

# Police Openly Beat Demonstrators In Tiananmen Square

## Brutality Against Falun Gong Escalating



**BEIJING, China, October 1, 2000 (CNN)** -- Police beat and detained dozens of members of the outlawed Falun Gong [group] on Sunday as they staged protests on Beijing's Tiananmen Square in conjunction with annual National Day observances. Chinese authorities, on hand to ward off such demonstrations, detained at least 300 protesters in one hour alone. In all, up to 1,000 people were thought to have been taken into custody... (AP) - Followers of the outlawed Falun Gong [spiritual practice] chanted slogans and raised yellow banners on Tiananmen Square on Sunday, in a burst of protest that defied heavy security meant to ensure patriotic celebrations of China's National Day. Uniformed and plainclothes police kicked and pummeled [the practitioners], but as soon as one group was subdued, others would protest. Police closed off parts of Tiananmen, an embarrassing act in

China's most public square on a holiday marking 51 years of communist rule....It was one of the largest acts of civil disobedience staged by the group since the first days following the government ban 14 months ago. Officers forced protesters into police minivans, packing them so tightly the doors would not shut. Several large city buses were brought in to take others away... "Falun Gong is not a crime," one protester shouted running from police. Others raised banners reading "Truth, Compassion, Tolerance" - the group's principles. One middle-aged woman, blood running from her mouth, escaped a clutch of officers who grabbed her again, slapping her head and pulling her into a van. Another ran from police only to have her legs kicked out from under her. Once on the ground, plainclothes police kicked her...

### BACKGROUND

Largely due to its overwhelming popularity in China, in July of 1999, the President of China, Jiang Zemin, initiated a brutal crackdown and ban on Falun Gong, a peaceful, spiritual practice deeply rooted in traditional Chinese culture. Over the last 22 months, Jiang has orchestrated continued escalation of the crackdown in an effort to "eradicate" Falun Gong. The persecution, however, has thus far failed as Falun Gong practitioners continue to step forward and peacefully appeal to the Chinese government to end the ban.

### SOME FACTS ON THE CRACKDOWN

Since the crackdown was initiated in July 1999, over 100,000 practitioners have been detained, over 20,000 of practitioners have been sent to labor "re-education" camps without trial, over 1,000 practitioners have been forcibly held in mental hospitals and hundreds have been sentenced to prison terms of up to 18 years. Millions have lost their jobs and have been expelled from schools. At least 267 practitioners have died in police custody and over half of these deaths have occurred in the last 5 months.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

You as an individual can make a difference. If you would like to help put an end to the violence against innocent people, here are some suggestions: **1.** Tell your friends and family about Falun Gong and the persecution in China – the more the world knows about the torture and abuse, the greater the pressure on the Chinese government to end this brutal crackdown. **2.** Invite a Falun Gong volunteer to speak at your local community or social organization. **3.** Call for action and support from your local media, Congressman or Senator, or human rights group.

### TO FIND OUT MORE

**www.faluninfo.net** is the official Website of the Falun Dafa Information Center. On this Website, you will find all the latest news headline stories, regularly updated reports from inside China, background on the current situation, as well as more in-depth information on the practice of Falun Dafa.

### Contact Us

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