

WOMEN OF CONSCIENCE:

A REPORT ON THE PERSECUTION OF FEMALE
PRACTITIONERS OF FALUN GONG
IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

SPECIAL REPORT

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An Introduction to This Report

The Falun Dafa Information Center has compiled this special report to clarify and document the brutal and systematic violence against women that has been carried out in the People's Republic of China during the nearly two-year crackdown against Falun Gong. Torture, sexual abuse, illegal detention, forced labor, incarceration in Mental Hospitals and even murder of women practitioners have occurred regularly in police facilities and labor "re-education" camps throughout China. Many of these cases have been well documented by news agencies and human rights organizations, such as the Wall Street Journal and Amnesty International.

Because the sheer magnitude of these abuses against women would require several volumes to document, we have compiled only a small number of cases to represent the types of torture and brutality being unleashed upon women practitioners by Chinese government officials. Therefore, this report does not seek to document every known case, but rather provide clear and comprehensive evidence of the types of cases that are widespread in China today.

Our primary source of information for this document is from reports sent to us by eyewitnesses and victims inside China, and secondarily from news media and human rights organization reports. In particular, Amnesty International has recently released a comprehensive report on torture in China, which has served as a valuable source of information on violence against women in the crackdown against Falun Gong in China (See Amnesty International Index: ASA 17/004/2001).

Falun Dafa Information Center

March, 2001

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An Overview of the Crackdown Against Falun Gong in China

Falun Dafa (also known as Falun Gong), is a form of traditional Chinese exercise and meditation practice with ancient roots. It consists primarily of two components: self-improvement through study of the principles of Truthfulness, Compassion, and Forbearance (Zhen-Shan-Ren) and practicing five sets of simple exercises. It was introduced to the public in 1992 in China and it quickly caught on among the populace mainly through word of mouth. Falun Dafa is now practiced by over 100 million people in more than 40 countries around the world. All Falun Dafa activities are free of charge and organized by volunteers.

Primarily due to its overwhelming popularity among the populous in China, however, in July of 1999, President Jiang Zemin launched a vicious campaign against the Chinese citizens to eradicate Falun Gong. For almost two years, Chinese law enforcement organizations have consistently ignored Chinese citizens' basic human rights as guaranteed by China's own constitution as well as 28 of the 30 Articles of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, which China has signed.

World media and human rights groups report that some 50,000 people have been arbitrarily detained: 25,000 have been sent to labor camps without trial, and at least 650 have been forced into mental hospitals. According to the information from the Chinese state-run media, Xinhua News Agency, at least 242 have been sentenced to prison terms of up to 18 years. In police custody, torture and humiliation against Falun Gong practitioners are common. To date, about 160 people are known to have died as a result of the brutal persecution. And the death toll continues to rise. Many others have faced arbitrary detention, house arrest, huge fines, and dismissal from work. As a result, countless families have been broken up.

Among the victims, many are female practitioners. The government-sponsored persecution against female Falun Gong practitioners has targeted the women regardless of age, occupation, or physical condition. Authorities have arrested and detained girls as young as 11 years old, elderly women in their 80's, pregnant women, the highly educated and uneducated with equal fervor. Pregnant women have been subjected to forced late-stage abortion rather than be released from jail to give birth to their child. In police or government custody, female practitioners have suffered all kinds of sexual assaults as well as tortures.

Yet, despite these abuses, there is no place in China where they can file a lawsuit or call for justice. Police or government officials are often promoted if they are crueller than others when persecuting Falun Gong practitioners. In addition, the government censors all news of the persecution and threatens foreign journalists who dare to report on the crackdown. Meanwhile, the state-run media is directed to misinform and fabricate news for the Chinese public to cover up these crimes.

Despite the suppression by the Chinese government, however, these women continue to strive to follow the principle of Truthfulness, Benevolence, and Forbearance. No matter where they are or under what condition they are detained, they strive to endure quietly and bear no hatred in their hearts. Their lives are in danger as this tragedy continues to unfold. They need assistance from all people of conscience around the world to speak out against this violence.

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More Than 40 Types of Torture Methods

We have documented more than 40 types of torture that are regularly used against women who practice Falun Gong. A small sampling of these methods include:

- Widespread use of electric stun devices to shock women on sensitive body parts such as the genitals, breasts, mouth, head, and anus.
- Force-feeding using liquid mixtures containing hot pepper or a thick saline solution with only a small amount of water added; this usually causes severe vomiting.
- Forced injections of higher than normal dosages of drugs that damage the central nervous system.
- Prolonged hanging from shackles on the wrists.
- Forced standing for long periods of time in freezing temperatures, wearing little or no clothing and drenched in ice water.
- Piercing through the fingertips with sharp bamboo sticks or through the nipples with wire.
- Forced standing in physically exhausting postures for hours at a time.
- Prolonged and daily beating.
- Sleep deprivation.
- Public humiliation by being paraded through the streets wearing derogatory signs.
- Subjected to snake and scorpion bites or left outside without clothing in mosquito infested areas.
- Restrained with dirty items stuffed in their mouths, such as used sanitary napkins, cleaning rags, dirty socks, etc.

Typical Cases of Abuse Against Women

The atrocities being committed against women who practice Falun Gong are escalating. The accounts below are just a small sample of typical examples of torture being endured by these women in detention centers and forced labor camps throughout China.

- Shi Yingchun was arrested for practicing Falun Gong in a local park on October 5, 2000. While in custody at the Huludao Detention Center, she continued to practice the Falun Gong exercises in her cell. Because of this, two guards beat her buttocks using nail-studded clubs and plastic hoses. When she would not renounce her belief, she was beaten again even though her buttocks were already lacerated and bleeding. Meanwhile, she was forced wear handcuffs and shackles for several days.
- Chen Lihua (pseudonym used to protect the victim), 36, female, a farmer in Dawangzhuang Township. She was detained in an office of the township government on Jan. 4, 2000 for going to Beijing to appeal. Dozens of young male officials led by Li (an official in the office of the communist party committee), came to the office and forced her to take off all her clothes. Official Bo thrust an electric baton into her vagina, shocking her to the floor. Then, one man held her arm and electrically shocked her body and handcuffed one of her hands to the window. Official Wang held her other hand while Bo grabbed her breasts and shocked her upper body repeatedly.
- A 14-year old girl was forced to walk with a heavy brick on top of her head and her feet were bound to heavy rocks. While she walked, guards repeatedly slapped her in the face. At night the officer ordered her to hold a position touching her toes with knees straight. When she could not maintain the position, the guards beat her with clubs. After being tortured like this for an entire night, she could not walk without being helped by someone. In a similar incident, guards forced some practitioners to stand bent over with their hands pressed to the ground. Anyone unable to hold this position was whipped. One female practitioner was whipped for several hours because she was too fatigued to continue. Another was whipped until she collapsed and the guards continued to beat her as she lay on the ground. Guards threatened practitioners who protested the mistreatment that they would stuff their mouths with used sanitary napkins.
- On November 15, 2000 at the Futian Detention Center (Shenzhen, Guangdong Province), six female practitioners, including a 60 year-old elderly women, were stripped naked, dragged out and forced to stand in public. One female practitioner was forced to stand naked in the courtyard for 5 minutes.

Photos of Women Who Were Beaten and Tortured

A Woman Practitioner's Personal Account



Pictures of the lower body of the victim five days after being abused by the Police at Tiananmen Square

"I went to Tiananmen Square on October 17, 2000 to appeal for my right to freely practice Falun Gong. Upon arriving I was arrested and detained at the Tiananmen Police Station. Police there shocked me repeatedly with electric stun batons and kicked me for several hours. After the beating, several policemen held me down and threatened to inject me with something that they called a "vaccination." I did everything I could to resist, and they finally gave up after awhile. Still, one police officer forced drops of an extremely strong liquid into my nostrils. Soon afterwards it took effect - I felt dizzy and unbalanced, it was very difficult for me to breathe, and my mouth felt extremely dry. It is difficult to describe my suffering adequately. When they asked me to tell them my name and address, I simply did everything I could to deal with the pain and did not say anything at all. Finally they had no choice but to stop the interrogation. They tied my feet to a metal fence and handcuffed my hands to the lowest point on the fence. This way, I could neither stand up nor sit down. I had no idea how long I stayed in that position, but eventually I lost consciousness. I faintly remember other practitioners carrying me away. The above pictures show my lower body five days after being abused by the Tiananmen Police."

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Practitioner Brutally Beaten Unconscious In Tiananmen Square



Zhao Shujing, a 51-year-old retired woman in Shijingshan district, Beijing, is a Falun Gong practitioner. At around 2 pm on November 18, 2000, she went to Tiananmen Square by herself to clarify the truth about Falun Gong to the people. A group of plainclothes policemen caught her and took turns beating and kicking her, causing her to lose consciousness in Tiananmen Square.

She was already in the police van when she regained consciousness. Blood ran out from her nose and mouth. There were bloodstains covering her entire body, her clothes and on the floor of the police van. The policemen searched her body while she was unconscious and they stole 10 yuan (about US\$1.20) from her.

Zhao Shujing (5 days after torture)

When Zhao Shujing was dragged to the Tiananmen police station, even the police officers there could not bear to look at her miserable state and they asked the policeman from her neighborhood to take her. However, this neighborhood policeman refused to take her back because of the severe condition of her injuries. By 8 or 9 pm, the Tiananmen police station asked Zhao Shujing to go home and said: "You just came to Tiananmen Square to practice exercises. You are not breaching any law. You can go home now."

When we met Zhao Shujing five days after she was beaten, her right eye was still swollen, her eyeball was congested with blood, the right side of her face was swollen like a ball, her skin was black and purple, a one-inch-long cut was inside her upper lip, the bridge of her nose was swollen, and her right shoulder was dislocated and dark purple.

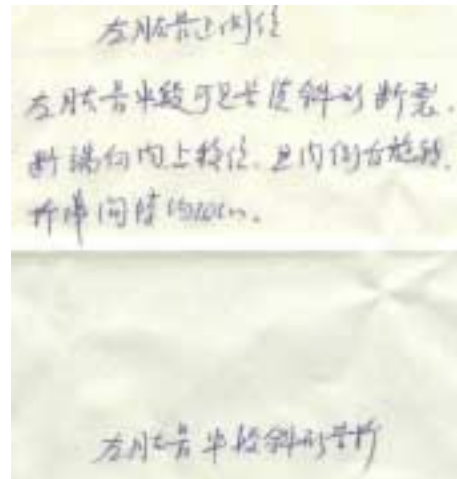
More Pictures



Ms. Liu, female, from Jiangxi Province. She was arrested for appealing for Falun Gong, and was taken to Tiananmen Square police station on Dec. 22, 1999. On December 23, a police officer named Zhao tortured her. These pictures were taken after she was released from the police station.



Xiang Jinying, age 28, from Haiyan County of Zhejiang Province, was arrested for appealing for Falun Gong, and later sent to Tiananmen Square Police Station. Her left arm was fractured when tortured by police in the police station.



X-ray picture of Xiang Jinying's
Broken arm

Doctor's diagnostics (Brief translation:
"The middle part of the upper arm has
inclined fracture.")

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Rape and Sexual Abuse in Police Custody

Government Officials Sexually Assault Two Female Practitioners

Chen Lihua (pseudonym, real name can be provided upon request), 36, female, a farmer in Dawangzhuang Township. She was detained in an office of the township government on Jan. 4, 2000 for going to Beijing to appeal. Dozens of young male officials led by Li (an official in the office of the communist party committee), came to the office and forced her to take off all her clothes. Official Bo thrust an electric baton into her vagina, shocking her to the floor. Then, one man held her arm and electrically shocked her body and handcuffed one of her hands to the window. Official Wang held her other hand while Bo grabbed her breasts and shocked her upper body repeatedly. She was tortured this way for quite a while, then was told to put on her shirt and sit on the floor. Dozens of men kicked her so hard that she rolled around on the floor screaming in agony. Later, after they left, a correspondent of the township government, whose surname is also Wang, picked up the electric baton and shocked her vagina again. He touched her breasts, and used his genitals to press on her buttock several times. By then she was unable to move at all because of the torture....

Fang Qingliang (pseudonym, real name can be provided upon request), 35, female, a farmer in Dawangzhuang Township, suffered similar humiliation and torture exerted by the same group of officials in an office in the township government building on the evening of January 4, 2000....

The Suffering of a 39-Year-Old Lady --- "I really dare not even recall it because I was frustrated and had no courage to face life..."

Jiang Zilan (pseudonym), female, 39, from Daqing, Heilongjiang Province.

In Dongfeng Detention Center, Daqing, Heilongjian Province, Falun Dafa practitioner Jiang Zilan (pseudonym) received inhumane abuse. This almost caused her to have a mental breakdown.

In the beginning of May 2000, Jiang Zilan was arrested and put into custody in Dongfeng Detention Center because of "gathering in a group" when she and other practitioners met. The practitioners started a hunger strike to protest the illegal detention.

On May 12, two male guards dragged Jiang to the guard office without giving her a reason. They pushed her over, and held her arms to the ground. The other two male guards held her bare feet on floor. The female guard (her last name is probably 'Cui') stripped all her clothes except her pants. Then the female guard kept her underwear open with one hand and stroked her genitals with the other hand. The names of three of the male guards are Guo Chunguang, Cheng Shanyi, and Wang Guangxu.

Jiang was shocked and couldn't think. Only her basic instinct made her cry out: "Help! Help!!!" She yelled at the female guard: "Are you still a woman? Are you still a human being? Do you have any sense of shame?" Later she was dragged half naked back to the prison.

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After Jiang described the abuse, she said, "I tried to forget this completely. I really dare not even recall it because I was frustrated and had no courage to face life. If I were not a Falun Dafa practitioner, I would have died."

A Practitioner is Gang-raped in Fuyu County Detention Center

In October 1999, several practitioners from Qiqihar, Heilongjiang Province went to Beijing to appeal. The female practitioners were detained in Fuyu County Detention Center, Qiqihar city, Heilongjiang Province. One of the practitioners was stripped and put into the male cells. She was then gang-raped by the prisoners. This practitioner is currently being guarded by her family out of fear and is not allowed to get in touch with anybody, especially other practitioners, since her family is in fear of even more cruel and inhumane treatment if they were to disclose what happened.

Policemen Strip and Sexual Assault of a Practitioner

Sun Guoxiang, female, 38, from Ximaqiao Township of Xishui County, Hubei Province. Sun Guoxiang went to Beijing to appeal on behalf of Falun Gong at the end of June 2000. The county police took her back in early July. Six or seven policemen, including Yang Jian (section director of the Xishui county police department), tortured Sun Guoxiang in the building of the police department. During the beating, several male policemen stripped off all of her clothes and committed various sexual violations.

Deputy Mayor Silently Permits the Sexual Abuse against a Woman Practitioner

Since late July of 2000, the Police station of Xitiange Village in Miyun County, Beijing has employed two local thugs at a cost of 20 Yuan each per day, and four security people to set up a secret interrogation office at the Shudi Middle School. One female practitioner went to Beijing to appeal for Falun Gong and was forcibly taken to the transformation class. Once, she was beaten and abused three times within 5 hours in a single night. Around midnight, when thugs illegally interrogated her, she was slapped 16 times. Shortly after she returned to the cell, she was interrogated again and forced to write a pledge to give up practicing Falun Gong. This practitioner declared that appealing is the legal right of every citizen. One of the thugs immediately beat her on her buttocks with a birch tree branch and kicked her in the genitals. At around 5:00AM, this practitioner was pulled out for the third time. Those thugs grabbed and held her breasts and abused her with filthy obscenities. This female practitioner shouted loudly for help and the deputy mayor of the town came and watched, but he didn't stop the thugs. With the silent permission of this deputy mayor, the brutal man (Chai Liang, a student at Tong County Railway Equipment School of Beijing) became more brazen---he shoveled his hands inside the clothes of this female practitioner and grabbed her breasts; and he stripped her off her skirt and shorts claiming he wanted to examine the bruises on her buttocks.

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Mental Hospitals Used to Detain and Torture Women

The Head of the Public Security Bureau's Department of Health in Jiangsu Province is "Treated" in a Nanjing Mental Hospital

For refusing to give up her belief in Falun Gong, Ding Jianhua, female, 47, a first rank police supervisor and the head of the Department of Health of the Public Security Bureau of Jiangsu Province, was sent to the Nanjing Neurological Hospital (mental hospital) on October 3, 1999 and was forced to receive high dosage injections of drugs that are known to damage the central nervous system. The injections she received have been very detrimental, slowing her reactions and blurring her eyesight.

Afraid of being held responsible for the poor physical condition she was in, the hospital initially refused to accept her. However, under pressure from the government authorities, they were forced to admit her. The doctor said she was sent to the mental hospital **because she was a Falun Gong practitioner, even though she had no mental illness**. Her family went to the hospital to request her release, but the doctor said, "Since the police sent her here, we have to give her injections. Otherwise, if she continues to go to Beijing to appeal for Falun Gong in the future, we will be held responsible."

A Nurse Sent To a Mental Hospital at Hunan Province

He Xianggu, female, 39, a nurse at the Health Center for Women and Children in Hunan Province

On December 12, 1999, He Xianggu was detained for 15 days after she went to Beijing to appeal. On January 1, 2000, He Xianggu was forcefully sent to the Hunan Mental Hospital for the first time by her work unit. On August 18, 2000, her work unit arbitrarily opened her locker and found some Falun Dafa books. The next day she was sent to the mental hospital for the second time. The following was an eyewitness account after visiting Xianggu in November 2000:

"I finally saw her. My eyes were brimming with tears. Xianggu didn't look like a normal person any more, but a seriously mentally retarded figure. She stood there with a dull look in her eyes, with no expression on her face. Her back was hunched with her hands placed in front of her abdomen. She did not respond when being spoken to, and she could hardly utter a sentence, even after being questioned for a long time. I asked her: "Did your husband come visit you?" She shook her head and finally told me: "Some officials from the Health Center for Women and Children had been here and brought some newspapers. They said I would be treated as a "counter-revolutionary" if I continued to practice. I was just given a shot a moment ago. Nowadays, I am given this kind of shot twice a month. Even for a real mental patient, an injection of this drug normally would only be once a month."

The drug that the Hunan Mental Hospital staff injected into Dafa practitioners is fluoro-hydroxypiperidine, a long-term retardant to the nervous system. This is the most potent drug used against schizophrenia, and it is usually reserved for the treatment of very severe cases of schizophrenia. While injecting the drug, the doctor lied about its effects by saying it was used to protect the brain.

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Ye Hongfang's Ordeal in Huizhou Mental Hospital

Ye Hongfang, female, 31, from Heyuan City of Guangdong Province. Ye Hongfang was sent to the Huizhou Mental Hospital by the Heyuan Police Department and her work unit -Heyuan Electric Power Bureau - for appealing for Falun Gong. She was tied with ropes and forcefully given injections of medication for mental patients. The doctors in the mental hospital told her that if she persisted in practicing Falun Gong, they would give her injections every day. In addition to the injections, she was forced to take pills for mental patients. The daily injections and other medications made her feel very tired and weak. After about one month, Ye Hongfang's husband bailed her out.

During her detention in the mental hospital, she was injected with 26 bottles of narcotics. In late January 2000, because Ye Hongfang went to a neighboring county to visit a fellow practitioner, the Heyuan Police decided to send her to the mental hospital again. She refused to go with them, so the police pushed her onto a bed and injected a drug into her body. After a short while, she felt weak, muddle-headed, sleepy and itchy all over. Then, they forced her into the vehicle and took her to the mental hospital again. Doctor Luo gave her injections of narcotics, and forced her to take medication. If she refused, she was shocked with electric batons. This time, the side effects from the medication were even worse. She suffered cramps all over her body, loss of feeling in her arms and legs, blurred vision, lack of strength, stuffiness and her menstrual periods were disrupted. By March 10th, she felt disabled and near mental collapse. She was not allowed to return home until March 20th. By then, her health was ruined and she had become extremely weak. It was not until two months later that her health began to recover.

Forced Divorce

Fan Ping's Husband Forced to Divorce Her to Avoid Punishment

Fan Ping, female, 33, family member of an employee of the Municipal Scenery Administration Bureau, Fukang City, Changji Prefecture, Xinjiang Autonomous Region. At first Fan Ping's husband's monthly living expense allotment was reduced to only 200 Yuan because Fan Ping practiced Falun Gong. Later, his employers threatened to fire him. Having no further choice, he divorced her while she was still in the detention center. She was detained twice for a total of over 3-and-a-half months. Upon release, she was forced to sign a promissory note for failing to pay extorted cash. She was not given any receipt.

Under the Enormous Pressure, Husband Signs the Divorce Agreement, Son Tries to Terminate the Relationship with His Mother

Liu Xinlan, from Gaomi, Weifang, Shandong Province. The street committee detained Liu Xinlan for seven days in July 1999 because she practiced Falun Gong. In July 2000 she was again illegally detained for 5 days because she wanted to go to Beijing to appeal. She was later sent to the Gaomi detention center and was held for another 15 days. After that, she was again sent back to be supervised by the street committee, which demanded that she meet the following requirements: She could go home only after she renounced Falun Dafa; If she refused, she would be sent back to the city detention center and then driven away from her hometown (because her registration documents are not from her hometown). In addition, the officials asked her to sell her house and give them the money from the sale. Her family was unable to sustain the enormous pressure. Her husband signed a divorce agreement. Her child signed the agreement, which stated that he wanted to terminate his relationship with her, and forced her to sign this agreement also. The whole family is now in a state of chaos.

A Serviceman Forced to Divorce His Wife Because She Practiced Falun Gong

The account of a female practitioner worked in Shandong Television Design Center about her experience at the Liuchangshan Detention Center, Shandong Province:

"I staged a hunger strike and was handcuffed and tied to a bed called the "Dragon Bed", which is a very inhumane instrument of torture. They told me that I wouldn't be allowed to get off the bed as long as I continued the hunger strike. I had to relieve myself on the bed with help from other prisoners. ... The other prisoners became irritated at constantly having to help me, and they wanted to leave me unattended in the dirty bed. I was force-fed twice a day and this stained my hair and sweater with milk.... At last, I was released after my family turned in 5000 Yuan (\$600, about 10 months' wage of an average worker in China) bail. Because I insisted on appealing, my work unit was forced to fire me under the great pressure of the higher authorities – Shandong Provincial TV Station. My husband is a serviceman in 71777 Army and his supervisor is forcing him to divorce me."

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Forced Abortion

Practitioners Forced to Have Abortions

- Yang Ping, female, 43, employee of the Caidian Aquatic Products Company, Wuhan, Hubei Province. Yang Ping was arrested and was escorted back for appealing in Beijing. Although she was two months pregnant, she was nonetheless still detained for 4 days at the Zhonghualu Police Station in Wuchang District of Wuhan City and for 25 days at the Caidian Police Station. Afterwards, she was forcefully given an abortion in the Health Center for Women and Children in Caidian District. 24 days later, she was sent to the Wuhan City Drug Rehabilitation Center for one and a half years of forced labor. Her husband Wang Jianjun (also a practitioner) was fined RMB 4320 (about USD\$500). After Wang Jianjun appealed, Yang Ping was released after 3 months of forced labor. Her whole body was swollen after returning home.
- Wang Shaona, female, from Shekou of Shenzhen, Guangdong Province. Wang Shaona and her husband Li Weijun were arrested in February 2000 on their way to Beijing to appeal. Li Weijun was sent to Shekou Detention Center. Wang Shaona had been pregnant for 6 months. In order to imprison her, police forced her to have an abortion.
- Lu Yuzhen, female, 31, from Feng City of Jiang-Xi Province. In January 2000, she went to Beijing to appeal to the State Council Petition Office. Later, she was arrested by the Jiang-Xi police station. The authorities are pressing her to have an abortion because they decided to detain her for a long term.
- Five practitioners of Guilin City, Guangxi Province, Lin Jiangjin, Wei Yuemei, Li Xiaoying, Li Xiuliang, and Ouyang, were arrested for practicing Falun Gong exercises together on July 13. Because all of them refused to sign the repentance and pledge, they are detained in the second detention center of Guilin. Later, because Ouyang was pregnant, she was allowed to go home under the condition that she paid 10,000 Yuan. The police are forcing her to have an abortion under the excuse that she does not have the "permit to give birth".

Miscarriages Due to Hard Labor and the Poor Condition in Detention Facilities

- Dou Jianhua, female, 28, a kindergarten teacher in Mishan city, Heilongjiang Province. In June of 2000, she went to Beijing for the second time to appeal. After being escorted back, she was sent to the Beishan Detention Center in Lianzhushan Town by the Nongken Police Department in Mudanjiang, Mishan City. All practitioners in the detention center were forced to do hard labor. Especially after knowing Ms. Dou was pregnant, they continued to make her move heavy bricks, which caused massive bleeding and resulted in a miscarriage.
- Jiang Zhongli, female, employee of Hengyang Blood Bank, Hengyang, Hunan Province. She was pregnant when detained with drug addicts and drug pushers at the Hengyang Detention Center in Hunan Province. Her husband was serving in the army. In February 2000, she had a miscarriage at the detention center and suffered from severe hemorrhage. She was taken away by her work unit when she was hovering between life and death. She was fined 1,500 Yuan and denied 3,000 Yuan (about \$360) of her wages.

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The Persecution Also Targets Mothers

Nursing Mother Detained and Beaten

Liang Mei (pseudonym) is a 29-year-old Falun Dafa practitioner from Sichuan province who was still nursing her baby at home. She was locked up in the local Agronomy School together with several other practitioners. As part of her torture, several policemen grabbed her by her arms and legs, lifted her up in the air and then threw her repeatedly onto the ground. **The police told Ms. Liang "We were told by the top [officials] that we do not need to reason with Falun Gong practitioners. Never mind the laws and legal processes, we can do whatever we want to!"**

They ignored her pleas that she had a baby at home who still needed to be breast-fed. This time she was handcuffed with her hands twisted behind her back around a tree. Her mouth was sealed with tape. Ms. Liang's shirt and pants were wet with her milk while the baby was starving at home. As time passed by, her hands, handcuffed backward around the tree, began to swell and it became unbearable. She thought of her poor baby daughter starving at home, and wondered how she could survive this. She asked again to be released but her request was rejected. She felt there was no way that she could live under such persecution and started to strike her head hard against the tree trunk. The police did not remove her handcuffs until she had hit the tree more than ten times. However, she still was not allowed to go home. When she began practicing the Falun Gong exercises, she was handcuffed again. The next evening around 6pm, She was sent to the detention center for a period of 15 days.

Mother Forced to Leave Home and Become Homeless to Escape the Endless Harassment

Li Dan (pseudonym), female, from Linhe City, Inner Mongolia Region. Below is her account of her experience while being detained and persecuted after she went to Tiananmen Square to appeal for Dafa in February 2000.

"The Linhe City policemen took me back to Linhe City after my appealing on February 19, 2000 in Beijing. They interrogated me one by one for an entire night, then three of them took turns beating me. One policeman named Yang slapped my face over a dozen times.

They shackled me and forcibly sent me to the Hohhot City Female Labor Camp without any legal procedures. They held me there from February 19 until July 30, 2000. Around July 10, while doing heavy labor, I felt a severe pain in my stomach. An exam showed that I had been pregnant for a few months. I had suffered tremendously during that time. Nine of us had to unload 30 tons of coal per day. I loaded and unloaded bull dung and tilled the soil. When there was no farming work, I had to wrap more than 10,000 pairs of chopsticks each day.

In the labor camp I kept on doing the Falun Gong exercises. Every morning I was handcuffed to the stair rail and was forced to squat for a long time. Because I practiced the Falun Gong exercises, Captain Liu of the No. 3 Team in the labor camp shocked me with an electric baton. Later, Deputy Captain Hong ordered them to hang me by my handcuffs without letting my feet touch the ground.

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After two hours of hanging, my arms became black, cold, and numb. Later they hung me there for an entire day.

Knowing that I was pregnant, they still did not allow me to leave. They held me for 10 more days before sending me home with my hands cuffed.

The Linhe City Police Station had ordered me to abort my eight-month pregnancy. Fortunately, the forced abortion did not succeed. Soon after I gave birth, the police came and asked for my repentance letter. If I did not obey, they would fine me 30,000 Yuan [about US\$3,600, \$60 is the average monthly wage in China]. I did not have the money so they threatened to take my house. When my child was 3 months old, they sent five or six policemen to my house to harass me everyday.

I have lost the right to live freely and I was under surveillance 24 hours a day. I had to leave my house and have become homeless.”

Teenage Students Abused and Tortured

A 19-Year-Old College Student Tortured with Electric Stun Batons in a Labor Camp

Chen Lili, age 19, was expelled from Qingdao University and sentenced to forced labor at the Women's Labor Camp of Jinan, Shandong Province, for going to Beijing to appeal for Falun Gong. Whenever the police found out that someone was practicing Falun Gong exercises, they would come over with electric batons and shock them until the electric batons ran out of power. Chen Lili's arms were full of blisters caused by the electric shocks but the policemen still persisted in torturing her this way.

A 14-year-Old Girl Beaten by Police in Beijing

Xin Ran, female, 14, freshman student of a middle school in Sanhe, Hebei Province, and Xin Fei, female, 13, are sisters. They went to Beijing with their mother, Gao Shuying, to appeal for Falun Dafa on December 16, 2000 and were detained at Fangshan County [Beijing]. Xin Ran was slapped, pinched on her face, and beaten on her buttocks with a stick by the Fangshan police. They tried to force her to tell them their address. Three days later, the sisters were brought back to their school by the local policemen from Sanhe City. The principal sent someone to watch them and forced them to write the "pledge" to renounce Falun Gong. Later, their aunt wrote a pledge for them and took them home. The school claimed that it was not yet done. Their mother, Gao Shuying, was on a hunger strike and was released on December 22, 2000.

A 16-Year-Old Girl Detained and Humiliated in Beijing

Gao Shanshan went to Beijing to meet her mother on September 20 and stayed in a hotel that night. The owner of the hotel saw her Falun Gong book and turned her in to the police station. She was given only a piece of dry bread to eat after being detained for seven hours. During that time, a policeman verbally abused her and later added some unknown foul substance to a plate of cooked meat. The police officer then grabbed her hair and forced the food into her mouth. Other policemen on the side commented sarcastically that the food was very good and roared with laughter. The police officers also threatened her that they would arrest her mother if she still would not give up her belief in Falun Gong.

A 15-Year-Old Girl Beaten Because Her Parents Practice Falun Gong

In mid July of 2000, a practitioner and his daughter (15 years old) from Fangshan District of Beijing were taken from their home by Secretary Zhou of the Chengguan Street Administration Office. This girl's mother had already been sent to a labor camp. The practitioner and his daughter were beaten and electrically shocked by the hatchet men under Zhou's orders. The girl rolled on the ground from the beating. Because her body was dirty due to the tortures, the hatchet men forced her to take a bath and then continued to mistreat her for one week.

Note: Currently all students who do not renounce their belief in Falun Gong and issue a written statement to this effect are expelled from school. This directive includes elementary school children all the way up to highly educated students in University programs.

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Persecution of Overseas Female Practitioners

The persecution of female Falun Gong practitioners is not limited to practitioners in China. Following are cases of persecution of female Falun Gong practitioners from overseas.

Australian Citizens Arrested, Beaten and Shackled in Chinese Jail



Zhang Cuiying

Zhang Cuiying, female, 38, an Australian citizen, a jewelry designer and visual artist.

Zhang Cuiying had attempted to go to Beijing with another female Australian practitioner to appeal for Falun Gong in March 2000. However, they were detained in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province before they could make the appeal. The Shenzhen Intermediate Court sentenced them to 8 months of imprisonment.

Zhang Cuiying was repeatedly beaten and was locked in a cell with men during her eight-month ordeal in a Chinese prison. The official of Australian Foreign Affairs visiting her expressed that they were concerned about her poor physical condition. Her health was deteriorating and she was losing her hair. She was beaten badly and was kept in shackles. She was not allowed to sleep in a bed and had to sleep on the floor.

U.S. Permanent Resident Imprisoned for “Leaking State Secrets”



Teng Chunyan

Teng Chunyan, female, 37, acupuncturist, a resident of New York, is a permanent resident of the United States and is married to an American citizen.

Dr. Teng entered China through the southern city of Shenzhen in March of 2000 and lost communication with her family for seven months. It was only in October that her family in Mainland China was informed that she was being held in Beijing's Banbuqiao detention center and that the state was bringing criminal charges against her.

Dr. Teng was later subjected to a closed-door trial and was sentenced to three years in prison under the charge of "prying into state intelligence for overseas organizations." Dr. Teng allegedly helped foreign news reporters gain interviews with Falun Gong practitioners who had been sent to psychiatric hospitals. U.S. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher characterizes this event as "deeply disturbing" and requests her release to the United States.

Experience of An Australian in a Chinese Jail: The Case of Feng Xiaomei

My Name is Feng Xiaomei. I am a Chinese Australian. I visited China several times with compassion to peacefully convey to the Chinese government the truth about Falun Dafa. But, on several occasions, I was illegally detained, interrogated, and finally sentenced to eight months (from March 5 to November 4, 2000) in prison without any judicial procedures.

During the eight months, due to the pressure passed from Chinese President Jiang Zemin through authorities in various levels, the police never ceased to torture me for a day. For example, when I sat in silent meditation in the detention center, the inmates were ordered to disturb my meditation. They abused me verbally and pushed me around. I did not react. Seeing their intimidation was to no avail, they put a towel around my neck and pulled it backwards and upwards forcefully as if to hang me. At that moment my vision blurred and I could hardly breathe. I almost fainted. They noticed my tongue was forced out and my neck nearly bled, yet I was still in my meditation position. They carried me to a very wet area of the concrete floor. I was in my menstrual period at that time. In spite of that, they stripped off my clothes and gave me a cold shower.

They did not only abuse me openly, but also used all sorts of modern equipment and implements to abuse, assault and persecute me secretly. They installed surveillance equipment both inside and outside of my cell so as to have 24 hours monitoring from all angles. Worst of all, they used psychological surveillance 24 hours a day. Consequently, they followed the instruction and analysis of a variety of people with different backgrounds and qualities to try to influence me in hard or soft tones with all sorts of lies, and to threaten me and destroy my spirit with all kinds of language and deeds.

One day, as I was putting on my underwear after my shower, I discovered a fine thread-like device of 2mm sewn on the bra (near my heart). Its color was identical to the bra's fabric so it could not be easily detected. When I ripped it off, I heard a strange noise somewhere in the room, though I could not pin point the exact location. It then dawned on me what modern equipment they were using to monitor me. The next day I ripped off a similar device attached to another bra.

If the authorities detected that I was reciting Falun Dafa literature by heart, no matter if it was day or night, they would immediately send out noises from various directions of the cell to disrupt my thoughts; noises such as human screaming, pigs snorting, dogs barking and gun shots. They also forced other inmates to disrupt my recitations, especially when I woke up in the night. Sometimes the only tranquil spot I could get was near the toilet. But when I meditated over there and recited Falun Dafa literature to myself, they would use a remote control to let out huge rats from the toilet. The rats ran around me, squeaking.

They even put drugs in my food to cause nausea, vomiting, headaches and heart palpitations. When the drug was to take effect, they would release an extremely vile smell of excrement, thinking I would not be able to bear it. In addition, my clothes were often lost or deliberately misplaced. And I often found written incantations and curses stuffed in my bin.

Especially in the last month of my detention, the disturbances were intensified so much that it was hardly possible for me to sleep with the incessant actions of the inmates both during the night and at midday break. In the day I was required to work for more than 10 hours. They used some drug on me to make my hands tremble at work. Even though I could control the trembling, I refused to work during the last week of detention as a protest of their evil conduct....

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Women Who Have Died for Their Belief in Falun Gong

The following pictures are some of the female practitioners who have died due to torture and persecution while in police custody:

Zhao Xin,
age 32,
assistant
professor at
Beijing



Zhao Xin in hospital after being
tortured by Beijing Police.

According to AFP, BEIJING, Dec 13, 2000, Zhao Xin died six months after being badly beaten by police while in the Haidian District Detention Center.

Due to the torture, the vertebra at the fourth to sixth joints of her neck were fractured; her left eye lost eyesight.

Gong
Baohua,
age 35



Brutally beaten by police caused the bridge of her nose to be fractured. Around 8pm of June 25, 2000, the guards force-fed Gong Baohua through nose, despite of the fact that she suffered injury to her nose. About 10 minutes later, she suddenly lost consciousness.... Around 9pm of June 27, 2000, Gong Baohua was announced dead in the hospital.

Li
Jingchun,
age 47



Li Jingchun went to Beijing to appeal on Dec 18, 2000, after which she was detained in the Mentougou Detention Center in Beijing. There she opposed the inhumane torture by going on a hunger strike. On the 5th day of her hunger strike the guards started to feed her through her nasal passage. They forced half a bottle of soymilk into her stomach and afterwards she had a fever and kept coughing. On Dec 30, 2000, Li Jingchun returned home. However, her fever and coughing got worse. She also started to throw up white liquid which had a strong and strange smell. She died on January 4, 2001.

Zhang
Guiqin, age
37



Several days before Zhang
Guiqin's death

....On August 24, 2000, authorities at the detention center realized that Zhang Guiqin's physical condition had deteriorated too far because of the torture. Being afraid of the responsibility, they then contacted her family to take her home. She died at 1:03 PM on January 17, 2001 after 5 months of suffering.

Chu
Congrui,
age 19



Chu Congrui was a 19-year-old female practitioner from Tiande Township, Shulan, Jilin Province. She went to Beijing to appeal on December 1, 2000 and was arrested in Tiananmen Square. She died in the Haidian District Detention Center around December 13, 2000. Her face and lips were severely swollen. Both ears were plugged with blood soaked cotton swabs. Her nose was collapsed, indicating that she had been violently beaten before she died. Her body was cremated in Changping County of Beijing on December 18.

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Sun
Shaomei,
age 37



Sun Shaomei went to Beijing to appeal for Falun Dafa several times since July 20, 1999. She was illegally detained by the local police for several months. The second day after she was released, Sun Shaomei went to Beijing again (around November 18, 2000) and was not heard from again. About mid-December 2000, her family received a death announcement from Tuanhe Labor Camp, Daxing County, Beijing. Later on, it was revealed that she had been beaten to death in the labor camp..

Shi Bei,
age 49



Ottawa Citizen, December, 2000 - Chris Xu, an MBA student in Newfoundland, says his mother Shi Bei is one of scores of Falun Gong practitioners in China who have paid with their life for defying Beijing's ban on the meditation exercise. "On Sept. 10, my Mom was killed in the Seventh Hospital of Hangzhou City (a psychiatric hospital), only because she was a Falun Gong practitioner.... In May 2000, the police department of Fuyang City forcefully "committed" Mom to the Seventh Hospital of Hangzhou City. This hospital is a psychiatric hospital for mental patients, (yet) there was nothing wrong with her.... In the end, my Mom was starved to death by the police. They did not allow her any food for a whole week, in order to prevent her from speaking on behalf of her faith."

Wang
Gaizhi, age
47



While Wang Gaizhi was detained in Zhenping Detention Center, she was forced to do hard labor for more than ten hours every day and was often tortured in various ways. She was tortured to her last gasp of breath. Under the strongest requests from her relatives, police released her to them after extorting 500 Yuan [US\$62]. Twenty days later, on May 26, 2000, she died at home, due to the brutal tortures inflicted on her by those guards.

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Wang
Xiuying,
age 45



On May 13, 2000, Wang was arrested when she was practicing Falun Gong exercises on Tiananmen Square. She was detained in the Jiaomen Detention Center of Chongwen District after. After 3 days of a hunger strike, four men pushed her to the ground and brutally force-fed her through nose. She was force-fed with high-density salt water five times within nine days. On May 22, 2000, she lost consciousness and died at 7pm.

Lou
Aiqing, age
34



Lou Aiqing was arrested when she was posting Falun Dafa flyers in Qingdao, Shandong Province, on Dec. 20, 2000. She was then escorted back to Kuiwen District Detention Center, Weifang, on Dec. 22. At about 5 pm on Dec. 25, the detention center called Lou's family saying that she had died 36 hours before (at about 5AM on Dec. 24). The next morning, her family arrived at the funeral chapel, only to discover the place filled with police. They also noticed that Lou had been given heavy makeup, and that her body was covered with injuries and wounds.

Tian
Baozhen in
her 40s



In November 2000, Tian Baozhen went to Tiananmen Square to appeal for Falun Dafa. and was arrested by the Tiananmen Police Station. Because she refused to reveal her name and address, she was sent to Xuanwu District Detention Center in Beijing. She went on a hunger strike for her freedom and was subsequently interrogated, beaten up, and force-fed. At the sight of her extreme physical weakness due to her hunger strike and the brutal abuse she had suffered, the police released her. After several days at home, Tian Baozhen passed away on December 11, 2000.

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Qi Fengqin,
age 43



One day in early September of 2000, Qi Fengqin went out to distribute Falun Gong print materials. As a result, she was arrested and thrown in jail. A month later (around October 11, 2000), the news came out that she had passed away.

Sun
Lianxia,
age 50



On January 16, 2001, the Dalian Labor Camp tortured practitioner Sun Lianxia to death simply because she persisted in practicing Falun Dafa.

Yin
Shuyun,
age 46



During the annual session of National People's Congress, Yin went to Beijing to petition the government to stop persecutions against Falun Gong. After she was taken back from Beijing, one side of her face was purple and black due to severe beating. She died in the Heizuzi Labor Camp where she was detained.

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An Incomplete List of Female Practitioners Who Died As a Result of the Persecution

Liu Rongxiu, in her 50s, Shijiazhuang, Hebei Province

Sun Lianxia, Dalian, Liaoning Province

Zhang Zhibin, 34, Qinglong County, Hebei Province

Wang Gaizhi, 47, Zhenping County, Henan Province

Yu Lianchun, 49, Dezhou, Sichuan Province

Zhong Yunxiu, 27, Fushun, Liaoning Province

Lou Aiqing, 34, Weifang, Shandong Province

Su Qionghua, in her 30s, Suining, Sichuan Province

He Jun, Harbin, Heilongjiang Province

Zhao Qiying, 30, Sichuan Province

Zhao Xin, 32, Beijing

Yang Guizhen, 40, Zhucheng City, Shandong Province

Pei Ouhua, 61, Hengyang City, Hunan Province

Cui Aiyuan, 42, Taiyuan, Shanxi Province

Wang Youju, 64, Wafangdian, Dalian, Liaoning Province

Wang Yuru, 60, Qu County, Sichuan Province.

Yan Huiqin, Xi'an City, Shanxi Province

Cui Xiaojuan, 40, Daqing City, Heilongjiang Province

Tian Xiangcui, 61, Longkou City, Shandong

Zhang Guiqin, 37, Feidong County, Anhui Province

Li Jingchun, 47, Jiujiang, Jiangxi Province

Liu Guimin, 35, Miyun County, Beijing

Zhu Yourong, in her 40s, Zhangjiakou, Hebei Province

Yu Shuqin, Yilan, Heilongjiang Province

Chu Congrui, 19, Shulan, Jilin Province

Xu Bin, 33, Weifang, Shandong Province

Huang Yaoying, 68, Gaozhou, Guangdong Province

Tian Baozhen, 40, Wuhan, Hubei Province

Wang Lixuan, pregnant, Yantai, Shandong Province

Wang Lixia, 46, Chaoyang, Liaoning Province

Ms. Shi, 21, Mengyin County, Shandong Province

Xie Guiying, 32, Huainan, Anhui Province

Qi Fengqin, 43, Liaocheng, Shandong Province

Huang Xinjin, 40, Wuwei County, Gansu Province.

Zheng Junshu, 24, Jilin City, Jilin Province

Shi Bei, 49, Fuyang City, Zhejiang Province

Ge Xiulan, 51, Huaian, Jiangsu Province

Lin Limei, Qitaihe City, Heilongjiang Province

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Province

Gao Hua, 31, Baiquan County, Heilongjiang Province

Zhou Chunmei, Weifang, Shandong Province

Zhang Tieyan, 29, Daqing City, Heilongjiang Province

Sun Xiaobo, Weifang, Shandong Province

Liu Fengchun, 56, Nanchang City, Jiangxi Province

Yu Xiangmei, 35, Chongqing City, Sichuan Province

The mother of Fu Xiaojuan, 56, Gaoan City, Jiangxi Province

Li Guihua, 47, Chongqing City, Sichuan Province

Xia Wei, 43, Jiangbei District, Chongqing City, Sichuan Province

Zhang Yuzhen, 46, Hegang City, Heilongjiang Province

Gong Baohua, 35, Liudian Village, Pinggu County, Beijing

An Xiukun, 49, Henghui City, Hebei Province

Sun Shuqin, 58, Hegang City, Heilongjiang Province

Yin Shuyun, 46, Changchun City, Jilin Province

Miu Qun, Qu County, Dazhou City, Sichuan Province

Mei Yulan, 44, Chaoyang District, Beijing

Yao Baorong, 52, Anning District, Lanzhou City, Gansu Province

Sun Xiuqing, in her 50s, Hegang City, Heilongjiang Province

Wang Xiuying, 45, Harbin City, Heilongjiang Province

Chen Zixiu, 59, Weifang City, Shandong Province

Li Yanhua, 45, Nanchang City, Jiangxi Province

Zhang Shuqi, 52, Xicheng District, Beijing

Liu Zhilan, 40, Fangshan District, Beijing

Zhao Jinhua, 42, Zhaoyuan City, Shandong Province

Zhu Shaolan, 50, Jinzhou City, Liaoning Province

Chen Ying, 18, Jiamusi City, Heilongjiang Province

Dong Buyun, 36, Linyi City, Shandong Province

Tang Hong, 37, Jiamusi City, Heilongjiang Province

Zhou Fenglin, 32, Changzhou City, Jiangsu Province

Shang Qingling, 38, Laiwu City, Shandong Province

Wang Yan, about 50-year old, Changchun City, Jilin Province

Sun Shaomei, 37, Zhaoyuan County, Shandong Province

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Case Studies: A Few Detailed Investigations

A Family Tragedy: Mother Tortured to Death; Daughter Arrested



Chen Zixiu

Reminiscent of the Cultural Revolution, the Chinese government has expanded the scope of its persecution of Falun Gong practitioners to include their family members. Countless families have been broken up and many children are left without their detained parents. This is a heart-breaking account of a mother who was tortured to death, and her daughter who was in turn persecuted because she tried to bring the abusers to justice.

Chen Zixiu was a 59 years old Falun Gong practitioner. She lived in Xujia Little Village, Beiguan Street, Weifang City, Shangdong Province. On February 21, 2000, after 3 days of brutal torture, Ms. Chen died from the injuries, because she refused to renounce her beliefs.

Chen Zixiu's daughter, Zhang Xueling, sought legal recourse to reveal the abuse. However, all her endeavor was in vain and she was arrested after the story of her appealing appeared on Wall Street Journal.

Wall Street Journal: Practicing Falun Gong was a Right, Ms. Chen Said, up to Her Last Day (Excerpt)

(By Ian Johnson, Staff Reporter of The Wall Street Journal, 4/20/00)

WEIFANG, China -- The day before Chen Zixiu died, her captors again demanded that she renounce her faith in Falun Dafa. Barely conscious after repeated jolts from a cattle prod, the 58-year-old stubbornly shook her head.

Enraged, the local officials ordered Ms. Chen to run barefoot in the snow. Two days of torture had left her legs bruised and her short black hair matted with pus and blood, said cellmates and other prisoners who witnessed the incident. She crawled outside, vomited and collapsed. She never regained consciousness, and died on Feb. 21.

...

Practicing at Home

Although barely literate and never before interested in politics, Ms. Chen resisted the ban. She invited group members to practice at her home and refused to deny her affiliation with the group or her love for Mr. Li, whom she respectfully called "Master Li."

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....

Carte Blanche

.... Ms. Chen was taken back into the room. After again refusing to give up Falun Gong, she was beaten and jolted with the stun stick, according to two prisoners who heard the incident and one who caught glimpses of it through a door. Her cellmates heard her curse the officials, saying the central government would punish them once they were exposed. But in an answer that Falun Gong adherents say they heard repeatedly in different parts of the country, the Weifang officials told Ms. Chen that they had been told by the central government that "no measures are too excessive" to wipe out Falun Gong. The beatings continued and would stop only when Ms. Chen changed her thinking, according to two prisoners who say they overheard the incident.

Two hours after she went in, Ms. Chen was pushed back into her cell on the second story of the main building, an unheated room with only a sheet of steel for a bed. Her three cellmates tended to her wounds, but she fell into a delirium. One of the cellmates remembers her moaning "mommy, mommy."

The next morning, the 20th, she was ordered out to jog. "I saw from the window that she crawled out with difficulty," wrote a cellmate in a letter smuggled out by her husband. Ms. Chen collapsed and was dragged back into the cell.

Denied Treatment

"I was a medical major. When I saw her dying, I suggested moving her into another [heated] room," the cellmate wrote in her letter. Instead, local government officials gave her "sanqi," herbal pills for light internal bleeding. "But she couldn't swallow and spat them out." Cellmates implored the officials to send Ms. Chen to a hospital, but the officials -- who often criticize Falun Gong practitioners for forgoing modern medical treatment in favor of a superstitious belief in their exercises -- refused, her cellmates said. Eventually they brought in a doctor, who pronounced her healthy.

But, wrote the cellmate: "She wasn't conscious and didn't talk, and only spat dark-colored sticky liquid. We guessed it was blood. Only the next morning did they confirm that she's dying." An employee of the local Public Security Bureau, Liu Guangming, "tried her pulse and his face froze." Ms. Chen was dead.

That evening, officials went over to Ms. Zhang's house and said her mother was ill, according to Ms. Zhang and her brother. The two piled into a car and were driven to a hotel about a mile from the detention center. The hotel was surrounded by police. The local party secretary told them Ms. Chen had died of a heart attack, but they wouldn't allow them to see her body. After hours of arguing, the officials finally said they could see the body, but only the next day, and insisted they spend the night in the heavily guarded hotel. The siblings refused and finally were allowed to go home.

A Bag of Clothes

On the 22nd, Ms. Zhang and her brother were taken to the local hospital, which was also ringed by police. Their mother, they recalled, was laid out on a table in traditional mourning garb: a simple blue cotton tunic over pants. In a bag tossed in the corner of the room, Ms. Zhang said she spotted her mother's torn and bloodied clothes, the underwear badly soiled. Her calves were black. Six-inch welts

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streaked along her back. Her teeth were broken. Her ear was swollen and blue. Ms. Zhang fainted, and her brother, weeping, caught her.

That day, the hospital issued a report on Ms. Chen. It said the cause of death was natural. The hospital declines to comment on the matter. Ms. Zhang said she challenged officials about the clothing she had seen, but they told her mother had become incontinent after the heart attack and that was why her clothes were soiled.

Ms. Zhang and her brother tried filing a lawsuit, but no lawyer would accept the case. Meantime, her mother's body lay in refrigeration, until the threatened litigation was resolved.

Then, on March 17, Ms. Zhang received a letter from the hospital saying the body would be cremated that day. Ms. Zhang called the hospital to try to prevent it, but she said officials didn't give her a clear answer and said they would have to call her back. They didn't. Ms. Zhang never saw her mother's body again.

Wall Street Journal: A Daughter in China Follows Tortuous Path to Seek Justice (Excerpt)

(By Ian Johnson, Staff Reporter of The Wall Street Journal, 10/2/00)



.... Ms. Zhang couldn't let her mother's death go at that. "I felt that something wasn't right, and that they were hiding something," she says.

She sent letters to the State Council, the highest body of civilian power in China, and to local media, asking for copies of her mother's death certificate. Both groups ignored her. The police didn't; Ms. Zhang calculates that by late April, when she was finally sentenced to 15 days in prison for "distorting facts and disturbing social order," she had been interrogated by police for 107 hours in numerous sessions over several weeks.

The detention was a turning point. "I was thrown in with common criminals and could finally see the injustice that my mother had suffered," Ms. Zhang says. "I decided to learn everything I could and challenge the authorities using their own language."

Upon her release, she stopped working as a matchmaker to devote herself full time to pressing her mother's case. She bought handbooks on the law and learned how to make official requests for documents and how to appeal refusals. Her husband, a carpenter, supported her throughout.

....

Ms. Zhang has exhausted all legal channels, and figures that even clearing her record will be impossible....

Chen Zixiu's Daughter is Arrested Again after Her Story was Published in the Wall Street Journal

According to information received on November 1, 2000, Zhang Xueling, the daughter of Ms. Chen Zixiu, was arrested again for petitioning for her mother Chen Zixiu, after her story was published in the Wall Street Journal on October 2, 2000. At present, her whereabouts and situation remain unknown.

A Daughter Recalls Her Deceased Mother

Following is an excerpt from a statement made by Zhang Xueling on February 29, 2000:

My mother's good health was obvious to all people around her. She had such an admirably healthy body that she had not taken any medicines or seen any doctors because she had no diseases at all. I respect her choice of belief. Her kind-heartedness, selflessness and straightforwardness were highly regarded by all around her. We remember and miss each and every day of her 20 years of widowed and seasoned life. We admire her strong will, her personality and her spirit. All the people around her knew that she was a good person. But her end was such a saddening one.

As her child, so long as there is a single day I am alive in this world, I cannot face my own conscience until justice is brought to my mother. My heart cannot find peace.

Dear Mom! Where can I find you now?

A Young Female Teacher Suffers Long-Term Torture

Wang Xiaodong was a young teacher in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province. She had been dismissed from public employment because she appealed in Beijing. She was sent to the Nanshan Detention Center on April 29, 2000, and transferred to the Sanshui Women's Labor Camp after being sentenced to two years of forced labor on July 13, 2000. However, in the middle of August, an expert group of legal doctors from Foshan, Guangdong Province diagnosed her as having a prison-type mental disorder with loss of control of behavior. It was less than 100 days after she entered the detention center that she was diagnosed as having a mental disorder. How did it happen?

Since being sent to Nanshan Detention Center, in order to protest the illegal detention, Wang Xiaodong refused to wear prison clothes and went on many hunger strikes, which resulted in persecution by the detention center. She wrote a letter to the higher authorities and the people's procuratorate to report the persecution against her and other Falun Gong practitioners. However, the director of the Nanshan Detention Center, Wang Churong, did not submit it to the higher authorities, but instead showed the letter to the guard, Li Yanzhi, who is responsible for many cases of abuse. As a result, they began their retaliation. They transferred Wang Xiaodong from cell No. 6 to cell No. 1, which is notorious for tormenting inmates.

When Wang Xiaodong went on a hunger strike in the new cells, all inmates were punished by not being given food for a whole day. This aroused the hostility and anger of inmates towards Wang Xiaodong. After that incident, the inmates beat and insulted Wang Xiaodong whenever they were not satisfied with her. Every day she was punished with various methods. Director Wang Churong and guard Li Yanzhi thought Wang Xiaodong was not obedient to them and should be punished. They held meetings several times to discuss how to mistreat Wang Xiaodong. They fastened a 35-kg fetter to her that was almost the same as her body weight for an indefinite long term. They assigned two inmates to monitor her 24 hours a day and record what Wang said and did each hour. In order to harm her, the two inmates intentionally fabricated words that Wang did not say at all in the record. They said those methods could prevent Falun Gong practitioners from committing suicide, but in fact they were pushing Wang into a dead end.

According to the document promulgated by the Ministry of Public Security, "Notice about Using Instruments in Detention Centers," female prisoners should not be fettered. If it is necessary, the fetter should be less than 5 kilograms; female prisoners, except on death row, should not be fettered for more than 15 days. Indefinite long term fettering with overweight fetters was to punish this Falun Gong practitioner and force her to give in.

Wang Xiaodong became extremely thin. She was too weak to stand, and could not walk at all. Two inmates dragged her back and forth every day. The rings surrounding her ankles had dug deeply into her muscles, which caused her ankles to fester and bleed. It was extremely painful when the iron ring touched her naked bone. But director Wang Churong still did not take the fetter off; her ankles festered more severely. Even after Wang Xiaodong was transferred to Sanshui Women's Labor Camp, her legs and feet remained swollen for several months. Policemen in Sanshui Detention Center had never seen nor heard of a person being fettered to such a degree.

Because Wang Xiaodong could not walk, two inmates dragged her to the bathroom and sometimes left her lying on the floor of the bathroom. Wang Xiaodong could not move and had to sleep in the bathroom during the night. When an inmate went to the bathroom, she dragged her out. After finishing using the bathroom, the inmate dragged her back into the bathroom. Day after day, anyone who showed sympathy to her would be punished harshly. One inmate who just said one sympathetic word was forbidden by guard Li Yanzhi to purchase anything for three weeks, as a punishment.

More miserably, one afternoon, under the instigation of guard Li Yanzhi, one inmate who was in charge of arranging labor, pierced Wang Xiaodong's insteps and lower legs with a needle used for handiwork. Wang Xiaodong's feet and legs were full of perforations and there was blood all over. Wang bore the pain and dared not to shout, since the inmates would beat her face with slippers whenever she shouted. The torture lasted for almost one hour and was witnessed by many inmates.

That night, the persecution became more severe. Around 1:00AM, the two inmates who were monitoring Wang Xiaodong wanted to sleep. They made a string with thin threads and tied Wang's hands tightly together, and forced her hands to be pressed under her body. With 35-kg fetters and hands fastened behind her, she could neither turn her body nor sit up. Her body was numb and swollen. The inmates would beat her if she made any sounds. The torture lasted for six and a half hours until the next morning when a policeman was patrolling the cells. Inmates unfastened her, and Wang Xiaodong reported loudly to the policeman about the torture she had received. The policeman just left without a reply. Two hours later, another policeman came to patrol cells. With the string in her hands, Wang reported to this policeman the torture, but the police ignored her as well. The inmates laughed violently, grabbed the strings from her hands and threatened her saying, "Do you dare to report again? We do not fear if you report to the director. Wait and see how we torture you tonight!" Wang was in deep fear. Later, an old doctor in the detention center went patrolling the prison. Wang reported again to the doctor about the process of being pierced and tied up last night. She requested the doctor to tell the director. The doctor shook his head sympathetically and went away. Never-ending shackling, day-by-day torture, the instigation of guards, policemen's indulgence, and recently more horrible threats took away all her hope. Around 1:00PM, Wang Xiaodong tried to commit suicide by ramming her head against the wall, still with the fetters on her feet.

After regaining consciousness, Wang Xiaodong told the deputy director on duty about the process of being tortured and the reason of her suicide attempt. The deputy director said, "Is there such a thing? I will investigate it and deal with it seriously." However, what he meant by "dealing with it seriously" was to give each inmate in Cell 1 three whips, and forbid them to mention this issue again.

Long-term brutal persecution forced Wang to collapse. The prison not only did not provide any mental examination or treatment, but also failed to provide treatment to her swollen feet. Her family asked to visit her many times but was refused. On July 13, when she was sent to Sanshui Women's Labor Camp, Wang Xiaodong was extremely thin, and bruises were all over her body. She had atrophy of the muscles and her feet and legs were swollen severely. She had a dull look in her eyes, had lost her ability for language and ability to respond. However, director Zeng of Political Security Section from Nanshan Police Branch and director Wang Churong of Nanshan Detention Center, drove in person to Sanshui Women's Labor Camp to conceal their crimes and planned further persecution. It was not until over a month later did Wang's family find her whereabouts.

In just over two months, a healthy person has been persecuted to such a miserable state.

Women of Conscience

A Report on the Persecution of Female Practitioners of Falun Gong in the People's Republic of China

Brought to the Funeral Home While Still Alive



In June of 2000, Li Mei, a 28-year-old lady from Hefei, Anhui Province, was arrested and put into the Feidong Detention Center for appealing in Beijing for Falun Gong. She was later transferred to the Women's Labor Camp of Anhui Province. During her detention, the persecutors fiercely tortured her. The torture caused severe damage to her internal organs and left her in a coma. She died in the No. 105 Hospital in Hefei City.

Li Mei While Li Mei was in this labor camp, she insisted on practicing Falun Gong exercises and suffered repeated mistreatment. Since October 2000, she was transferred to a strict supervision team (the labor camp has three different levels of "managing"; loose supervision, normal supervision and strict supervision). She was exposed to severe torture.

On the afternoon or evening of Jan. 31, 2001, Li Mei's parents were instructed to go to No. 105 Military Hospital to visit their daughter. In the hospital, the family of Li Mei was surrounded and forbidden to approach her bed. Li Mei's body was covered with a quilt; only her head could be seen. Bloodstains were vaguely visible around her nose, the corner of her mouth and her ears; there were black and blue wounds on her face and her neck was enclosed in gauze. According to the doctor, Li Mei's brain had atrophied, her organs could not function well, and she had only a faint heartbeat.

On February 1, 2001, Li Mei's family members were notified that Li Mei had died at 6AM on that day. They were brought to the funeral home to see her body in the afternoon; they were not allowed to bring any camera with them. When the family was changing her clothes, they discovered that her ears, mouth and nostrils were all plugged with cotton. The back of her head was bloody, her back was dotted with blood spots, and her legs were deformed. However, her body was still warm. Li Mei had a very thin layer of clothes on. February 1st was a very cold day, and it was claimed that she was dead at 6AM. How could her body still be warm at 6PM unless Li Mei had been brought to the funeral home while still alive? Li Mei's father could no longer control the pain in his heart. He questioned the officials and police, "Why is Li Mei's body still warm! You did not try to save a live person but sent her here to the funeral home! Is there no goodness in you?" However, the officials and police giggled to themselves instead of feeling embarrassed. Finally, under Li Mei's father's strong insistence, there were two people who came over to touch Li Mei's body and agreed that she was still warm.

To cover up the evidence of the torture, the officials present (including a Vice Governor of Anhui Province) insisted that the body must be cremated. At the time of cremation a virtual army of police heavily guarded the crematory and no one was allowed to get in. Officials of all levels of government pressured Li Mei's family members, prohibiting them from disclosing "secrets" to anyone else. Under direction of Chinese President Jiang Zemin's policy "If you beat them to death, you can say that they committed suicide." Hence, the label "suicide" would probably be used in this person's tragic death.

Note: In fact, this is not the only case of a practitioner being sent to a funeral home before death. Zhang Zhenggang, a male practitioner from Huaian City, Jiangsu Province, had been in a coma as the result of torture by the Huaian police. On Mar. 30, 2000, he was taken to the crematorium from the hospital by police officers and cremated when he still registered a weak heartbeat and breath.

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