upon me to express my opposition and deep concern about the treatment of Falun Gong adherents.

I make reference to the July 5, 2001, Press Release of the U.S. Department of State, "Falun Gong in China". The Press release states in part, "The United States is deeply disturbed by reports that China has further intensified its harsh repression of the Falun Gong. The June 20 deaths of over a dozen Falun Gong practitioners in Wanjia Labor Camp in Harbin City, Heilongjiang Province, China is particularly troublesome. Our sympathies go out to the families of the victims. There are conflicting accounts of what actually occurred at Wanjia Labor Camp, but the reports of violence and torture against these Falun Gong practitioners at the hand of Chinese authorities are chilling."

Further, the official U.S. Department of State Report, "Country Reports on Human Rights Practices – 2002" (released by the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, March 31, 2003), confirms numerous incidences of atrocities perpetuated against Falun Gong members in China.

The Falun Gong is dedicated to meditation and spiritual practices. A *Time Asia* article, "The Breaking Point" (July 2, 2001), states in pertinent part:

Falun Gong is an amalgam of religions and exercises that Chinese have known for centuries. Practitioners meditate during a series of ritualized motions that Li Hongzhi invented. The central tenet is that Li himself, either personally or through his books and videotapes, inserts the Falun icon, a swastika-like Buddhist emblem surrounded by yin-yang symbols, into the bellies of believers. The emblem spins: clockwise to absorb energy, counterclockwise to emit it. The Faluns on people's bellies can heal diseases, or Li can heal diseases through the Faluns. An advanced practitioner will open a "celestial eye" in the middle of his forehead and see many spinning Falun emblems, supposedly a splendid sight. When practitioners die, they return to their "true, original self," writes Li.

There appears to be little or no justification for the inhumane treatment accorded to the Falun Gong. I am compelled to register a protest with the People's Republic of China, and respectfully ask that, as Ambassador, you relay my humble request to your government to desist suppression of the Falun Gong and restore the civil liberties of its members who have been repressed and incarcerated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Suzanne Chun Oakland". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND  
Hawaii State Senator, 13th District