

Clearwisdom Digest

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News and Events from Around the World

US and European Governments Take Notice of Harassing Phone Calls Made to Falun Gong Practitioners

Clearwisdom comprehensive report: During the time of the 2005 Chinese New Year, many Falun Gong practitioners in Asia, Europe, the United States, Australia and other parts of the world received anonymous phone calls. Most of the phone calls could not be traced, but some practitioners' caller ID programs showed the calls originating in Mainland China. At present, police authorities in many countries have commenced an investigation.

The content of the phone calls is uniform: they consist mainly of "patriotic" songs, the Chinese government's version of the "Tiananmen Self-immolation" incident and other attacks on Falun Gong. They include both Chinese language and English language versions; each phone call lasted three or four minutes.

According to a February 9 *Radio Free Asia* report, while Chinese people in Europe were preparing to celebrate the Chinese New Year, beginning on February 7, several Falun Gong practitioners in Europe received a bombardment of harassing phone calls. This form of terrorism has drawn the attention of the security departments of these respective countries.

Phone harassment seriously violates European laws

At noon on Chinese New Year's Eve, a reporter interviewed Ms. Zhou Lei who is living in Europe and had just returned from filing such a telephone harassment case with the police department. Regarding this incident, she said, "To my knowledge, since February 7, Chinese and Western Falun Gong practitioners in about ten countries started receiving this type of phone call. The calls have been incessant since yesterday morning; many people received one phone call every two or three minutes, from morning to 11:30 p.m. yesterday, and again since 9:00 a.m. this morning."

Ms. Zhou Lei said these phone calls included "revolutionary songs" and political propaganda, in both Chinese and English. She said this action is a serious violation of European laws.

Zhou Lei said, "Regarding this type of telephone harassment, we should first look at who is behind it and who obtained the practitioners' phone numbers. In the West, the most important thing for an individual is protection of privacy. There is another issue involved, -- aside from the propaganda, these phone calls were also meant to be a threat. Not only the police department but also the national security department should be involved in dealing with this, particularly when the propaganda and threat come from another country."

Culprits will be given legal punishment if discovered

According to the reporter, the people who collected and provided the phone numbers and the people who made the phone calls will be convicted, regardless of whether they are locals or Chinese consular officials.

Not only are the local police and the national security department in Europe currently giving attention to this incident, the German government is also concerned. The Chinese government's unwise behavior has met with repulsion from the European public.

Xu Kangang is a computer engineer in New Jersey, USA. He told the *Radio Free Asia* reporter that he started receiving these phone calls beginning on Sunday, February 6.

Xu Kangang said, "I received my first phone message around 11: 20 a.m. this past Sunday. The whole message was an attack on Falun Gong. I know over a dozen friends in the New York area who also received this type of phone call."

Mr. Zhang Qingxi, a professor at the Economics Department of Taiwan University and spokesman of the Taiwan Falun Dafa Association, said the harassment is more severe in Taiwan. The preliminary estimate is that around 1,000 people have received these phone calls.

Zhang Qingxi said, "Today is the first day of the Chinese New Year. The phone calls started on February 7 and lasted all day long. On February 7 I received over a dozen phone calls, and even more yesterday. Today I received one. Falun Gong practitioners in Taiwan, from the south to the north, all received these phone calls. Practitioners in charge of Falun Gong exercise sites all received calls, nearly 1,000 of them."

According to *Radio Free Asia*, Falun Gong practitioners in Europe and Oceania, even in countries like Sri Lanka and Israel also received harassing calls, including Mr. Shao Li, a lecturer at the University of Nottingham in the UK.

Shao Li said: "I started receiving this kind of phone call back on Sunday. They [the calls] went crazy on Monday and started arriving before I woke up on Monday morning. I received one after another before I went to work; overall there were about 30 to 40 messages."

Caller ID reveals phone calls originated from Mainland China

The interviewed Falun Gong practitioners said they have reported the calls to the local police and asked for an investigation. So far, the source of these phone calls has not been determined. Nevertheless, Ms. Wu, a Falun Gong practitioner living in Denmark,

said the Caller ID function on her phone showed the earlier calls were from Mainland China.

Ms. Wu: "Two phone numbers showed up on my Caller ID. One of them starts with 0086, which means it's from China; another one starts with 008613. These two calls were made on Sunday. When I came home I heard the messages on my answering machine."

On Wednesday, Falun Gong practitioners in Washington, DC held a press conference and introduced the circumstances about this large-scale incident of harassment. They believe that, other than interfering with their personal lives, this intense phone call harassment was also designed to create an atmosphere of terror. They urged the US government to start an investigation as early as possible, to prevent similar incidents from taking place.

New York: Grand Chinese New Year's Parade Presents a New Scene in Chinatown

On the fifth day of the first month of the Year of Yiyou (Sunday, February 13, 2005), the grand "Year of the Rooster Parade for Love and Prosperity" took place in New York's Manhattan Chinatown. Manhattan's Chinatown has been well known in the U.S. and even the entire world for a long time. Many Chinese people from the Mainland have lived here and prospered for generations. It is also the oldest Chinese community in New York and it is a testament to the Chinese people's hard work and success outside of China. Its special location and social customs have attracted numerous Westerners to visit Chinatown. Day after day, for many years, Chinatown has also witnessed Falun Gong practitioners' touching history of introducing and legitimizing the practice in this area.



On this day, 400 Falun Gong practitioners took part in the grand Chinatown "Parade for Love and Prosperity." Their procession was powerful and grand, and their performance was rich and colorful. For the past few years, Falun Gong practitioners have wished to utilize this opportunity to display the beauty of Falun Dafa. In 2005, Manhattan's Chinatown finally opened its door to practitioners.

The parade organizers this year clearly expressed that qualification to participate in the parade should not be decided by any one individual. Therefore, all groups or organizations that applied for participation this year were welcome to take part. Not only did the organizers welcome Falun Gong practitioners to join the Lunar New Year parade, they also said that the number of participants was not restricted. This critical decision gave the New York Chinatown parade a fresh new look and an air of good fortune.

Chinatown was excited and full of happy anticipation for the parade. An estimated about 200,000 people watched this parade. The streets and avenues were filled with crowds of people.



Throughout the entire parade, spectators on both sides of the streets smiled, raised their heads in anticipation, waved non-stop and took many pictures. They did not want to miss such a beautiful moment. In front of the main podium, the organizers introduced the arrival of the Falun Gong procession, their exercise demonstration, the performances by the Tang Dynasty drum troupe, the fairy dance troupe, the waist drum troupe, and their beautiful float. The master of ceremonies praised the Falun Gong procession for displaying the best of traditional Chinese culture.

"Uncompromising Courage" Painting Exhibition Touches People on Washington Legislative Day

On February 14, 2005, practitioners in Washington State participated in activities on Legislative Day, held by the State Government in the capital city of Olympia, to explain the facts of Falun Gong to government officials and staff. This was the third year for practitioners to hold this activity on Legislative Day. Legislative Day is an important opportunity for people to meet and talk with their government officials. Small groups of two to three practitioners met and talked with over 40 State Representatives, Senators and their legislative assistants. The "Uncompromising Courage" painting exhibition was also held at the capitol.



During the talks, practitioners explained the facts of Falun Gong, and answered questions about the practice. Topics ranged from the introduction of Falun Dafa and its worldwide spread, to the persecution in China. The practitioners talked about the support they have received over the last year from around the world, as well as the support of legislative officials from Washington State, and touched on the lawsuits against Jiang Zemin and his followers. They discussed the attention placed on human rights issues during trade and cultural exchanges between Washington State and China. Representatives and Senators exchanged their views with practitioners. Many of them support the House and Senate proclamations in support of Falun Dafa.

After nearly four years' reconstruction after the 2001 earthquake, the Washington State Legislative Building reopened. Many visitors and staff toured the building. The House of Representatives and Senates conducted meetings. The "Uncompromising Courage" paintings exhibition was held in the Columbia Room. Practitioners were present throughout the building to distribute leaflets and to invite people to the exhibition. Many viewers who talked to the practitioners after seeing the exhibition said with emotion, "I saw the paintings; they are very moving! I'll tell my colleagues to also come see it."

The painting exhibition venue was solemn, with Falun Dafa music playing in the hall. Visitors viewed the paintings and asked about Falun Dafa and the persecution in China. A security staff person was moved by the painting entitled, "Returning to True Self" and said, "I always believed that there is a connection between human beings and God. The painting let me sense that feeling and purity."

A State Representative came to the exhibition in the company of a practitioner and asked many questions. While viewing the paintings, she had tears in her eyes and said that the paintings made her feel great sorrow. In front of the painting, "Life Forever," she said, "Many of the practitioners tortured to death were so young."

Representative John Lovick came to the exhibition hall after meeting with the practitioners. He was interviewed by NTDTV and said that the paintings moved him and he would remember them. He said that the persecution was inconceivable, and that the international courts should investigate the situation. Representative Lovick said that we must not let the persecution, as depicted in the paintings, continue and that the persecution should be investigated and stopped. He said that American representatives in China should be contacted and reminded to deal with the human rights situation there.

Police Found Guilty of Violating Rights of Icelander during Falun Gong Protests against Jiang Zemin in 2002

The Icelandic police were today found guilty of illegally arresting a man in the summer of 2002 and restricting his freedom of expression. The government was made to pay the man compensation. His lawyer thinks that three other men who were arrested at the same time will also be compensated.

On the 15th of June 2002, Einar Orn Eidsson was arrested at Geysir in Haukadalur along with three of his friends, allegedly for taking part in a protest related to Chinese president Jiang Zemin's visit to Iceland. The protest targeted the Chinese government's human rights violations against Falun Gong. The men were arrested a little before 3 p.m., put into a police car and driven away from Geysir. They were set free 75 minutes later, at 4:15. The verdict states that the men had been at the place reserved for protestors when the arrest took place, but they had not violated any of the police's instructions since they were not given any instructions, and that the arrest was sudden, without any notice. The verdict states that an arrest and deprivation of freedom is a serious action against a person and that it should be avoided as much as possible. Moderation was not practiced and thereby the police broke the law in making this arrest.

Einar Orn received one phone call and three threatening mobile phone messages from a policeman's phone a few days after the arrest. In court the policeman denied having been responsible for the phone messages, but the court's verdict stated that the messages were of a kind that a policeman had to be responsible for them, "whoever it was." As stated in the County Court, Einar Orn says he thinks that the verdict will serve as a precedent to govern the police's behavior in the future.

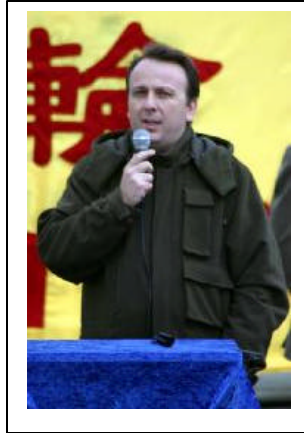
Mr. Orn stated that he was doing this, among other things, to establish a precedent so that the police cannot just trample on the lawful rights of citizens.

The verdict granted Einar 90.000 kronur (about \$1,500) as compensation and he says he will donate the money go to a good charitable cause. Three of Einar's friends arrested in the same operation also brought charges against the police for illegal arrest, and their lawyer says that most likely they will also be compensated by the government.

His lawyer, Sigridur Rut, stated, "Yes of course this verdict will be a model...so to speak, a conclusion in one case sets a precedent to settle the other ones in the same manner."

French Human Rights Lawyer Submits a Legal Petition Requesting a Comprehensive Investigation into the 2004 Paris Incident

On the afternoon of February 11, 2005, on behalf of Falun Gong practitioners, Lawyer Fabrice Orlandi filed a legal petition to the Tribunal de Grande Instance de Paris. The petition requested a comprehensive investigation into the incident on January 2004, in which, bowing to the pressure from the Chinese communist regime, French police harassed Falun Gong practitioners.



During the Chinese leader's state visit to France at the end of January 2004, a few hundred Falun Gong practitioners gathered in Paris for a peaceful appeal requesting China to stop the campaign of genocide against the practice. Appealing is a basic human right for people in a free and democratic country and is also included in the founding principles of France. However, bowing to pressure from the Chinese communist regime and violating its own basic principles, relevant French organizations carried out arbitrary searches, arrests and detention of Falun Gong practitioners. This not only violated the practitioners' basic freedom, but also led to a more serious consequence: Falun Gong practitioners were impeded in their efforts to expose the brutal persecution of Falun Gong in China to the governments, media and people. Since this act unintentionally helped the persecutors of Falun Gong, it is a very serious issue.

According to incomplete statistics, over ninety Falun Gong practitioners from Europe, the United States and Asia were harassed to different degrees by the French authorities. After the incident, they provided over sixty statements detailing exactly what happened. Almost all these statements indicated that the French police's actions were directed at Falun Gong practitioners. Over ten statements stated that there were orders from senior levels to French police, specifically targeting Falun Gong practitioners who came to Paris to peacefully appeal. More than half the statements stated that French police were unusually watchful or even hostile towards practitioners, not just carrying out simple and routine questioning. Many detained practitioners were subjected to violations of their rights, such as not being allowed to contact their respective

embassies, make telephone calls or to go to the toilet, and they were detained for long periods of time. Some practitioners even received abusive treatment.

After the incident, French Falun Gong practitioners, together with practitioners from other countries, made great efforts to explain to the French Government, media and legal profession, as well as those from other countries, what Falun Gong is and the enormous extent to which the practice has been violently suppressed in China. Many politicians from different nations raised their concerns and expressed their support. Meanwhile, French practitioners have been actively seeking legal means to obtain justice.

After careful preparation and overcoming much interference on behalf of Falun Gong practitioners, Lawyer Fabrice Orlandi filed a legal petition to the Tribunal de Grande Instance de Paris, requesting a comprehensive investigation into the incident.

In the petition, the Lawyer first outlined the background of Falun Gong's teachings of Truthfulness, Compassion and Tolerance, the practice's spreading all over the world, the brutal persecution of Falun Gong by Jiang Zemin and the Chinese Communist Party, and Falun Gong's peaceful and rational appeals calling for an end to the persecution. The lawyer thinks the reason behind the French police's arbitrary detention of practitioners last year was that these people practice Falun Gong. This constitutes violations against personal freedom.

Lawyer Fabrice Orlandi also pointed out that the French Home Secretary claimed, in a letter, that materials distributed by Falun Gong practitioners were hostile to the Chinese Government (*Note: Falun Gong practitioners are not against any governments; they are against the persecution of Falun Gong.*), and could thus harm public order and cause safety problems for officials. But in another letter, the office of the Home Secretary positively confirmed the peaceful nature of Falun Gong practitioners. Thus, the lawyer concluded that the harassment and detention of Falun Gong practitioners in Paris during the Chinese leader's visit was France's demonstration to China that "it safeguards the friendly cooperation between two countries".

Finally the legal petition states that Falun Gong practitioners and the French Falun Dafa Association, who as host issued invitations to practitioners from other countries, considered that their basic rights were violated and decided to file the lawsuit. Section 432-4 of the Criminal Law accuses the improper use of power by persons carrying out their duty. In addition, persons involved in this incident may also have violated the European Human Rights Treaty and 1996 Citizen and Political Rights Charter.

Because the petition did not limit the persons involved in the incident, it is possible that the investigation could target the corrupt authorities within the Chinese Communist regime who controlled the event from behind the scenes.

Facts of the Persecution

Secret Orders Passed Down Through CCP Ranks Used to Perpetuate the Persecution of Falun Gong

Secret orders about Falun Gong have been sent from the top down, one after another, in China. The orders have disturbed administrators at all levels, causing them to pay serious attention to them. Each level is now requiring its inferiors to write a Guarantee Letter that Falun Gong practitioners will be closely monitored to ensure that no problems arise in their workplaces. One recently issued document stressed that Falun Gong practitioners who still insist on practicing are to be dismissed from their positions and those who are members be expelled from the Chinese Communist Party.

Near the end of December 2004, an internal document was circulated within various branch offices and institutions in Beijing. Some offices received documents that did not even have the official stamps, as if the stamps might be seen as incriminating evidence. Presented under the title "Organizational Plan and Resolution on Preventing 'Falun Gong,'" it ordered various branches to prevent Falun Gong practitioners from carrying out large-scale activities to clarify the truth.

As these internal documents circulated, Jiang's regime plotted a series of activities to reinforce the persecution of Falun Gong. Utilizing the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), they executed a new round of large-scale arrests and another slanderous attack on Falun Gong based on the fabricated Tiananmen Self-immolation in 2001. The slander was enhanced with selections from a Western reporter's interview, taking advantage of the of Western media's good reputation to create the false idea that "the persecution is supported by Western society." All this is part of the larger scheme to continue the persecution of Falun Gong by "Ruining their reputations, bankrupting them financially, and destroying them physically."

The State Security Police Murders Falun Gong practitioner with “Traffic Accident” in Hunan Province, China

On October 14, 2004, Falun Gong practitioner Mr. Cheng Zhiming from Xiangtan City, Hunan Province, was intentionally hit by a car in an accident created by the Xiangtan City 610 Office and the State Security police. There was a hole in the back of his head, and he bled terribly. The Xiangtan City Central Hospital made a diagnosis that Mr. Cheng had bleeding inside his skull. One week later, his condition dramatically improved, and his condition became stable. On October 24, while he was still in the hospital, the City 610 Office sent a State Security agent to monitor him, and Mr. Cheng Zhiming suddenly died on October 25.

Mr. Cheng Zhiming was 55 years old and lived in 733 Yaowan Neighborhood, Xiangtan City. He was a laborer in a transportation company and started practicing Falun Gong in 1997. When the persecution started, Mr. Cheng went to Beijing to clarify the truth many times after the year 2000. Later, he devoted himself to distributing truth-clarifying materials in both the city and the countryside.

Mr. Cheng had been arrested eight times. His ribs had been broken from being kicked by the police. The perpetrators even tried to tempt him into being a spy for them among Falun Gong practitioners, but Cheng Zhiming always maintained solid, righteous thoughts. For this reason, for his strength and determination to uphold Falun Gong, the authorities hated him and everything he stood for. The police could not find any evidence but knew he had an important role among the practitioners, so they planned the traffic accident to murder him.

At 9 p.m. on the evening of October 14, 2004, while on his way to visit a fellow practitioner, Mr. Cheng Zhiming stopped by collaborator Tian Xiaojuan's BBQ store. As Mr. Cheng rode his bicycle away from the store, a three-wheeled motorcycle hit him hard from behind. He quickly rode up onto the sidewalk, but other tricycles quickly chased and knocked him down on the sidewalk. Mr. Cheng was knocked unconscious. A woman, sitting in the tricycle's right passenger seat, was ejected from the seat during the collision. She and the tricycle driver escaped quickly, leaving Mr. Cheng lying on the ground with a gaping wound on the back of his head, bleeding profusely. The local people called the police, who briefly checked his physical condition, then sent him home. The police told Cheng Zhiming's family later that he had suffered three fractured ribs and internal bleeding in his head without receiving any emergency medical treatment. The next day, Mr. Cheng bled from his ears and lost consciousness. His family sent him to the hospital, where doctors found bleeding inside his skull.

The 610 Office sent a State Security agent to the hospital to monitor Mr. Cheng. The agent wrote down the name of everyone who came to visit him. If anyone asked the

agent a question about what he was doing, he would not answer. Everyone thought this man was very strange.

After one week in the hospital, Mr. Cheng's wounds were significantly recovered, and his condition became stable. He was transferred from the Emergency Room to the Common Room. The doctor said that his recovery was a miracle. On October 23, 2004, the doctor said his condition was very stable and normal. But on October 24, after the State Security agent returned, Mr. Cheng's condition suddenly worsened. He suffered from accumulated fluid in the brain, which according to the doctor, "was an impossible symptom." Very shortly thereafter, Mr. Cheng died on October 25. The traffic police wanted to investigate the circumstances of the accident and wanted the body to be preserved as evidence. However, on November 14, 2004, his employer insisted that Mr. Cheng be cremated. His family asked that a funeral be held before the cremation, but their plea was rejected. The employer said they must follow what the city 610 Office told them to do. Otherwise, they said, all expenses would have to be paid by the family.

According to the cursory police investigation, the motorized tricycles that struck Mr. Cheng was borrowed by a State Security agent from the Pingzhengstreet Police Substation, under the Yuhu Police Branch, City Police Station.

This is yet another life taken by Jiang and his followers, including the Xiangtan City 610 Office and State Security police - another atrocity committed against Falun Gong practitioners.

China: Two More Falun Gong Practitioners Die as a Result of Persecution in February 2005

1. Mr. Gao Yunhu, from Wongniute Banner, Chifeng City, Inner-Mongolia Autonomous Region, was sentenced to three years at forced labor for practicing Falun Gong. He was later bailed out on a medical parole due to the effects of severe torture. The local 610 Office and police continued to harass him at home. He died on February 1, 2005.

Mr. Gao Yunhu was 63 years old, and lived in Wudan Town, Wongniute Banner, Chifeng City, Inner-Mongolia Autonomous Region. After practicing Falun Dafa, his pyelonephritis (kidney infection), acute myocardial infarction (blocked arteries), and high blood pressure were all cured. After going to Beijing to appeal for Falun Gong in June 2000, he was arrested, sentenced to three years of forced labor, and sent to the Tumuji Labor Camp, where his health problems returned. His pyelonephritis turned to parenchymal renal failure, and further to uremia; his acute myocardial infarction became worse than before, and he suffered from brain atrophy. He was bailed out on a medical parole, but the local 610 Office and police kept harassing him at home during this period.

On October 1, 2004, his daughter was arrested while passing out truth clarifying materials. The local police began to closely monitor his home, causing him great stress, and he died on February 1, 2005.

2. Mr. Guo Shijun, 52 years old, lived in Mingxing Village, Hongqi County, Nangang District in Harbin City. On February 13, 2004, officers from the Dongguan Police Station arrested him while he was distributing truth clarification materials in Dongguan Town, Shuangcheng City. He was sent to the No. 2 Detention Center in Shuangcheng City and was later illegally sentenced to three years of forced labor. He was barbarically tortured at the Changlinzi Forced Labor Camp. The guards tied him to a metal chair twice for long periods of time. The first time he was tied there for two days and two nights, and the second time he was tied there for four days and four nights.

On February 1, 2005, the labor camp released Guo Shijun, who was at the brink of death. He faded in and out of consciousness, could not move, constantly coughed and was in great pain. On February 3, the labor camp guards went to Guo Shijun's home and took him to a hospital for a medical examination to see if he was well enough to be taken back to the labor camp. In the end they sent him back home and said, "He won't live past the Chinese New Year. He has lung cancer and liver cancer."

Guo Shijun passed away at noon on February 9, 2005. People in the village all know that he was very healthy before he was abducted. He died after one year in police custody.

China: Family Seeks Justice After 74-year-old Practitioner Is Disabled by Torture; Court Refuses to Accept the Case

Falun Gong practitioner Mr. Ning Bo, 74, is a resident in Xiaolianggou Village, Xi'an Town, Dawa County in Panjin City. In May 2004, while Mr. Ning Bo was clarifying the facts about Falun Gong, Xi'an Town Police Station Chief Zhang Mingjiang and a person named Gao Xianbao seized him and forced him to walk over 10 miles with them. They beat him fiercely the entire way. He was severely injured and became disabled, deaf in his right ear and paralyzed in his right arm. His lower back was seriously injured, and he could no longer walk on his own. Subsequently, officials in the Dawa County Court sentenced Mr. Ning Bo to three years in prison. They tortured him in the Jinzhou Prison and then transferred him to the No. 1 Prison in Lingyuan City. On January 17, 2005 they transferred Mr. Ning Bo to the 10th Prison ward in the Xinsheng Jail, Panjin City.

While he was detained, Ning Bo proclaimed his innocence. He requested that the court investigate the criminal acts of Xi'an Town Police Station chief Zhang Mingjiang and political head Gao Xianbao for beating him into disability and then illegally throwing him in prison. However, the court did not conduct an investigation. When Mr. Ning Bo was detained, Zhang Mingjiang and Gao Xianbao brutally beat him and tortured him twice to the brink of death.

In accordance with the law, Ning Bo's family sued Zhang Mingjiang and Gao Xianbao at the Dawa County People's Council and Procuratorate. The People's Council and Procuratorate have refused twice to formally hear the case. Zhang Mingjiang and Gao Xianbao are still unpunished to this date.

The Torture and Persecution That I Sustained Inside Wangcun Forced Labor Camp in Shandong Province, China

Recently, "CCTV" broadcast a series of fabricated lies and rumors alleging that Falun Gong practitioners are not tortured when they are arrested and detained by the authorities. This is completely untrue and so I hereby document and submit my personal experience of the torture and degradation I experienced when I would not go against my own conscience by giving up the practice of "Truthfulness-Compassion-Tolerance;" the practice of Falun Gong.

In 1999, I traveled to the capital city of Beijing to appeal for an end to the persecution and to clarify the facts about Falun Gong. However, not only was I arrested, I was also sent to a labor camp. In the process of my appeal, I suffered merciless beatings from Beijing's Public Security Police and the local public security police. The Beijing police tried to force me to slander our Teacher. If I refused, they would hit and kick me. At my workplace's branch office in Beijing, the police forced me to squat on the floor while they stomped on my toes with their leather boots. They handcuffed me and grabbed and pulled my hair to make me turn around in circles while rubbing their boots on my face and mercilessly beating and kicking me. Such was the public security personnel's "warm reception" that I received when I went to Beijing to legally and peacefully appeal for the rights of Falun Gong practitioners!

In order to protest the illegal "re-education through labor" sentence, I began a hunger strike. The re-education police inside the labor camp conspired with the prison inmates to barbarically force-feed me. They held me on the floor and thrust a tube into my nostril. Soon the tube was dripping with blood because of the injuries caused by the forceful insertion. One of my fellow practitioners was murdered while being force-fed in this manner. Because the police feared that they would be blamed for this incident, they fabricated lies saying that the death was caused by weakened kidney function due to the hunger strike. They also used reduced jail terms to entice prison inmates to concoct and falsify evidence. Actually, the majority of the inmates in the labor camp were aware of the truth about this incident. Quite a few also witnessed the barbaric scene of this tragic episode and some of them secretly condemned the inhumane nature of the police and the labor camp guards.

Because of my persistence in refusing to give up the practice of Falun Gong, the police transferred me to the Wangcun Forced Labor Camp in Shandong Province. After my admittance there, once again, because of my refusal to provide a written Guarantee Statement, two policemen dragged me to a secret room, that was especially designed for forcing confessions through the administration of torture. It was an airtight cell located in an inconspicuous courtyard. About a dozen police, in assault readiness gear, were waiting for me. They all wore long rubber gloves and in their hands they held various lengths and sizes of electric batons. Amidst angry growling, they shoved me firmly to

the ground, twisted both my arms behind my back and tightly handcuffed me. They then ripped off my clothes and my shoes and stomped on my legs and grabbed and pulled my hair. The innumerable electric batons in their hands began to rain down on me, sending out frightening, sparkling, hissing high voltage currents. They shocked me on my head, my face, my body, and the soles of my feet. The air was soon filled with smell of burning flesh. The police then thrust an electric baton into my mouth. In this way, they tortured and tried to force me into writing a repentance guarantee as dictated by them. After this incident, the police attempted to cover up their atrocity. They imprisoned me in isolation and in handcuffs inside the criminal division of the so-called re-education center of the main prison, so that others would not see what they had done to me.

Afterwards, the prison authorities transferred me to a special division established solely for the persecution of Falun Gong practitioners. Since I steadfastly continued to refuse to accept "transformation," for a long period of time, I suffered new atrocities at the hands of the guards and their accomplices. These accomplices included collaborators. They were relentless in their new forms of torture. They employed severe intimidation methods, harassment in non-stop rotating shifts, strategies designed to tire and fatigue, merciless beatings and other inhuman ways to devastate my body. For a long period of time, I was isolated. I was forced to sit in a fixed posture on a very narrow wooden stool. A slip of paper was inserted between my legs. I was forbidden from moving my feet and my hands were placed on my knees. If for any reason the slip of paper fell or moved, severe, merciless beatings would rain down as punishment. Sometimes for several days and nights in a row, we practitioners were not allowed to sleep; only a few minutes of rest was allowed in a day. The guards lied about this abuse and dared to shamelessly say that they did not deprive us of sleep.

When their threats failed to change our will, and in order to create an environment of psychological fear and pressure, the authorities resorted to sentencing us to illegal jail terms, increasing the time of prison terms, and refusing to release those steadfast practitioners whose prison terms were over. They manipulated the collaborators to burn me with a cigarette lighter and beat my legs with a wooden club until my legs were covered with dark bruises. They forcefully tied my legs up in a full lotus position for long periods of time, and tried to "transform" me through their own rigorous criticism, discussion, condemnation and punishment rituals designed to humiliate and confuse me. The collaborators said that by my refusing to be reformed, I impeded Teacher's Fa-rectification arrangement. They also claimed that whatever they were doing was a combination of western and Chinese methods of medical treatment designed to "cure" the illness that caused me to not give in. If they couldn't "cure" me, they said they would lose the chance of having their jail terms reduced. The variety of torture methods they came up with to devastate people were unimaginable and too numerous to mention. This was not the first time that my strong determination began to waver under the atrocities that they inflicted upon my body and mind.

I also witnessed many tortures that were inflicted on other steadfast Falun Gong practitioners. They would strip off practitioners' clothing and expose their naked bodies to the icy blast of winter winds until they froze. They handcuffed practitioners' hands between two iron beds, making the victim squat in that position for long periods of time. They handcuffed and shackled practitioners to open windows to make them freeze in the cold. They made the practitioners balance cups filled with water on their heads and if the water spilled or the cup fell, they were severely beaten. During winter, buckets of freezing water were poured over practitioners' heads. In the hot summer months, they would refuse to provide water to quench practitioners' thirst, and even forced them to wear woolen hats to intensify the effects of the heat. Practitioners were also prohibited from using the toilet. Such was the shameful and notorious terrorist-style treatment adopted and used by the police, guards, and collaborators.

The above is my testimony of the abuses I suffered and witnessed at the forced labor camp.

Falun Gong Practitioners' Righteous Action in China

Our Pure Mindset Leads to a Successful Trip to Beijing

By a Falun Gong practitioner from Shandong Province

On December 31, 2004, two other practitioners and I were on a trip to Beijing to clarify the facts about Falun Gong. We brought a whole box of materials, including small brochures, flyers, and posters.

After a day of travel we reached Beijing and found a small hotel. It was already dark. We did a brief meditation to clear our minds and to prevent any interference with our activities in the Beijing area. We discussed some safety issues, took our flyers, and went out separately to clarify the facts.

First I stopped by a well-known university and saw the guards at the entrance. Because it was the weekend and New Year's Eve, the university campus was brightly lit and crowded, with people moving in and out. I was very calm, fortified with righteous thoughts, and walked into the campus. As soon as I entered I felt relaxed. I started distributing flyers and mounted posters in the administration area, the classrooms, the education area, the residential area, and the bicycle parking lot. Within two hours I had distributed a big bag of flyers. I had also posted several large-lettered banners and small posters reading, "Falun Dafa is Great."

The next day, the first day of 2005, we went to Tiananman Square in the early morning. It was a nice day, but not many people were there. The place gave had a constrained and gloomy feeling. Police cars were all over the place, at every entrance and around the monuments. There were many undercover police too. We walked onto the Square with a righteous mindset and stayed there for about two hours maintaining this pure intention. I felt that no other thoughts could enter my mind. One of the practitioners wanted to climb up the rostrum of Tiananmen. We walked to the building and got close to the guards at the checkpoint. With righteous thoughts I calmly held my arms up for the security check. Strangely, the people in front of me were checked very thoroughly with a wand, patted down, or were asked to remove their jackets while I passed with just a bag check. The flyers hidden in the top pocket of my coat were not touched. I knew that our benevolent Teacher was guiding me and protecting me at every moment.

The security at the top of the Tiananman rostrum was very tight; a group of undercover police were lined up outside the wall and stared at each traveler. It was about 12:00 P.M., time for practitioners around the world to send out pure thoughts to eliminate the evil behind the persecution. There, at the top, we continued this meditation for about an hour. During that time the only police action we saw was a police car rushing to the flagpole where the officers arrested a demonstrator.

In the evening I went by myself to another university with a bag of flyers and posters. I walked through the campus to distribute all the flyers and hung dozens of posters and banners on the walls. On my way back to the hotel I posted "Falun Dafa is great" on phone booths, electricity poles and overhead cross walks. In that short stay, the three days' trip in Beijing, we accomplished all of what we had planned.

Using Righteous Thoughts to Oppose the Persecution of My Husband in Prison

By a Falun Gong practitioner in China

The authorities once imprisoned me for practicing Falun Gong. When my practice situation improved and I was about to step forward to clarify the truth about Falun Dafa, I learned that my husband was suffering the cruel torture of being put in a solitary confinement "small cell"(1) in the prison where he had been illegally sentenced in 2002 for practicing Falun Gong.

I called up the head of the prison district and asked about my husband's situation. "Nobody is allowed to see him while he is placed in solitary confinement," he replied.

A few days later, it was visiting day at the prison. Despite the prison head's remark, I thought that as a Falun Dafa practitioner, I must not follow the path that allows the persecution, and I must go visit my husband. I took my elderly mother (a non-practitioner in her seventies) to the prison and we arrived on time. Because the prison officials were having a meeting, I waited patiently in front of the gate and sent out pure thoughts to eliminate the evil factors behind the persecution.

After the meeting, the No. 2 head of the prison district was the first one back. As soon as he saw us, he asked, "Why are you here? Your husband is in solitary confinement so nobody can see him." I replied that I had come because I knew he was placed in confinement. "He recovered from his illnesses after practicing Falun Gong. Who will be accountable if he becomes sick again in solitary confinement?" The No. 1 head then arrived, and led me to his office. I started to clarify the truth about Falun Dafa and told him about the ongoing persecution in the prison. At the same time, I sent out pure thoughts to rectify the field around him. He told me, "I can't make the decision. Let me talk to the prison director later."

After returning home, I tried to discard any hidden attachments that might weaken my resolve. I called the associate prison director in charge of such matters. I said, "My husband became a healthy person because he practices Falun Gong. But now he is placed in a special confinement cell that is dark, cold, and lacks sunshine all day long. If his health deteriorates in confinement, I will file a legal complaint against the responsible persons." I demanded that they release my husband immediately. He promised to let me visit my husband.

Two days later, the prison authorities finally allowed me to visit my husband under the condition that I did not talk.

Seeing my husband lying on the cold concrete floor with his bare feet, being so cruelly persecuted, I cried in my heart. I asked him if he was all right. He was actually very weak, and his mouth had been injured by forced-feeding after he held a hunger strike to protest the persecution. Hearing our conversation, the guards came in to stop us and drove me out.

On the way back, I reiterated my demand to the prison authorities to release my husband immediately.

From then on, I went to the prison whenever I could. When I didn't have time, I called the prison and asked them about the result of my request.

One day, I was sharing my experience with other practitioners. One practitioner said, "If you took a step back, you wouldn't see him so much as your husband, but rather, as a fellow practitioner. The main reason you go to the prison should be to clarify the truth. Does it matter where you do that?" She was right, I hadn't been thinking of him as a fellow practitioner, but merely as my husband. That sentimentality was an attachment that had to be let go.

On the way back home, I enlightened to the fact that the approach I took before was merely to lessen the persecution of my husband, without realizing that the persecutors themselves were victims that needed to know the truth. It is terribly sad that they will have to pay the price for the crimes they are committing. I must take this as an opportunity to clarify the truth to those who don't know, telling them that treating practitioners well will bring them happiness and good fortune, while those who persecute practitioners will face karmic retribution, and cause pain in their own families.

Once I genuinely thought of the persecutors from this angle, I saw how their inherent human quality would truly understand what I was saying and I saw them with compassion. The result of this approach was that the head of the prison district promised to ask the responsible people to release my husband.

Ten days after I learned about the confinement torture of my husband and took action against the persecution, my husband was finally released from the small cell despite the prison authorities' original plan to lock him up in solitary confinement for at least a month. During this period, I visited the prison four times and frequently called them.

Having successfully rescued my husband from the torture of solitary confinement was only the beginning of my battle against the persecution. It is our ultimate goal to set free all of our fellow practitioners who are illegally imprisoned.

I hope that more families of the imprisoned and persecuted Falun Dafa practitioners will join the efforts against the persecution. By doing so, we, as the families of the imprisoned practitioners, will be able to announce with pride, after our beloved ones come back home, that we have done what we were supposed to do.

My husband's release from the torture of solitary confinement was also aided the effort of overseas practitioners who have frequently made phone calls and clarified the truth to the prison authorities, and sent out pure thoughts to eliminate the evil factors behind the persecution. I am grateful to all my fellow practitioners for our effort as one body.

People Awaken to the Truth

Voice of a Falun Gong Practitioner's Family Member in China

My mother started practicing Falun Gong in 1996. At first I thought that Falun Gong was just a qigong exercise that helps one to get rid of illness and maintain health. But after my mother studied the books and did the exercises for some time, I found out that Falun Gong is a form of high-level cultivation that teaches one to be compassionate and strive towards being a good person.

On July 20, 1999, Jiang's regime slandered Falun Gong and declared it as a target. Thereafter the persecution of Falun Gong escalated. My mother and sister, both Falun Gong practitioners, were illegally detained. They suffered various kinds of persecution and torture in the detention centers. At that time the chief of the town police station even announced that he wanted to fine us until we were broke and bulldoze down our houses.

In order to secure my mother and sister's freedom, I went around everywhere to ask for help. My father and brother-in-law frowned and worried every day. During the five years of persecution, my family has been fined over ten thousand Yuan. The mental pain and hurt inflicted on my family members, friends and relatives could not be measured in monetary terms.

In these few years, I witnessed the process my mother and sister's persecution. Even after much reflection, I could not understand why a person is not allowed to learn to be good? Are we all supposed to learn to be bad people? My mother was liberated from all her medical problems after practicing Falun Gong. Why is it that she is not allowed to tell others publicly? These Falun Gong practitioners, despite the cruel persecution, still persisted in practicing Truthfulness, Compassion, and Tolerance, being good people and doing good deeds.

We should let others know the real story of Falun Gong. Practitioners are without hate and complaints. As a family member of Falun Gong practitioners, I kept thinking that the family members of Falun Gong practitioners should no longer be silent. We should not feel afraid and back away in the face of unreasonable suppression and illegal persecution. Let us all face the persecution together with our family members and support them without fail. Our courage can help more good and kind-hearted people stand uphold justice, and together we can put an end to this catastrophe against humanity.

A Police Chief Who Benefited from Falun Gong Protects the Practitioners

One of a Falun Gong practitioner's friends is a local police station chief. One day, the two ran into each other on the street. The practitioner thought the police chief appeared sick, with a sallow complexion. During their conversation, the police chief told the practitioner that he had developed diabetes and some other complications. He had sought a cure everywhere, but nothing helped. The practitioner kindly advised him to practice Falun Gong. The police chief said, "I know Falun Dafa is good. But do you think a person like me in the police force can still cultivate? Will Teacher Li take care of me?" The practitioner answered, "Teacher Li does not look at your profession, but at your heart. As long as you have kind thoughts towards Falun Dafa at work, and try your best to protect Falun Gong practitioners, you will receive blessings."

The police chief nodded in agreement, and borrowed *Zhuan Falun* and *The Great Consummation Way of Falun Dafa* from the practitioner. One week later, the two met again. This time the police chief had a rosy complexion and was in very good spirits. He told the practitioner happily, "Teacher Li is taking care of me. I just studied the principles for several days, and the illnesses that had haunted me for years all disappeared. Falun Dafa is so miraculous! It's so good!"

He then told the practitioner the following story: "Several days ago, a person came to the police station to report on a certain practitioner. I told him, 'Does other people's distributing flyers have anything to do with you? Jiang has lost his power. You still want to follow him to the end? If you keep reporting on other people, I'll arrest you on the charge of disturbing social order!' After listening to me, that informant left without another word."

Media Reports and Opinions

West Australian (Perth): China calls up scorn with Falun Gong hate

February 17, 2005

You have to wonder about China's leaders. In the past couple of years, they've spent millions of dollars and a great deal of energy trying to play down their human rights abuses and persuade the rest of the world that China is a suitable country to host the world's greatest sporting event, the Olympic Games.

Now they've apparently launched a crude global telephone hate campaign aimed at harassing members of the enigmatic spiritual movement, Falun Gong, with which they have an irrational obsession. It's a sinister act that will reinforce some of our worst fears about the world's biggest nation.

In the past few days, dozens of people throughout Australia and thousands more in other parts of the world have been getting recorded messages on their home and mobile phones demonizing the practice of Falun Gong and claiming that the Chinese Government is defending human rights by saving people from the movement.

The messages, in both Chinese and English, centre on reports linking Falun Gong with an alleged self-immolation incident in 2001.

Australian Falun Gong practitioners have called on the Federal Government to investigate the source of the calls and take steps to block them.

Falun Gong defies simple description and its practitioners resent any suggestion that it's a cult. It is a spiritual movement that began in China in the latter half of the last century [...]. Many people, including non-Chinese, are drawn to it because of the beneficial effects of the physical exercises associated with it.

The movement grew rapidly in China in the 1990s, to the point that it had more practitioners than the Communist Party had members. Its founder, Li Hongzhi, moved to America in 1996 and the Chinese Government outlawed Falun Gong three years later after accusing it of "spreading fallacies, hoodwinking people, inciting and creating disturbances and jeopardizing social stability."

Since then the Beijing regime has intensified its propaganda campaign to turn public opinion against the practice while imprisoning, torturing and even murdering those who practice it. By one count, more than 100,000 Falun Gong practitioners have been sent to forced labor camps, most without being tried.

There has never been any evidence of any subversive political activity by Falun Gong members. The only reason for the relentless persecution seems to be that the paranoid

Chinese leadership appears to fear any national group that is capable of organizing its followers into direct action.

Political freedoms are virtually unknown in China and ill-treatment is a daily reality for those sent to crowded and poorly maintained prisons. Besides followers of Falun Gong, the targets of persecution include internet journalists, ethnic and religious minorities and labor activists.

In WA, there are about 40 regular practitioners of Falun Gong. A spokesman, Sean Hutchison, said yesterday that the [harassing] calls had been received by six of them.

These were all to telephone numbers that were available from websites and pamphlets.

He said the people who got the calls had complained to their service providers, who had traced the calls to an overseas database but were unable to track them further.

He said the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation had traced calls to Falun Gong members in the US to a source in Beijing.

Mr. Hutchison said that apart from the nuisance value of the calls, the people who got them were perturbed about the extremes the Chinese officials seemed prepared to go to harass Falun Gong followers overseas.

North Shore Times (Australia): Art belies pain of existence

Paintings by traditional Chinese artist Zhang Cuiying aim to give viewers sense of peace.

A selection of paintings from work she has produced during the last 30 years will be on show from Monday, February 14 at the Momoya Restaurant in Chatswood as part of Chinese New Year celebrations and she has a very personal reason for promoting peace.

Zhang began painting as a child in China, studying with masters of Chinese painting.

"I was taught that painting, like calligraphy, reflects the kind of person you are," she said. "Your painting is a reflection of you character."

She arrived in Australia in 1990 with her young daughter to join her husband, and continued painting for six years until she was struck down with severe arthritis.

"It was so painful that it was impossible for me to paint," she said.

"A year later my husband and I were introduced to a system of exercises and meditation known as Falun Dafa or Falun Gong and in a very short period of time the arthritis disappeared and I was able to paint again."

When former Chinese Communist Party leader Jiang Zemin banned the practice of Falun Dafa in 1999, Zhang, by then an Australian citizen, decided to return to China.

"Jiang feared that Falun Dafa would overthrow the communist rule but I wanted people to know that was not its intention and that Falun Dafa is good," Zhang said.

She was arrested and imprisoned.

"I was beaten and kicked and my legs were chained together," she said. "I was moved around to different jails.

"In one I was locked up with male prisoners and in another, with someone who had a mental illness.

"Temperatures were higher than 40°C and the jails were filthy."

After eight months she was released but today, almost five years later, she still has a skin infection from her time in jail which has not healed.

None of this shows in the tranquility of her paintings.

"Nothing can destroy inner peace," she said. "I want to give people a sense of goodness and beauty."

Zhang has traveled to 100 cities and 40 countries to show her paintings and she has received many awards.

With the help of her lawyer Geoffrey Robertson QC, she is suing Jiang Zemin for the inhuman treatment she received in China.

Zhang lives in Bankstown and was named 2004 Citizen of the Year on Australia Day by Bankstown City council.

She was nominated for excellence in painting, richness in compassion and contribution to human rights and freedom of belief.

The paintings are on view in the Momoya Restaurant until Monday, February 21.

Independent Weekly (University Of Toronto): Falun Gong Offers 'Spiritual Release'

Art Display Showcases the Peaceful Philosophy of Its Practitioners

At the east end of Sid Smith sits a painting of woman being brutally tortured by Chinese government officials. She is being beaten and injected with syringes, but sits still. No sign of resistance is apparent from her face, just pain. On the far-east end of the globe, a woman sits in a prison and endures similar torture for her belief and practices of Falun Gong.

For the past two weeks, Xiao "Michael" Nan Zeng has spent his days at the display handing out pamphlets and [talking about] the benefits of Falun Gong (also called Falun Dafa). Besides informing people of the benefits this form of meditation offers, Michael has a message which hits closer to home. The woman in the painting is more than just a symbol of a tyrannical communist government denying freedoms to its citizens, the woman is his mother.

In 1999, Falun Gong was banned by the communist government in China because then-president Jiang Zemin saw it as a threat to his power. Those who have continued to practice it have been imprisoned, sent to labor camps, tortured, and over 1,600 have been killed.

Back home in China, Zeng's mother sits in a psychiatric hospital where he says she is injected with mind altering substances and tortured daily for refusing to denounce her practice.

[..Zeng's mother could not ...] escape an 8-year sentence imposed by the government. Michael's days are now committed to informing people of the benefits of Falun Gong while trying to get as many people as possible to support the movement against anti-Falun Gong laws in China.

More surprising than Michael's commitment to saving his mother, is his and others' commitment to the peaceful teachings of Falun Gong.

When asked if it angered her that the Communist Party of Canada regularly sets up a table endorsing communism in the very building she was displaying the atrocities imposed by a tyrannical communist government, Falun Gong practitioner Wendy Guo said: "I think people have the right to think whatever it is they want, but before they believe just use their head and think about what kind of person they want to be."

What kind of people do we want to be? Before talking with Michael and Wendy I thought I wanted to be a writer who could use others' misfortune to denounce communism.

After speaking with Michael and Wendy, I took another look at the painting which had only moments before enraged me with its graphic depiction of torture. Now, peaceful images of sunlight and children, which only moments before I had been blind to, seemed to dominate the piece.

The calm look on the woman's face no longer seemed to represent pain, but rather, the ideals of Falun Gong: Truthfulness, Compassion and Tolerance, .

Their message goes beyond superficial political biases and so should our efforts to help. To find out more on the Falun Gong movement and ways you can help visit www.flgjustice.org.

NewsMax.com: Communist China Cold-Calls Americans

Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2005 Beginning Feb 6, 2005, dozens of homes and individuals in the Washington, D.C., area have been bombarded by phone calls with recorded messages that apparently come from China's Communist regime.

The messages contain propaganda demonizing the practice of Falun Gong and claiming that the Chinese government is defending "human rights" by "saving" people from the Chinese spiritual practice.

The curious and remarkably benign target of the phone campaign, Falun Gong, also known as Falun Dafa, is a spiritual practice that consists of gentle exercises and postures, combined with a meditation component.

Three values - truthfulness, compassion and tolerance - form the core of Falun Gong's philosophy. Many liken its technique to tai chi or yoga. The discipline went public in May of 1992, introduced by its founder, Li Hongzhi, and today is practiced in over 50 countries.

When Chinese leader Jiang Zemin banned Falun Gong on July 20, 1999, up to 100 million people in China were suddenly outcast. Evidence suggests that Jiang feared the growing number of practitioners and was envious of the practice's popularity.

Reportedly, over time, Jiang intensified the regime's propaganda against Falun Gong, while persecuting those who practice it.

At a press conference at Washington's National Press Club Wednesday, various people who received the calls shared the experience, playing recordings from their phone answering machines and declaring their chagrin that such propaganda could reach them in America.

Individuals described receiving the calls as "shocking," "disturbing," "outrageous" and "frightening."

According to sponsors of the press conference, the phone assault was not limited to the D.C. area but targeted hundreds of Falun Gong practitioners throughout North America, Europe, Asia and Australia - at about the same time.

The message, both in Chinese and English, centered on reports by the Beijing regime attempting to link Falun Gong with an alleged self-immolation incident in 2001.

By midnight Feb. 7, at least 23 individuals and families in the metropolitan D.C. area had received phone calls with the message. Some received as many as 18 messages. Most recipients were Falun Gong practitioners.

Falun Gong Practitioners' Personal Experiences

Rheumatoid Arthritis Disappears after Practicing Falun Gong

Looking back on the changes in me after I obtained the Fa, I feel that I really received a new lease on life. Now I'd like to share my experiences with everyone so you will know that practicing Falun Gong not only improves one's health but also elevates one's character. Please do not believe the lies spread by Jiang's regime.

I am 64 years old. I began to practice Falun Gong in 1997. Back in 1991, I developed rheumatoid arthritis. My wrists were swollen and painful. Later the swelling spread to my feet. In the end, all the joints in my body were hurting badly. I had a yellowish, swollen face. My red blood count was really low. Even on the hottest days of summer, I had to be covered with quilts and stay in a room with the windows closed. In winter, the pain was beyond description. I sought a cure everywhere, but to no avail. The hard-earned money my family had saved for years was almost used up in their attempts to cure my disease. Because of the side effects of the medicines I was taking, I had bodily dysfunctions. I had a vacant look and I did not want to speak. I lost my ability to take care of myself and to work. I contemplated ending my life, but the thought of my parents in their eighties compelled me to struggle to live on.

In April 1997, I came across Falun Gong by chance. Since then I have read the Falun Gong books every day. Starting in June of that year, I began to practice the exercises. The first time I did the standing exercise, it felt as though both of my legs were being baked, and I could feel the warmth flow through my whole body. The feeling was extremely comfortable. I thought to myself that this must be a really good practice and I should stick with it. In no more than a month, I had completely changed to a different person. People who saw me said I had gained weight and could see I was in very good spirits.

I was soon able to do the housework. I even took care of my one-year-old granddaughter. Now, I don't need any medicine, as all my illnesses have gone away.

My husband always tells everyone he meets that one person practicing Falun Gong has benefited the whole family. My daughter told my son that we should really thank Teacher Li. My fellow villagers all know that a miracle happened to me, a once bedridden person. Even our village party secretary tells other people that a rheumatoid arthritis patient had her illness cured after practicing Falun Gong.

Falun Gong Gave My Son a Second Life

By a Falun Gong practitioner in Jilin Province, China

I am a 41-year-old laborer who started to learn about Falun Gong in January 1998. Before that I suffered from sciatica, chronic fatigue, insomnia as well as other health problems. I struggled in pain under life's pressures with the added torment of chronic illness. After I began practicing Falun Gong, all of my symptoms gradually disappeared, one after another. I finally experienced the feeling of being totally free from illness. Besides improved health, my moral standards were also uplifted through Falun Gong's emphasis on the cultivation of "Truthfulness - Compassion - Tolerance." Falun Gong brought so many positive changes to the way I lived, and my life became very harmonious and peaceful.

In July of 1999, the persecution of Falun Gong started like a bolt from the blue. Suddenly, Falun Gong was attacked and slandered, and a ferocious persecution began against people who cultivate "Truthfulness - Compassion - Tolerance." My family's and friends' objections, neighbors' suspicion, colleagues' discouragement and police harassment all created enormous pressure for me. I struggled on my path of cultivation. A recent incident not only changed my surroundings, but also gave many people a chance to know the truth of Falun Gong.

One day in September 2003, my 16-year old son suddenly came down with a strange disease. The symptoms were the loss of strength throughout his entire body. He was a strong young man, but when the disease struck, he couldn't even hold an apple. The weakening progressed until he couldn't talk, move his arms, or even hold a piece of paper. The family was very worried, and we took him to various hospitals, including the Jilin City Central Hospital as well as its subsidiary. One expert diagnosed his ailment as "Guillaine-Barre syndrome." He told us that this kind of disease was incurable, that there was no specific medicine for it and that it might develop into a coma and death. Hearing these words, I couldn't control my tears. There are no words to describe my feelings.

My husband's response was, "Let us keep searching for a cure no matter what." Our financial status is not very good, as both my husband and I have been unemployed. The hospital told us that the total costs for our son to stay in the hospital would be about 2000 yuan per day, an astronomical figure to us. To save his life, we borrowed money from friends, and our child remained in the hospital. After a few months had passed, not only had he shown no signs of improvement, but he had also developed additional symptoms such as muscular atrophy and difficulty swallowing. Even the doctors suggested we give up this approach that was doing him no good.

Then I told my husband that there could still be hope if our son practiced Falun Gong. My husband didn't believe in cultivation, but for the sake of our son he agreed on the condition that our son also continue his medicine at the same time so that he was covered from both perspectives. I did not object.

We took our son home and I asked him if he was willing learn Falun Gong from me. Aware of the gravity of his condition, my son agreed, perhaps just to comfort me. Since then, every day I taught the exercises and had him listen to Teacher Li's recorded lectures. The exercises proved to be too difficult for him at first; he basically couldn't even move his arms or legs at all, and I had to prop him up against a wall. Then, after several days, a miracle happened and he could move his arms during the exercises. I immediately told my husband, who was very happy with this news. Within a few days, my skeptical husband wholeheartedly agreed to let our son concentrate on Falun Gong cultivation alone without taking medication any longer.

From this point on, our son stopped using medicine and started focusing on learning the principles and the exercises. One day, he told me, "Mom, I felt a warm stream flowing from the top of my head down to my feet, which felt really good. I like doing the exercises a lot, I feel so good whenever I practice." I was thrilled. That must be our merciful Teacher doing anointment for him. Thus, after a few months, my son could again lift a bowl, gradually start to take care of himself, and even help with some of the housework. Now my son has fully recovered. He has become a happy boy again who sometimes even wrestles with his father!

Now all of my family, friends, and neighbors know that Falun Dafa gave my child a second life because they themselves witnessed this miracle. My sincere wish is to let more people know what is possible, and that is why I am writing down this true story. I hope my readers will no longer be fooled by the Chinese government's lies slandering Falun Gong. Please stand by justice and "Truthfulness - Compassion - Tolerance!"

I want to thank our magnificent Teacher. I will redouble my efforts to strive forward and cultivate diligently.