

Clearwisdom Review

An Update on Falun Dafa Worldwide

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Scotland: "A Beautiful and Peaceful Charm" Falun Gong in Edinburgh International Arts Festival Parade

(Clearwisdom.net) The annual Edinburgh International Arts Festival is an important event in Scotland, attracting visitors from around the world. The 2008 Annual Festival parade began on August 3rd. Falun Gong practitioners have been participating in this event for seven years.



The colorful Falun Gong contingent at the festival

According to the organizers, participants in the festival parade come from around the world – a total of more than 80 groups including more than 3,000 people, and it was expected that 150,000 people would watch the parade.

This year, the British Falun Gong parade contingent was composed of three major sections. A banner with "Truthfulness, Compassion and Tolerance" led the group, closely followed a banner reading, "Falun Dafa" and a banner in both Chinese and English reading, "Falun Dafa Is Widely Spread in over 80 Countries in the World." The banners were followed by a waist-drumming team made up of both Chinese and Western practitioners. The sound of drumming accompanied by the melodious music delighted crowds on both sides of the street.

Following the drummers was a float on which practitioners demonstrated the peaceful Falun Gong exercises. The float was decorated with clouds and lotus flowers of different colors, and in the middle was an exquisite, large, pink lotus flower in which were standing three Chinese and Western practitioners demonstrating the exercises. Many people took photos and videos of the Falun Gong group.

Behind the float were a dozen female practitioners dressed as maidens in imperial Tang Dynasty attire. They danced gracefully to the beautiful melody of "The Eternal Gates of Heaven Are Open," a Tang-style composition created by a Falun Gong practitioner. Their dignified and elegant dances, together with their elegant costumes, received much applause from the spectators. At the end of the procession were Falun banners of different colors.

A woman who had just come from mainland China told the reporter: "It's amazing! The energy is so powerful!" Along the both sides of the street, many overseas Chinese cheered for the Falun Gong contingent.

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.

Ms. Li Shuzhen Dies after Being Interrogated by Police in Jilin Province

(Clearwisdom.net) Ms. Li Shuzhen, 58, was formerly employed by the Huaxin Wood Products Company, a division of the Tonghua County Forestry Bureau. She began practicing Falun Dafa in 1996, and soon became very healthy. After the persecution started in 1999, Party officials ransacked her home, extorted money from her, sent her to a forced labor camp, and brutally beat her multiple times.



Ms. Li Shuzhen

In December 2000, the police found a Falun Gong flyer while ransacking her home. The police then procured many flyers as "evidence" and detained Ms. Li in the Tonghua County Detention Center, where she went on hunger strike to protest. Deputy Director Wang Liping had a male prisoner bring dirty water that was used to wash feet mixed with some milk powder. Then he spat in the mixture and force-fed it to Ms. Li. Ms. Li was tortured so severely that she began to have symptoms of heart disease, and she vomited blood for two days, which stopped the guards from further force-feeding her. When Ms. Li did the Falun Dafa exercises in the detention center, Wang always cursed or beat her and had guard Jiang Minhua spray her with a hose. Ms. Li was released after four months, after the police extorted three thousand yuan from her family.

On April 8, 2001, Ms. Li went to Beijing to appeal against the persecution. Two officers and Ms. Li's husband went to Beijing to pick her up. Her husband had to pay all the costs plus 1,100 yuan in cash. Ms. Li was sentenced to three years of forced labor. She was imprisoned in the Changchun City Women's Labor Camp. She was deprived of sleep, and guards Jin Lihua and Huo Yan punched, kicked, and slapped her. When Ms. Li was ordered to perform hard labor beyond her capability, guard Sun Jia would beat and curse her. Warden Fu Yufen punched and kicked her, causing her to experience chest and foot pain. Deputy Warden Xi Guirong shocked her with electric batons.

On March 5, 2003, Ms. Li and 17 other practitioners co-signed a letter requesting the camp to stop the torture. The camp administration assigned three male guards to the Third Ward, who took these 18 practitioners one-by-one to an office to beat them and shock them with electric batons. Ms. Li's term was extended for seven days after her three-year term ended. Her employer never paid her pension, and she had to retire without any income.

On January 30, 2007, Ms. Li went to the Labor Bureau with her husband to see if she could receive some heating benefits. She was waiting in the lobby for her husband, but he could not find her afterwards. At 4 p.m. the same day, officer Zhao Cunbo from the Tonghua County Police Department brought her home and said to her husband, "Your wife was lost, and we took her home." After they left, he found that they had deceived him. In reality, they had taken Ms. Li to be interrogated at the police department and searched her in a restroom. After that incident, Ms. Li suffered incontinence, and she was bedridden and could not take care of herself. She died on March 7, 2008.

CIPFG Submits One Million Signatures to European Union Commission

(Clearwisdom.net) On August 6, 2008, at the European Union Commission headquarters in Brussels, a representative of CIPFG (Coalition to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong) formally submitted over one million signatures collected worldwide to the European Union Commission, requesting its help to stop the Chinese Communist regime's persecution of Falun Gong.

Mr. Vincent Guerend, Deputy Head of the Cabinet for the European Union, and Commissioner of External Relations Ms. Benita Ferrer Waldner officially accepted the signatures on behalf of the EU Commission and met with the representative of CIPFG. The deputy head of the EU External Relations Bureau's China section, Mr. Michalis R. Kas, also joined the meeting.

CIPFG representative Ms. Nele Regiest, said: "CIPFG's initiation of collecting one million signatures against the persecution started in January 2008. It is for the purpose of condemning the Chinese Communist regime's persecution of Falun Gong and appealing for the complete end to the persecution before the Olympics." She stressed that Falun Gong practitioners have suffered brutal persecution by the Chinese Communist regime for nine years. "It is very difficult to imagine what life has been like for practitioners under the Chinese Communist regime. This persecution must be stopped immediately. Especially, just before the Olympics, the Chinese Communist regime has illegally detained many Falun Gong practitioners and other forms of persecution have been intensified."