

Compassion

A Journal of Falun Dafa Around the World

Celebrating
Ten Years of
Truthfulness,
Compassion,
Forbearance

INSIDE THIS EDITION

- Photo Gallery of Ten Years
- Profiles of Courage
- World Falun Dafa Day

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY EDITION

www.faluninfo.net

Sheila Copps

Minister of Canadian Heritage

Toronto, May 19, 2002

“Truthfulness, compassion and forbearance are the principles on which Falun Dafa is based, but they are also universal ideals that have special importance here in Canada. As Minister of Canadian Heritage, I commend the Falun Dafa Association of Canada for your efforts to build a more peaceful and harmonious society. May these efforts bear fruit here and around the world, to the benefit of us all.”



Tom Lantos

U.S. Congressman

Washington DC, December 1, 2001

“They [Chinese Communist Regime] could not ask for a more benign, socially constructive philosophy among China’s people, during China’s difficult transition to a more open society, than the Falun Gong philosophy of “truth, compassion, and tolerance”...The current, comprehensive Chinese Government campaign to search out, intimidate, brain-wash, incarcerate, torture, and even murder Falun Gong practitioners...is one of the most chilling, outrageous phenomena I have seen in China during my twenty years in Congress.”

Anna Lindh

Foreign Minister, Sweden

Stockholm, November 20, 2001

“...we see that the persecution of Falun Gong, amongst others, is getting worse - and this is very serious...We will not forget about China’s serious human rights issues, nor will we forget Falun Gong.”



Tanya Plibersek

Australian Member of Parliament

Sydney, January 24, 2001

“I urge the Australian Government and international organisations to pursue the issue of human rights abuses against Falun Dafa practitioners in China, and to urge the Chinese Government to lift the ban on Falun Dafa and immediately release those imprisoned or detained.”

Compassion

is a journal providing news and information about Falun Dafa (also known as Falun Gong) around the world. It is produced entirely through the efforts of volunteers and paid for by donations to the Falun Dafa Information Center.

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Falun Dafa Information Center

is a non-profit organization based in New York City dedicated to providing news and information about Falun Dafa around the world. All officers, board members and staff are strictly volunteers, offering their free time and skills to help provide accurate information about Falun Dafa.

From 1999 to the present, most of the Center's resources have been dedicated to investigating and exposing the human rights abuses against Falun Dafa practitioners in China, and seeking a peaceful end to the persecution of Falun Dafa in China.

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An introduction to the principles
and practice of Falun Dafa

Feature Images: 1992 - 2002





"Every time there was a lecture series offered, the lecture hall was always packed. Many came from very far away. I felt joyful about the tremendous improvement in my physical health since taking up the practice, but more importantly I felt like I had never been happier in my whole life. During the lectures, everything was so clear and open. While the content of Mr. Li's lectures was at times quite profound, it was also very natural, very harmonious. Attending those lectures, I felt like I had finally come home."

— Ms. Zhang Qi —

*Falun Dafa practitioner from Beijing,
now living in the U.S.*

1993: Wuhan, China

Mr. Li Hongzhi lectures in the city of Wuhan during a Falun Dafa Seminar—one of 54 lecture series Mr. Li gave in nearly 20 cities throughout China between 1992 and 1994.

All seminars were given at the invitation of local hosting organizations, and overseen by the China Qigong Scientific Research Society—the government's main qigong organization. Attendance ranged from a few hundred to over 4,000. Mr. Li's last lecture series in China was in December of 1994 in the city of Guangzhou.

During the seminars, Mr. Li lectured on the core principles of Falun Dafa—"Truthfulness, Compassion, Forbearance." He taught how to adopt these principles into everyday life so as to improve one's moral quality and remove negative aspects of one's character such as hatred, jealousy, doing harm to others for personal benefit, etc.





“From what happened to me, the people in the village saw the goodness of Falun Dafa and they came to practice. My home became a practice site. Every day people came to practice before dawn and then came to read the Falun Dafa books after supper. Soon, people were coming in large numbers to learn Falun Dafa exercises and listen to Mr. Li Hongzhi’s lectures on tape. Cars of people arrived at my house. People would sit wherever they could find a bit of space. In the winter, I’d light a fire in the fireplace...it was a very happy time.”

*— Ms. Hong Mei —
(pseudo name to protect identity)
A Falun Dafa Practitioner from
a village in Gansu Province*

1996: Chengdu, China

Morning group practice in Chengdu City, Sichuan Province, which is located in the central part of China.

Li Hongzhi lectured in Chengdu in May, 1994. Shortly after, the practice spread quickly through word of mouth to residents of the surrounding area.

By 1996 – although Mr. Li had stopped giving lectures by the end of 1994 – practice sites like this one had been established throughout the country. All practice sites were organized by volunteers and always free of charge.

The previous year, Mr. Li Hongzhi had published three books, one of which, *Zhuan Falun*, became a bestseller in China in 1996.





“Falun Gong and other types of qigong can save each person 1,000 yuan in annual medical fees. If 100 million people are practicing it, that’s 100 billion yuan saved per year in medical fees. Premier Zhu Rongji is very happy about that. The country could use the money right now.”

— Mr. Wu Shaozu —

Director of China’s Sports Commission

1998: Guangzhou

Morning group practice in the southern city of Guangzhou, China.

By 1998, the practice of Falun Dafa had spread by word of mouth to between 70 - 100 million people throughout the country, according to a Chinese government survey. In virtually every city throughout the country, people gathered for group practice in parks and city squares to do the five exercises of Falun Dafa before starting their day.

The year 1998 also saw Mr. Li lecturing widely around the world. By this time word of the practice abroad had traveled, and audiences swelled to several thousand in the U.S., Canada, Sweden, France and other countries. That year Mr. Li lectured in New York City, Toronto, Frankfurt, Changchun, Singapore, and Geneva. All of these talks were free and open to the public, and part of larger “insight and experience sharing” conferences put together by students of the practice.

At the beginning of 1998, Mr. Li emigrated with his wife and daughter to the United States.





"We are not against the government now, nor will we be in the future. Other people may treat us badly, but we do not treat others badly, nor do we treat people as enemies."

*— Mr. Li Hongzhi —
Founder of Falun Dafa*

1999: New York City

CBS interviews Mr. Li Hongzhi the day after Chinese President, Jiang Zemin — moving against the judgement of many senior Chinese officials — bans Falun Dafa in China and initiates a brutal round-up of Falun Dafa practitioners.

In the early morning hours of July 20, dozens of volunteers who organized practice sites in their local cities were rounded up by police, many taken from their beds and families. Some were never heard from again.

Over the next two days, tens of thousands of practitioners of Falun Dafa were rounded up and detained in detention centers and stadiums in China's larger cities as people spontaneously gathered to peacefully appeal for an immediate end to the sudden crackdown.

On July 22 as the ban was made official, the media's attention turned to Mr. Li, living in New York, who gave interviews continuously for the next several days calling for dialogue and a peaceful resolution to the crisis.





"It is not that Jiang Zemin has misunderstood Falun Dafa...by 1999, everyone in China knew very well that Falun Dafa was teaching people to be honest, kind, fair...yet, Jiang still persecutes us. We must not...we cannot allow ourselves to live in a world that tolerates such injustice. Thus, no matter how violent it gets, I feel that I must speak out. I must peacefully let the truth be known. Jiang is attacking all that is good in humankind, and so for the good of humanity, we must speak out..."

— Mr. Li Dong —
(pseudo name)

Falun Dafa Practitioner in China

2000: Beijing, China

A police officer closes in as two people unfurl banners in Tiananmen Square proclaiming "Truthfulness, Compassion, Forbearance" – the essential principle of Falun Dafa.

Shortly after the persecution began in 1999, all legal channels for filing complaints were closed to Falun Dafa practitioners. Lawyers were required to report any Falun Dafa-related case to the central government. The government's Appeal Offices — a branch of the government that receives complaints from citizens and seeks a resolution for them — were closed to Falun Dafa practitioners, and anyone appealing for Falun Dafa was immediately taken into custody.

The state-run media flooded the airwaves and newspapers with defamation that incited hatred towards Falun Dafa, giving no voice to those supportive of Falun Dafa.

Still, grassroots efforts among the Chinese people throughout the country continued, seeking ways to have their voice heard. Tiananmen Square became a common destination for Falun Dafa practitioners to publicly appeal for justice.





“Hundreds of practitioners have been murdered; tens of thousands have been imprisoned, tortured, beaten, forced to flee from their homes, and forcefully removed from their families and their jobs. This has gone on two years too long...”

*— Ambassador Mark Palmer —
Vice-Chairman of the Board for
Freedom House, Former U.S.
Ambassador to Hungary*

2001: Washington DC

U.S. Senators, Congressmen and NGO representatives joined approximately 3,000 practitioners and supporters of Falun Dafa for a rally and press conference in Washington DC on July 22 – exactly two years after the ban of Falun Dafa in China.

Speakers included U.S. Senators Richard Durbin (D-IL) and Sam Brownback (R-KS), U.S. Congressmen Ben Gilman (R-NY) and David Wu (D-OR), Mr. T. Kumar from Amnesty International and over 20 other senators, congresspeople and NGO representatives.

Ambassador Mark Palmer delivered the opening remarks: “Two years ago, the Communist Government of China officially initiated its horrific crackdown on the peaceful practitioners of Falun Gong..We urge a universal appeal to the Chinese leadership in Beijing and throughout China to stop the abuse. Stop the arrests. Stop the killings. Stop the torture. Stop the imprisonment. Stop the intimidation. Let the Presidents and Prime Ministers of the world’s 100 democracies tell Jiang Zemin that he must personally stop this barbarism or be held personally accountable – as Milosevic is now being held accountable for his crimes against humanity...”





"I am delighted to learn that your group [Falun Dafa] is holding the 2001 Taiwan Falun Dafa Cultivation Experience Sharing Conference in Taipei's World Trade International Conference Center...I wish to extend my greetings with this special telegram, and hope that, together, we can put our efforts into enhancing the harmony of the society and maintaining the health of all people. Best wishes for a great success in your activities."

*— Chen Shui-bian —
President of Taiwan*

2001: Taipei, Taiwan

Thousands of Taiwanese demonstrate the Falun Dafa exercises in front of the national theater in Taipei.

In stark contrast with mainland China just across the Taiwan Strait, Falun Dafa has flourished in Taiwan where the government openly embraces the practice.

Sharing the same language, history, and culture as mainland China, Taiwanese have widely adopted the spiritual practice that has roots in ancient Chinese culture.

In 1999, an estimated 10,000 people in Taiwan were practicing Falun Dafa. By 2002, the number had grown by a factor of 20 or more with conservative estimates putting the number of practitioners at 200,000.

Public school teachers can earn credit by attending Falun Dafa classes, and volunteers throughout the country have brought the practice into schools, universities, businesses, and even prisons to encourage everyone to live according to the principles of Truthfulness, Compassion, Forbearance.



真善忍

Truth Compassion Tolerance



“Falun Dafa came from your land of China and your beautiful and ever so rich culture. Without it, I would not be who I am today. With the deepest respect I have come to your country to stand up for the truth for you. I hope with my western face and sincere heart I can awaken the goodness in your heart. Please don’t follow the [Chinese] president and his criminals to persecute Falun Gong — it is not good for you.”

*— Zenon Dolnyckyj —
Participant in the November, 2001
appeal on Tiananmen Square*

2001: Tiananmen Square, Beijing

On November 20 at 2:00PM Beijing time, 35 practitioners from 12 western countries, including Sweden, Germany, the U.S., Switzerland, Canada, France, the UK, and Australia, held a peaceful appeal on Tiananmen Square in Beijing. They were immediately detained and held at the Tiananmen Square Police Station.

The appeal consisted of people sitting in meditation and displaying a banner with only the words “Truth, Compassion, Tolerance.”

Peaceful appeals on Tiananmen Square by citizens of western countries continued over the next several months.

In February 2002, a group of 60-70 practitioners of Falun Gong from North America, South America, and Europe staged a large-scale appeal on a heavily guarded Tiananmen Square. The subsequent arrests and interrogations by police were violent. Several cases of beatings, kicking, black eyes, and choking were reported. One woman, a U.S. citizen, was beaten severely several times while in police custody, returning to the U.S. days later showing cuts and scars from her ordeal. Yet the practitioners responded non-violently to the rough treatment, continuing their efforts to engage the police in dialogue.







“Like all violent persecutions of peaceful people throughout history, the persecution of Falun Dafa in China will end, and those responsible will have to pay for their crimes against humanity. What is happening in China is horrific...but it will end, and when it does, practitioners of Falun Dafa in China will once again do what we have been free to do all along outside of China...go out to our local parks to exercise, meditate, and live each day as an opportunity to improve ourselves in accordance with the principles of Truthfulness, Compassion and Forbearance.”

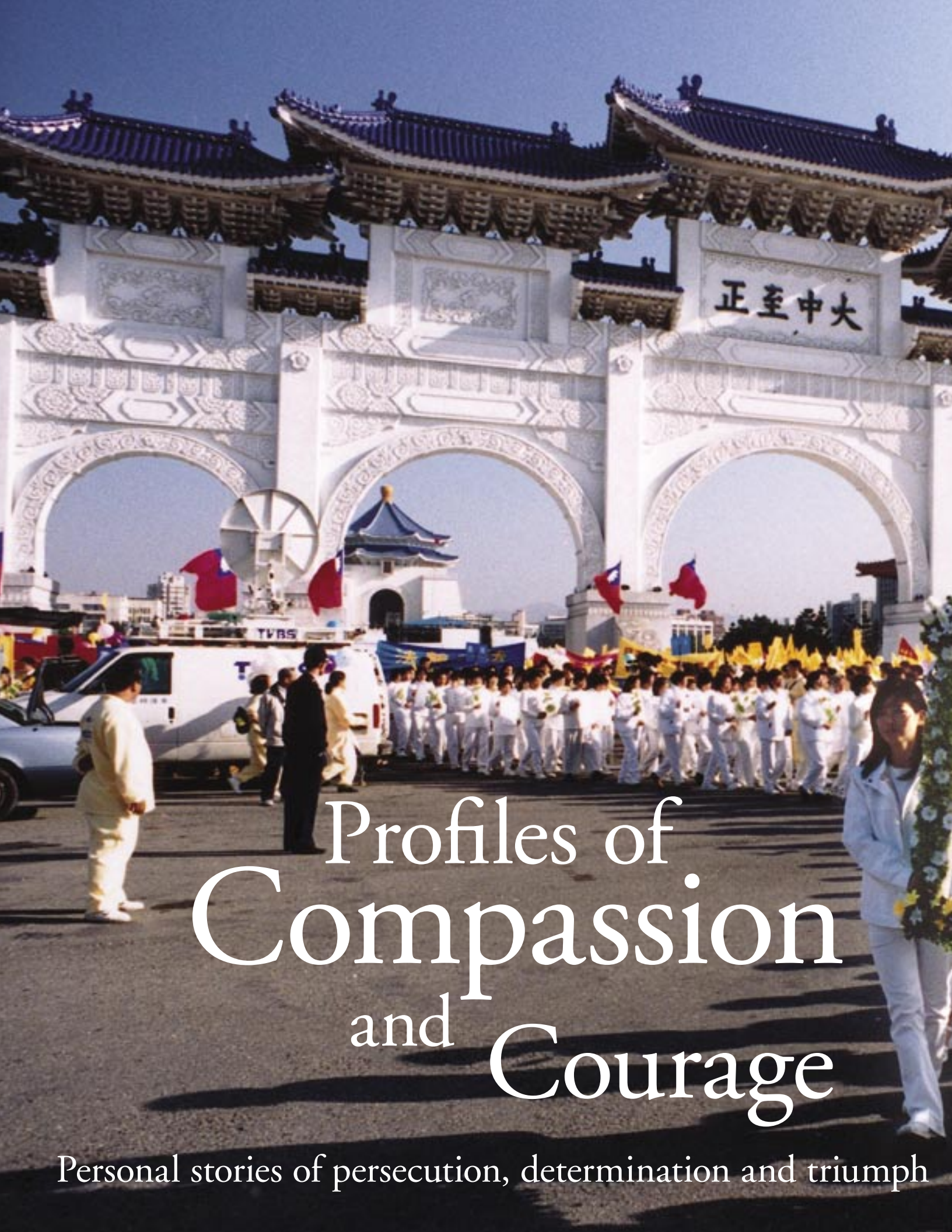
— Dr. Damon Noto —
*A Medical Doctor and Practitioner of
Falun Dafa in New York City*

2002: New York City

Afternoon group practice in New York City’s Central Park.

By early 2002, Falun Dafa practice sites like this one could be found in over 50 countries around the world. The books of Falun Dafa have been translated into over 25 languages.

While the persecution of Falun Dafa in China continues, the practice is flourishing outside China.



Profiles of Compassion and Courage

Personal stories of persecution, determination and triumph

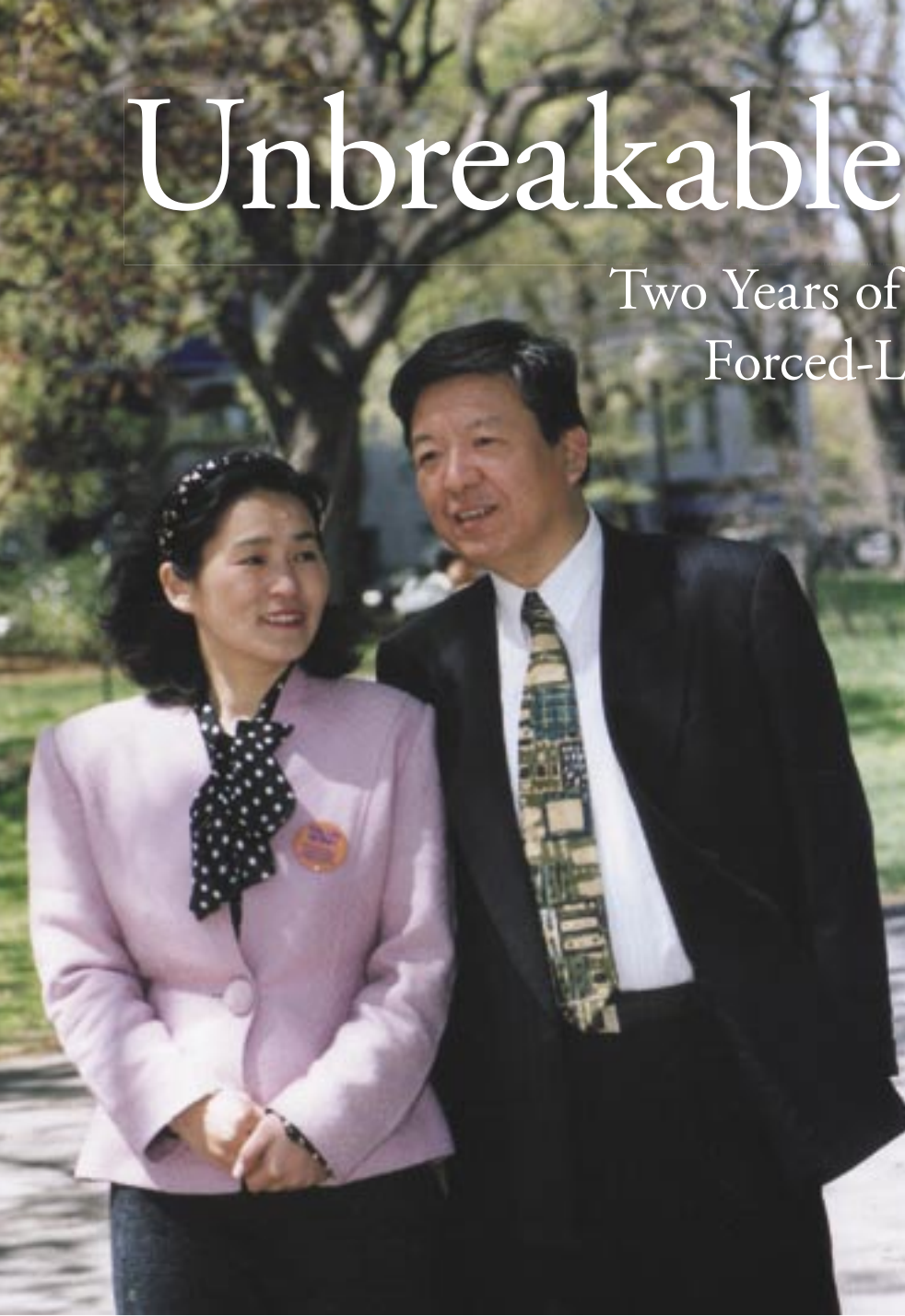


懷念100名被迫害致死的法輪功學員
In memory of 100 Falun Gong practitioners tortured to death

劉
三
麗
(1960-2000)
88.10.40歲

Unbreakable Spirit

Two Years of Torture in a Chinese
Forced-Labor Camp Couldn't
Erase Shenli's Smile



They were only allowed five minutes to talk before he was going to be taken away...

With only the sounds of their footsteps, the police escorted them hand in hand down the hall to the top of the stairs. Jinyu wasn't allowed to go any further. Shenli turned his head and smiled goodbye. He walked down the stairs and out to a waiting police car. The police loaded him in. Jinyu stared from their living room window, not realizing that it would be two years before she would see her husband again.

Having learned about Falun Dafa in Montreal during the summer of 1997, Jinyu moved back to Shanghai six months later. She joined a local Falun Dafa reading group. At that time, Falun Dafa had been flourishing in China for over 5 years, and tens of millions of people were practicing it every day. It was here, at this reading group in January 1998, that she first met Shenli. "He didn't say very much, but he always had a wonderful smile on his face." Although they didn't talk much with their friends and family about their relationship, it must have been developing quite steadily because everyone enjoyed a lovely wedding in early 1999. "Many family and friends came. There were a lot of people. It was wonderful," remembers Jinyu.

Soon after, the newlyweds decided that they wanted to make a life for themselves in Canada. Jinyu returned to Canada to begin preparations for their move back there, while Shenli remained in China. Shenli was a very active volunteer in the Falun Dafa community in Shanghai and many people knew him. Then the persecution of Falun Dafa began on July 20, 1999. The police took Shenli in for 10 hours or so of interrogation each day. He had to stop working and rely on his savings for survival. About a month and half later Jinyu returned to China to be with her husband.

She arrived to find that her husband was

Jinyu, joined by Canadian Members of Parliament and the Secretary General of Amnesty International of Canada, holds a press conference in the parliament building in Ottawa, Canada to appeal for her husband's release.



being taken away for interrogation every day from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Their phones were tapped. Jinyu was followed wherever she went. Shortly after her arrival, both she and Shenli were ordered under house arrest. Deciding not to obey the unjust order, the two continued going about their lives as normal. However, everywhere they went, the police followed.

The pressure on their daily lives subsided temporarily after Shenli and Jinyu moved to live in another suburb of the city. They took the opportunity to head to the Canadian Embassy in Beijing to apply for a visa for Shenli.

"Why should we let them arrest us? There was absolutely no reason for such treatment," Shenli had said.

Soon, however, the following resumed. The couple watched as the already tense situation surrounding them heightened. Nearby practitioners and their families were disappearing constantly, often in the middle of the night. TV and newspapers carried reams of propaganda attacking Falun Gong and distorting the facts. "There was defamation everywhere all the time," Shenli recalled. The couple decided that they must do something. They decided to travel to Beijing and visit the national appeal office, the last

mode of appeal available to citizens to make their concerns known. Jinyu recalls thinking, "If we don't speak out for Falun Dafa, who will? How can we let all those people just be lied to?" It seemed very simple to her at the time, but it led to a very difficult two years.

At the appeal office, Jinyu and Shenli were made to sit on the floor without food for over 8 hours. When told to write about the reason for their trip to the appeal office Jinyu and Shenli made the following requests: "Lift the ban and stop the persecution of Falun Gong. Release all practitioners in detention and restore the founder's good name." Over the course of the day the number of practitioners held in the room rose to more than 50. Once nightfall came, the police vans rolled in and everyone was taken away.

Jinyu and Shenli were taken to another location in Beijing. From the outside, it did not appear to be a police station. The next morning, they were told that the building was a hostel and that their detention would cost them 150 yuan. The two were then escorted back to Shanghai.

Since Jinyu is a Canadian citizen, she was told to leave the country within 48 hours and she was sent home. Jinyu was sitting alone in the apartment, gathering together what

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Immediate Right: Jinyu awaits her husband's return at the airport in Montreal, Canada.

Middle & Far Right: Jinyu, joined by friends and supporters, is reunited with her husband after two years.



Killed for His Beliefs



Little Fadu is just a toddler, but one day she will come to understand that her father, Chengyong Chen, was a very brave man. Brave enough to adhere to his beliefs despite numerous arrests and brutal treatment by the government of his homeland.

Chenyong was steadfast even when the Chinese government stripped him of his job as a skilled electrician at the Guangzhou Paper Manufacturing Corporation. Unwilling to be forced to attend the state-sponsored “re-education classes”—a euphemism for brainwashing and torture—and unwilling to renounce his practice of Falun Gong, Chengyong was forced to wander, homeless and destitute.

About the only bright spot in Chengyong’s ongoing nightmare must surely have been the knowledge that his wife and little girl were safe in Australia, where his wife, Zhizhen “Jane” Dai, had obtained citizenship. Jane tried often to explain to little Fadu why she could not be with her father. But how do you explain the nature of evil to a child who has barely learned to speak?

Chenyong was now an itinerant fugitive and Jane lost contact with her husband in mid-January 2001.

Five months later while browsing the Falun Dafa website, Jane saw a news item that would change her life forever and ultimately shatter her entire extended family. Chengyong’s partially decomposed body had been found in an abandoned hut in a suburb of Guangzhou. He had been tortured to death by the government of his own country for his spiritual belief in Falun Gong. Upon seeing the news she lapsed into a virtual state of shock. “I was completely speechless and trembling all over my body,” she later said.

Jiang’s regime was not yet done with Chengyong’s family. His sister was called in to identify the remains. While she was still shocked and grieving over the loss of her brother,

Right: Chengyong, Jane and infant Fadu during happier times in China.

Opposite page: Jane and her daughter while in Geneva to tell the story of her husband's death and her sister-in-law's imprisonment to the United Nations Human Rights Commission.



government authorities demanded that she too renounce her practice of Falun Gong. When she refused, she was arrested and sentenced to two years of hard labor. Soon thereafter, Chengyong's father, his heart torn by the death of his son and the imprisonment of his daughter, passed away in sadness and grief.

Jane Dai resolved to obtain her husband's ashes from the Chinese authorities and see that they were interred with appropriate honor and dignity. There followed a six-month campaign of petitioning politicians, contacting human rights organizations, and telling her story to all forms of media in order to prompt the Australian government to act on her behalf.

In January 2002, Jane went to Melbourne as a guest on a popular radio talk show, in which the host promised that his team would be asking serious questions about the matter. Around the same time Jane contacted the Australian Consulate in Guangzhou directly. These two approaches eventually brought her husband's remains to Australia.

The ashes of Chengyong Chen were duly presented to an eternally grateful Jane Dai at a moving ceremony in the nation's capital. A devoted husband and father could now at least be given a decent funeral: small consolation indeed for his widow, and the little daughter who will grow up without her father.

Little Fadu was left with a family filled with loss: her aunt sent to a labor camp, and her father and grandfather dead.

Yet the larger significance of this story is that it is only the tip of the iceberg, a single example that has come to light because Jane Dai happens to hold Australian citizenship. In China right now there are millions of families that have been torn apart in similar fashion and countless Jane Dai's wondering if the rest of the world cares, or even knows, about what is happening to Falun Gong families there. 🙏



Jane, with her daughter at her side, carries her husband's ashes into a funeral ceremony held in his memory in Sydney, Australia shortly after recovering his ashes from China.

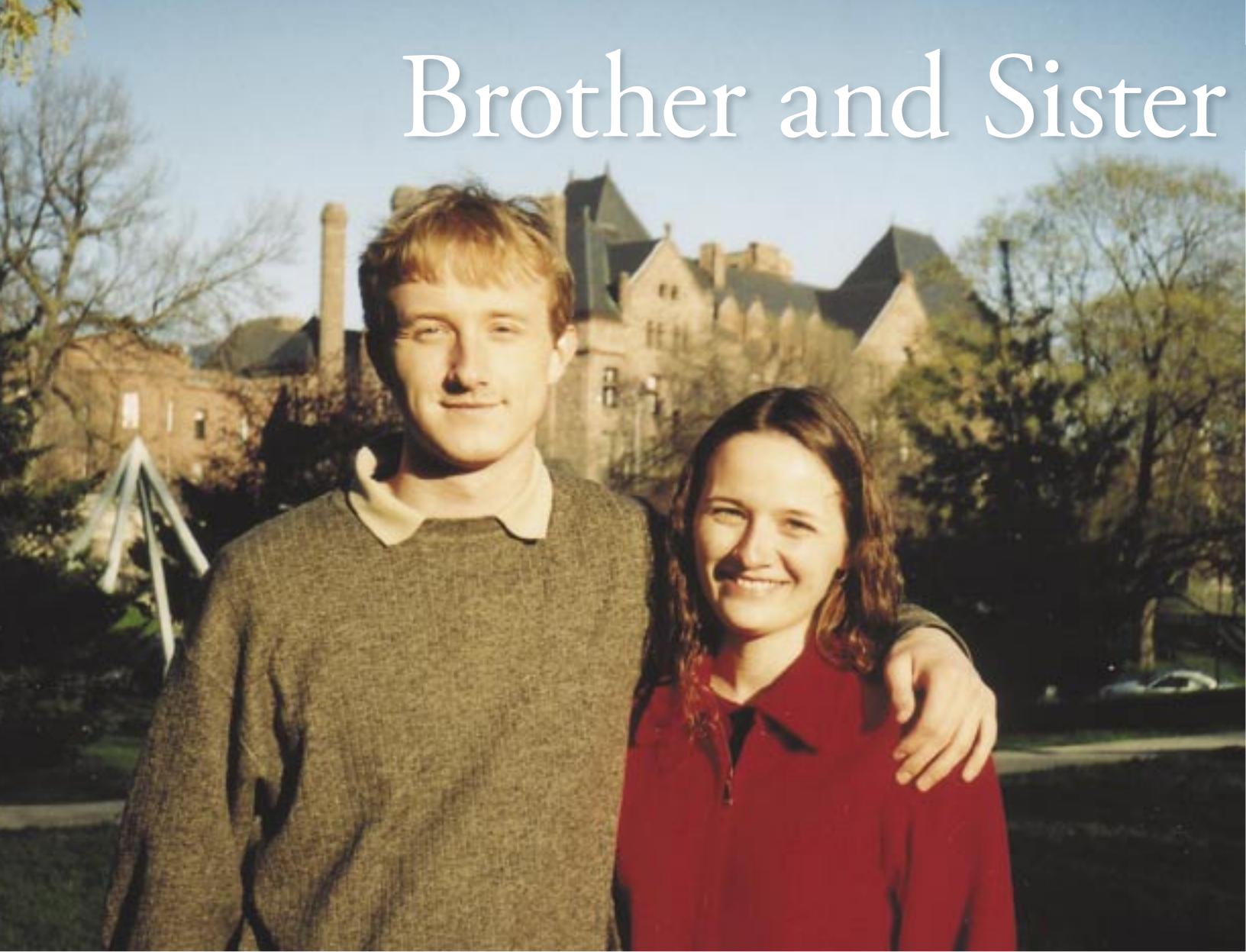


Living Falun Dafa

An inside look at the people who
practice Falun Dafa, their families,
and their determination to end the
persecution in China...



Brother and Sister



You might think human rights in China would be the furthest thing from the minds of young people growing up in a small community in Central Ontario. But for my twin brother, Jason, and I, the persecution of Falun Gong really hits home.

Presently 22 years of age, Jason studies Civil Engineering at the University of Toronto and I attend Brock University where I study Child and Youth Studies. Just like so many twins, we grew up as best friends, spending most of our time together and sharing similar interests. We had the same peers throughout both elementary and high school and we enjoyed a common desire from a young age to try our best to be good people, and to live healthy and enriching lives.

To that end, in September 1998, we went to a health show in our hometown of Barrie. We came across a very interesting booth there. About a half a dozen people, both Chinese and Caucasian, were practicing tranquil meditation exercises with some beautiful Chinese music in the background. We were both immediately attracted to this, bypassing many other booths just to make sure that we would be able to look closely at this one. Upon our arrival at the booth, we were greeted by the beaming smile of a very

Take a Stand

Two Canadians Step Forward to Help End the Persecution of Falun Dafa in China



Christine and Jason practicing Falun Dafa during a Falun Dafa conference in Boston.

healthy looking gentleman. He had a peaceful manner and was obviously quite happy to patiently explain to us what we were observing. He told us that this was a very special “cultivation system” from ancient Chinese culture. The practice, of course, was Falun Dafa.

Neither Jason nor I knew exactly why, but from that moment on, we were sure that we had finally found what we had been looking for. Our newfound friends taught us how to practice the gentle and graceful exercises for ourselves every week at a local park.

We both very quickly experienced many benefits from the practice, both physical and mental. In the past, for instance, I had suffered from frequent severe abdominal pains. The doctors couldn't figure out what was the matter with me. I was put on a special diet that cut out all acidic fruits and vegetables, as well as wheat products. I was also a practicing vegetarian at the time, which didn't leave me with a very large food selection. In fact, I ended up eating pretty much the same thing everyday. Now that I practice Falun Dafa, however, I've discovered that I can eat anything I want. Even better, I feel much healthier than I did before.

Jason also had some health problems. In the tenth grade he missed over 50 days of school due to illness. The doc-

tors couldn't tell what exactly was wrong with him, either. They had him using various inhalers and medication. Since learning Falun Dafa, Jason hasn't needed to visit a doctor in over three years now. His immune system has become stronger so he is no longer bothered by those ailments.

Seeing the beneficial changes in our health and an improvement in our behavior, such as willingness to help with chores without being asked, our mother also became interested in trying Falun Dafa for herself. She, too, has now adopted the practice. As a result, her body is much stronger and she no longer needs routine bi-weekly chiropractor visits like she used to.

[continued on page 67]

Peaceful Appeals in Beijing



March 28, 2002: Christine and her American boyfriend, Jason Pomerleau, are seized by police officers in Beijing as they hand out flyers to passersby about the human rights abuses against Falun Gong practitioners in China.



February 11, 2002: Jason unfurls a banner on Tiananmen Square that reads, “Falun Dafa is Good” as police officers close in. Despite being hit and choked several times, Jason continually engaged Chinese police in dialogue.

A Family Affair

A German Family's
Experience Practicing
Falun Dafa



The Koerper family outside their home in Heidelberg, Germany. From left to right: Caroline (22), Stefanie (17), Johanna (13), Joshua (3), Edith, Hubert.

The entire Koerper family practices Falun Gong. Three of them journeyed to Tiananmen Square in February 2002. Here are some of their thoughts.

Caroline Koerper:

Having separated me from my father and my younger sister, Beijing police fiercely interrogated me after my appeal on Tiananmen Square. Their demeanor was strict and serious as they twisted the facts and tried to confuse me, but I knew that I hadn't done anything wrong. My father, my sister Steffi, and I had come to China to expose the truth, to tell the Chinese people that their government lies to them about Falun Dafa, and to reveal the extent of the imprisonment, torture and even murder of our Chinese fellow practitioners.

The weeks leading up to the trip had been filled with long conversations with others who had been to Tiananmen Square, dealing with our fears, reading Teacher's book *Zhuan Falun*, practicing the exercises, and making travel arrangements. Our mother would have liked to have joined us, but she realized that it was best to provide support for us from home and to look after my 3 year-old brother.

Growing up, I would have never imagined that the police would one day arrest me. At school I was known as a quiet and well-mannered girl, even though my friends and I were also known to sneak a few ears of delicious corn on midnight summer walks through nearby cornfields. I knew that taking the corn without paying wasn't right and that I deserved whatever punishment might come my way for it, yet I would never have thought then that I could be arrested for simply making a peaceful appeal to the people of the world. This is exactly what happened, though, after I simply sang the song "Falun Dafa is good" and held up a bright yellow banner proclaiming the same in Chinese on Tiananmen Square.



Edith Koerper (Caroline's mother):

It was February 14, 2002, Valentine's Day in many countries around the world. I sat by the phone and finally received the call confirming that my husband and two of our daughters had arrived at Tiananmen Square. They had made it, and were about to stand together with about 50 other Western practitioners at Beijing's "Gate of Heavenly Peace," to appeal for justice for Falun Gong.

Falun Gong has been a part of our lives since 1998. Truthfulness, Benevolence, Forbearance, have become part of our everyday lives. In the beginning, they seemed easy to live by, but each of us soon realized the rewards of learning how challenging it is to truly live by these principles each day. We each discovered our own strengths and weaknesses.

How did our whole family come to practice Falun Gong? Hubert, my husband, had an interest in Chinese medicine for years. That's how he discovered qigong. He had begun to study with a qigong master, but the classes were quite expensive. We were therefore quite surprised and delighted to read a newspaper report in August 1997 about a form

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Music, Meditation, and Freedom of Belief

The Chen Family is a living example of the familiar saying, “A family that plays together, stays together.” A harmonious trio both on stage and in their daily lives, they continually strive to embody the Falun Gong principle of Truthfulness, Compassion, Forbearance, touching the lives of many people through their music.



Ying Chen with her mother, Ninfang, and father, Rutang, while in Boston at a Falun Dafa experience-sharing conference.

Ninfang and Rutang Chen do not fit the Chinese Regime’s propaganda that those who practice Falun Gong are counterrevolutionary or naïve and uneducated people. To the contrary, they are highly educated and talented musicians with no political interests whatsoever. Together they enjoyed a 33-year career in the Central Philharmonic Orchestra, one of China’s most prestigious. Mr. Chen was a director of the Orchestra for eight years and a Communist party member. As valued members of the Central Philharmonic Orchestra, Mr. and Mrs. Chen performed for some of China’s most distinguished guests, including many visiting presidents and prime ministers. Because of their outstanding contribution to music, the Central Philharmonic Society and China’s Ministry of Culture specially honored both of them with the lifelong title of, “The Country’s First Class Artists.” They enjoyed the prestige of well-respected artists in China.

Recent immigrants to the United States and no longer members of an orchestra, the Chen Family frequently take the opportunity to give moving performances of their music at various events around the world. Last year in Spain, they performed the Falun Dafa musical piece, “Pudu” for reporters attending a Chinese art exhibition who wanted to learn more about the Chen’s personal experience practicing Falun Gong. Only a few minutes into the musical piece, the room full of reporters, representing several media, were holding back sobs and a few had tears streaming down their faces, clearly moved by the music. After the performance, in amazement, the reporters asked many questions about



Ying Chen (above) and her parents (right) performing at a recent concert in Boston.



the Chen's personal experience practicing Falun Gong and their current situation.

Mrs. Chen explained that after the regime's July 1999 directive against Falun Gong, their harmonious way of life and respect in the community changed overnight and they became targeted by the government to be forced to give up the very belief that brought them happiness, success, and respect in society. She described, "It was in the middle of the night on June 25, 2000, when the banging on the door came. 'Bang, bang, bang! Open up! We want to talk to you!'"

The "we" who startled a sleeping family from a peaceful slumber belonged to approximately 18 security agents who pushed their way into the Chen's home and dragged both mother and son off to a detention center, leaving a worried and upset husband behind.

This was the second time Mrs. Ninfang Chen was held in a detention center for 30 days. The first time was for going to the Bureau of Appeals office to ask the government to let Falun Gong practitioners practice freely without harassment. Mr. and Mrs. Chen felt sure that this was the appropriate and legal action to undertake. However, a very different outcome was waiting for them when they arrived: Mr. and Mrs. Chen were taken straight to the Chaoyang Detention Center, separated into separate female and male cells and detained for 30 days along with the general prison population of thieves, prostitutes, drug addicts and murderers. The conditions at the detention center were horrifying with 40 people being forced to sleep, head to foot, on a small wooden pallet used for a bed, crowded together with only enough room to sleep on one's side to save space. The feet of the people sleeping on each side of Mrs. Chen were

pressed next to her head. In the evening the guards forced them to watch government propaganda videos. Mr. Chen had to share one plastic spoon with six people during meal-times in his cell. It was due to their strong belief that they were innocent of committing any crime and their practice of Truthfulness-Compassion-Forbearance under all circumstances that gave both of them the strength to endure their detention in such severe conditions.

After serving 30 days of detention for the second time, Mrs. Chen was released but her son Gang Chen was not. It wasn't until a month later that the worried Chens found out through the company where their son worked that he had been sent without trial to the Tuanhe Labor Camp in Beijing—notorious for its brutal treatment of Falun Gong practitioners—to serve a one-year term. In that prison,

[continued on page 68]

Ninfang and Rutang Chen practicing Falun Dafa exercises in a local park



Celebrating WORLD FALUN DAFA DAY

May 13th, 2002

On May 13th, people in dozens of cities around the world celebrated World Falun Dafa Day. This year's celebration marked the tenth anniversary since Falun Dafa was first taught to the public in China.

In Hong Kong practitioners and supporters gathered at Seashore Park to sing festive songs to tourists and other passers-by, and then paraded through downtown. An outdoor concert was held in the afternoon at Chater Gardens consisting of traditional Chinese musical performances, dance and singing.

Taiwan, Japan, Indonesia, and other Asian countries held similar festivities.

Australian Senator Andrew Bartlett kicked off the celebrations down under, welcoming the festivities and offering congratulations on the 10th Anniversary.

In New York City, several hundred people began the day's celebrations with a press conference on the steps of Brooklyn's City Hall before parading across the Brooklyn Bridge. Another press



Hong Kong



Washington, D.C.



Paris, France



Helsinki



San Francisco



Atlanta



Queens, New York



Tokyo



Toronto, Canada



New York City



Montreal, Canada

conference was held on the steps of Manhattan's City Hall in the afternoon, where New York City Councilman Allan Jennings presented a proclamation to Falun Dafa, and then cut the first slice of a 6-layer celebratory cake.

San Francisco, Houston, Atlanta, Chicago, Boston and many other cities celebrated in a similar manner.

In Toronto, Canadians held a festival in front of City Hall, consisting of performances by many community groups. Vancouver celebrated the anniversary with a conference and reception. Speakers at the conference included representatives from the Mayor's office of nearby Matsqui City, Amnesty International and the former Director of Human Rights Committee of British Columbia.

Outside the Tate Gallery of Modern Art in London, celebrations including dance and musical performances as well as free Chinese calligraphy were followed by a reception in Central London.

Similar celebrations were held in Dublin, Helsinki, Paris, Berlin, Moscow and other cities throughout Europe.

Grassroots Celebrations in China, Despite Persecution

Despite Jiang Zemin's persecution campaign against the practice, celebrations of the historic day were even visible throughout Northern China. Banners, signs and writings of "Restore the name of Falun Dafa" and "Truthfulness, Compassion, Forbearance" appeared in trees, on the walls of public walkways and next to city roads. Such grassroots methods have become widespread throughout China, as Chinese people continue their appeal to restore the name of Falun Dafa and bring an end to the misguided ban on the spiritual practice.

China



Reflecting on World Falun Dafa Day

Today we join together with family, friends, community and government leaders to give thanks for the health and joy Falun Dafa has brought to our lives. At the same time, we seek to honor the courage, compassion and strength that people who practice Falun Dafa in China have displayed over the past three years in the face of Jiang Zemin's vicious persecution.

Together, let us reflect on the past, paying our highest respects to the founder of Falun Dafa, Mr. Li Hongzhi, and to those who have protected the dignity of the practice, even in the face of tremendous persecution.

Together, let us calmly take stock of the present, knowing that virtue and goodness – as it has always done throughout history – will not just survive the current persecution in China, but emerge stronger and more dignified than ever.

Together, let us look to the future, filled with hope, joy and humility, thankful for what we have been given, and seek a swift end to the persecution in China.

Together, let us celebrate the teachings of
Truthfulness, Compassion and Forbearance.

Exerpt from a statement by
the Falun Dafa Information Center
May 13, 2002



三週十傳洪法

忍善真



THE JOURNEY OF FALUN DAFA

*A Photo Exhibit of Ten Years Since
the Introduction of Falun Dafa to the Public*







Mr. Li Hongzhi lecturing
in the city of Guangzhou,
southern China

1992-1995: The Teachings in China

Falun Dafa was introduced to the public in May of 1992, when Mr. Li Hongzhi gave his first lecture in Changchun City, China. Soon afterwards he traveled with several students to the Oriental Health Expo in Beijing where Falun Dafa earned several awards, prompting organizers to invite Mr. Li to give several impromptu lectures on the principles of Falun Dafa.

During the following two and a half years Mr. Li lectured on invitation in almost every major Chinese city, giving fifty-four lecture series in all; with the number of attendees ranging to as high as four thousand. All in-

struction at that time was overseen by the Chinese government's top qigong organization, the China Qigong Scientific Research Society.

The 1993 and 1995 publication of *China Falun Gong* and *Zhuan Falun* allowed a much wider base of people to learn Falun Dafa. By 1996 Mr. Li's *Zhuan Falun* was among the nation's best sellers. During those years the Chinese government actively supported and promoted the practice. Falun Dafa was found to have significant effects on health while also improving character and morality.

MORNING PRACTICE:

The art of 'qigong,' sometimes referred to as Chinese Yoga, has long been a tradition and treasure in Eastern culture. During the early morning hours in China's city parks nationwide, one can find people performing various types of qigong exercises. Out of this tradition, Falun Dafa quickly spread in China, as practice sites like this one in Beijing emerged throughout the country.



Honors awarded to Mr. Li Hongzhi from the Oriental Health Expo in Beijing

Mr. Li Hongzhi recording a broadcast about Falun Dafa in the Wuhan City Radio Station



Mr. Li Hongzhi's Lecture for the China Hero Foundation in the government's Public Security Department

Young children learning the Falun Dafa exercises in China



Mr. Li Hongzhi lecturing in the city of Tianjin, northeastern China

1995-1999: Falun Dafa Spreads Throughout China and the World

Between 1995-1999, the practice continued to grow at an explosive rate in China. A 1998 survey by the Chinese government determined that 70-100 million people were practicing Falun Dafa.

Since 1995, Mr. Li Hongzhi has traveled outside of China to Taiwan, Singapore, Japan, Australia, the United States, Germany, Sweden, and Canada among other countries, to lecture on Falun Dafa and discuss the practice with students. All lectures have been free and open to the general public

By the middle of 1999, Falun Dafa was practiced in over 40 countries around the world.



Mr. Li Hongzhi accepting awards from the governor of Illinois as well as the mayor and treasurer of Chicago.



5,000 people practicing in Wuhan, China; sitting in the formation of the Chinese characters for "Truthfulness, Compassion, Forbearance"



Mr. Li Hongzhi talking with practitioners in New York





ABOVE: Group practice in Chicago, Illinois



LEFT: Morning group practice in Chengdu City, located in central China



RIGHT: Mr. Li Hongzhi corrects the movements of a practitioner in Chicago

Falun Dafa Experience Sharing conference in Geneva, Switzerland, 1998



Large group practice in Paris, France during a conference held in July, 1999





AP

A man is violently arrested in Tiananmen Square during an appeal by Chinese citizens calling on their government to lift the ban on Falun Dafa and restore the name of the practice.

1999-2002: The Persecution in China

With government estimates of between 70-100 million practicing Falun Gong, China's President Jiang Zemin outlawed the practice in July 1999, fearful of anything touching the hearts and minds of more citizens than the Communist Party. Unable to crush the spirit of millions who had experienced improved health and positive life changes from Falun Dafa, Jiang's regime has intensified its propaganda campaign to turn public opinion against the practice while quietly imprisoning, torturing and even murdering those

Hundreds of thousands of Falun Dafa books were burned and destroyed by Chinese officials in the months immediately following the ban...



AP

A Falun Dafa practitioner displays injuries suffered from torture while in police custody





A woman stands in Tiananmen Square holding a pro-Falun Dafa banner as a Beijing plain clothes police officer approaches.



PHOTOS AT RIGHT: Practitioners of Falun Dafa are arrested in Tiananmen Square as they peacefully demonstrate against the persecution of Falun Dafa in China. Thousands of Chinese citizens have participated in such demonstrations over the last three years. Many are tortured after arrest, some have died from the abuse...



who practice it.

The Falun Dafa Information Center has verified details of over 420 deaths (as of June, 2002) since the persecution of Falun Gong in China began in 1999. Government officials inside China, however, reported in 2001 that the actual death toll at that time was well over 1,600. Over 100,000 have been detained, with more than 20,000 being sentenced to forced labor camps without trial.

Zhao Xin, a University lecturer, was arrested for practicing Falun Dafa exercises and badly beaten...she died six months later.





Public demonstration in Paris to raise awareness about the persecution in China

1999-2002: Peaceful Appeal Throughout the World

Since July 20 of 1999, Falun Dafa has been the target of a violent campaign of persecution in China, described by some as a program of “state terrorism.” It is spearheaded by China’s own president, Jiang Zemin, who considers the popular Falun Dafa a challenge to his ruling power.

Practitioners of Falun Dafa have responded to the oppression with peaceful public appeals and demonstrations, calling for the restoration of basic human rights.

Falun Dafa is now practiced in over 50 countries around the world. Local and state governments in many of these countries continue to honor Falun Dafa and its founder with awards and proclamations, recognizing Falun Dafa’s contributions to health and wellness.

Li Hongzhi is a three-time Nobel Peace Prize nominee.



Falun Dafa Information Center Spokesman addresses media at the National Press Club in Washington DC



Vigil in Geneva during the U.N. Human Rights Commission

Thousands gather outside the U.S. Capitol building in Washington DC to demonstrate the exercises of Falun Dafa to the public and appeal for a peaceful resolution to the crisis in China.





LEFT: Freedom of belief rally on Statue of Liberty Island, New York City.



LEFT: Vigil in Taipei, Taiwan for those killed in China for practicing Falun Dafa



LEFT: Rally in Washington DC to call for an end to the persecution of Falun Dafa in China



Thousands hold peaceful demonstration outside the U.N. offices in New York City during the Millenium Summitt

In the first half of 2002, Falun Dafa practitioners tapped into cable T.V. network signals in at least six cities across China to broadcast videos exposing the human rights abuses against practitioners and demonstrating the true nature of the Falun Dafa practice. The broadcasts broke a 2 1/2-year monopoly on news coverage by the Communist anti-Falun Dafa propaganda. Liu Chengjun (pictured above) was arrested in connection with a March 5 broadcast in Changchun and is believed to have been beaten severely. He is unable sit up straight and has blood stains on his shirt. Despite swift punishment and long jail sentences, many in China continue similar tactics to reveal the truth.



INSIDE CHINA



Above: By late 2001, as the death count continued to rise, practitioners of Falun Dafa persisted in making almost daily public appeals in Tiananmen Square calling for an end to the persecution and a lifting of the ban on Falun Dafa (AP Photo).



Left: On October 26, 1999, in a heroic and dangerous move, practitioners of Falun Dafa called a secret press conference with members of the world press in a suburb of Beijing to openly talk about the persecution they faced. Appearing on the front page of the *New York Times* the following day, it was the first report to expose the human rights violations against Falun Dafa practitioners to the world media. Many of the practitioners who participated in the press conference were later arrested. At least one is known to have been tortured to death.

AP



Comments and Insights

Scholars and government
leaders offer their insights
on Falun Dafa



United States President George W. Bush

Washington DC, March 13, 2002

Excerpt from a letter addressed
to U.S. Congressman Benjamin Gilman

“...my Administration and the American people remain firmly committed to the defense of human rights around the world, including the freedoms of religion and conscience...

We have repeatedly stressed to the Chinese Government that there is no justification for its brutal repression of Falun Gong.”

Mr. Irwin Cotler

Canadian Member of Parliament,
International Human Rights Lawyer and
Legal Counsel for Shenli Lin and Jinyu Li

Excerpt from an April 25th interview with Irwin Cotler
on his feelings upon successfully securing the release of
Shinli Lin from a Chinese forced-labour camp.

“I am honored to be here because I am among those who share the values of Truthfulness, Compassion, Forbearance. I believe, in fact, that we share these values in common with all of humanity. They are ancient Chinese values, and they are also values given to the common heritage of mankind.

I think that it is these values that inspired Shenli when he was imprisoned. These are the values that inspire Falun Gong practitioners wherever they may be. These are the values that allow Falun Gong to persevere in the face of the most persistent and pervasive assaults on human rights in China since Tiananmen Square, in the last two-and-a-half years of the unprecedented intensification of the violation of the human rights of Falun Gong practitioners. I am delighted to be here because I am sitting between these two people. I can tell you as someone who has been involved in representing political prisoners as their legal counsel in other parts of the world, four things are common in cases that result in the release of political prisoners. I find these four things in the case of Shenli Lin.

Firstly, I find the moral and physical courage of Shenli himself. Regardless of how the Chinese authorities try to brainwash him, to break him or alter his thinking, he persevered. So, I would like to highlight this moral and physical courage.

Secondly, I find the moral courage of Jingyu, his wife. She is a model of what Canadian citizenship is all about, of people who remind governments of their responsibility, who remind their governments of the necessity to live up to the values that we proclaim, and that we have to implement these values in our practice of governance.



From left to right: Shenli Lin, Irwin Cotler, Jinyu Li.

Thirdly, the Falun Gong practitioners from all over the world who acted as a support system for Jingyu and Shenli when he was in prison, who were the ones who engaged in hunger strikes, who engaged in marches, who engaged in demonstrations, who showed what Falun Gong and cultivation practice is all about.

Finally, I come back to where I began. That is, underlying everything, inspiring everything and making everything possible, are these values of Truthfulness, Compassion, Forbearance. The rest of the world should start to share these values and the Chinese authorities should say, “Wait a minute this is what we have given, and can continue to give to the world. Instead of repressing Falun Gong, we should use Falun Gong as a model of people who are expressing the best of Chinese civilization.” I think that this would lead to a different world in China, and I think we would have a better world generally speaking. Again, thank you, I’m honored to be here today.”

Awards and Proclamations

Government Officials in the United States

Offer Over 600 Awards and Proclamations

to Falun Dafa and its Founder, Mr. Li Hongzhi

Governor George H. Ryan, State of Illinois

“As Governor of Illinois, it is my pleasure to officially commend you for the contributions your teachings of Falun Dafa have so significantly had on our nation and the world society”

Mayor Anthony Williams, District of Columbia

“Falun Dafa has helped to preserve precious human traditions such as honesty, courtesy, loyalty, and unselfishness.”

Mayor Robert Lanier, City of Houston

“Mr. Li Hongzhi has worked tirelessly to convey Falun Dafa from China to the rest of the world. Along the way, he has touched the lives of countless people in many countries, earning an acclaimed international reputation.”



City Council, New York City

“The Council of the City of New York is proud to honor and commend the Falun Dafa movement, founded by Li Hong Zhi, in recognition of their teachings of peace and spirituality, and for their courage and perseverance in the face of oppression by the People's Republic of China...The Falun Dafa system, through which its practitioners cultivate both mind and body, has improved the health, elevated the mind and uplifted the spirit of those who follow its tenets...The courage of conviction to adhere to one's faith, despite threat to life and liberty should be honored by all freedom-loving people”

Governor Gray Davis, State of California

“Your spiritual leadership has been an inspiration to many Californians and to people all over the world. I commend you for your devotion to public service and your commitment to improving health in mind, body and spirit.”

Mayor Edward G. Rendell, City of Philadelphia

“Falun Dafa practitioners practice the principle of Zhen-Shan-Ren ‘Truthfulness-Benevolence-Forbearance’ - and incorporate it into their daily lives, striving to become better people in all environments and situations. In addition, they cultivate their bodies by practicing smooth and tranquil exercises that can improve their physical health.”

Mayor Richard Daley, City of Chicago

“Master Li's teachings are directly working towards the improvement of our society.”
“Over 100 million people are using Falun Gong exercises to improve themselves both mentally and physically.”

Dr. Franz Susman

Professor of the Catholic Church History

Austria, December 6, 2001

“Just like the most successful group of philosophers 2000 years ago – the Buddhist-Pythagorean Essenes – the Falun Gong movement today is the biggest hope for mankind, because its teachings and life are in harmony with each other... it brings the highest cosmic characteristics Truthfulness, Compassion and Forbearance into the heart, helps immediately the ordinary human being and the most learned philosopher as well as the genuine scientist. Following the example of Falun Gong all human beings, religions and nations can return to their common roots, here we are all in agreement. You have the good fortune now to get in contact with the practitioners of Falun Gong. You can contribute a lot to change the disastrous position of the human beings by conveying your impressions to your friends and the mass media. Thank you for setting an example!”



Pat Cox

President of the European Parliament

January 19, 2002

“We in the Parliament are very concerned about the human rights situation in China. The European Parliament has denounced the actions of the Chinese government on many occasions and, in its resolution of 5 July 2001 on Human Rights in the World in 2000 and EU Human Rights Policy, lays down in paragraph 113 that it: ‘Reiterates the need for all States to end repression and discrimination against peaceful religious and philosophical minorities; urges, in particular, China to end the repression of the Falun Gong as well as its Islamic, Christian and Buddhist populations.’ I can assure you that we will continue to speak out on this matter until the situation is satisfactorily resolved.”

Rob Anders

Canadian Member of Parliament

Toronto, May 18, 2002



“I admire the teachings of Falun Gong -- ‘Truthfulness, Benevolence, Forbearance.’ I have seen them reflected by countless courageous, peaceful and determined practitioners in China and in Canada, even under such unprecedented and brutal persecution. Your teachings exemplify the finest qualities of humanity and society. Accordingly, I am indeed greatly honored to extend my most sincere invitation to you to lecture in Toronto during Canada’s Second Annual Falun Dafa Festival this coming weekend.”

Thank you for all you have done, Mr. Li, for Canada, for China and for humanity.”

Vladimir Mlynar

Member of the House of Representatives of the Czech Parliament

November 9, 2001

“Personally, the stands of the people who adhere to this movement are very close to me, especially their accent on simple non-violent exercises and meditation. I regard similar practices as extremely important for the inner life of each and every one of us. For this reason I severely criticise the approach of the Chinese government, which has evoked an open repression toward the people who adhere to Falun Gong. From my personal experience I know the practices of a totalitarian power and therefore I am able to feel what it is like to be in a position of all those tortured and discriminated against in China. I express my unreserved support for your effort and I am ready to help you within the possibilities that are open to me...”



Ambassador Mark Palmer

Washington DC, U.S.

April 3, 2002

“All Americans should be very upset that the Chinese totalitarian regime, under the orders of its leader Jiang Zemin, has been conducting unethical and illegal activities in the U.S. on a wide scale. It is important that we utilize our Judiciary system to stop this. It must be made clear to Jiang Zemin that his persecution policies have no place in the modern world and certainly not here in the United States of America.”

Amnesty International Belgium

Belgium, February 18, 2002

“Amnesty International is also worried over the report that torture of Falun Gong practitioners would since the beginning of 2001 be officially sanctioned. This means that such brutalities are no longer seen as a crime when they are committed against a Falun Gong practitioner who refuses to give up his belief, and that the torturer goes free. As a result Falun Gong practitioners are now systematically subject to torture in prisons and re-education camps, which explains the high death rate in 2001.”

Reporters Without Borders (RSF)

France, December 4, 2001

“Since the eradication campaign against Falun Gong was launched by the authorities, foreign journalists have systematically been hindered in their work on this topic. Foreign photographers and cameramen are prevented from working on and around Tiananmen Square where hundreds of Falun Gong followers have demonstrated for the passed years. According to Reporters Without Borders' estimations, at least 50 representatives of international media have been questioned. Some of them have been beaten by the police...”



Peaceful Protest, Falun Gong, and History

John F. Kutolowski
Professor Emeritus
State University of New York
College at Brockport

For over two years the People's Republic of China has banned the public practice of Falun Dafa. Indeed, the government has been successful in wiping out of the movement its peaceful practice and protest. But has it really learned from other examples of nonviolent opposition?

The past reveals an interesting trend: peaceful protests against oppressive authority usually succeed. Indeed, powerful states do not always win, and often lose to weaker opponents. The Davids defeat the Goliaths. Four examples of successful peaceful protests for independence, freedom and human rights involve factors of leadership and historical settings.

First, all four successful protests featured outstanding charismatic leaders, universally acclaimed symbols of freedom. All received worldwide backing. Mohandas Gandhi led a nonviolent civil disobedience against Great Britain, the greatest empire of the modern world, resulting in a free national state of India. Lech Walesa marshalled vast numbers of Polish citizens in toppling a false and oppressive Communist state propped up by the Soviet Union. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s peaceful drive for civil rights for Afro-Americans succeeded in outlawing racial discrimination in the United States. Nelson Mandela won a huge victory for native Africans by ending apartheid and bringing justice and democracy to South Africa via non-violent demon-



public of China (PRC) has violently suppressed the
eed, the Beijing government now reports its suc-
c. Ostensibly, power has triumphed over peaceful
ly? How does Falun Dafa's situation compare to
ition in history? And why so?

strations. All felt the iron fist of state power and suffered physically, including imprisonment. All placed ideals and spiritual values in the center of their hearts, souls, minds and actions. All were selfless, placing their causes above their own personal welfare.

Li Hongzhi as founder and teacher of Falun Gong fits this image of charismatic leader. He has resisted the corrupting influences of wealth, power and personal material gain. Preaching peace and disdaining violence, he continues to inspire Falun Gong practitioners in China and globally in pursuing ideals of truthfulness, benevolence, and forbearance. Steadfast and resolute, Mr. Li refuses to leave the high ground of moral rectitude despite ruthless suppression of his followers in the PRC.

Second, peaceful protests in history have succeeded owing partly to circumstances of the times. Generally the four movements noted above occurred in states undergoing trauma and transition—not in stable, placid conditions. Moreover, each movement received support from within their states and universally. Martin Luther King's plea for equality, for example, profited much from the simultaneous movements for women's and students' rights and anti-Vietnam War demonstrations. Falun Dafa reflects a similar trend. Today the PRC is in a difficult transition. It is radically changing from a tightly controlled political state and socialist economy to a capitalistic, free enterprise system. At the same time, however, it retains its Communist political structure. Changes have brought widespread hardship to farmers and workers throughout China. Rumbblings of disaffection among farming and industrial laborers, more significant than the government admits publicly, may well increase as China's economy integrates into the world economy. Moreover, Maoist ideology has lost its grip on the public mind and its propaganda rings hollow. In addition, like Falun Dafa, the Chinese democracy movement is not dead but has moved underground. With the most extreme hardline opponent of democracy and of Falun Gong, Jiang Zemin, soon stepping down from power, perhaps a gradual softer policy may emerge in time.

In sum, the current unstable situation in China may influence change toward greater freedom. History is on the side of Falun Dafa and others pursuing non-violent change. Millions of Falun Dafa practitioners in China have received international support from political, religious and civil rights organizations, including American and United Nations' officials. There are now some straws in the wind regarding some Chinese police not pursuing rigorously anti-Falun Dafa policies. Finally, modern China historically has not been immune from major revolutions: in 1911, ending dynastic rule, and in 1949, ending the Republic. Change is inevitable, often for the better.





Falun Gong Founder Nominated for Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought

LONDON, Sept. 15, 2001 (Falun Dafa Information Centre) - Mr. Li Hongzhi, the founder of the Falun Gong spiritual practice, has been nominated for the European Parliament's Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought, an Associated Press release said.

This nomination takes its place among several other awards and nominations for Mr. Li Hongzhi in the past two years. These awards include the Religious Freedom award from Freedom House (Spring 2001), three consecutive nominations for the Nobel Peace Prize (2000, 2001, and 2002), as well as over 600 proclamations and honors from government officials throughout the U.S. and Canada.



Students and other concerned citizens of Iceland took to the streets in the thousands in peaceful protests over the Iceland government's barring Falun Gong practitioners from entering the country during a visit from Chinese president Jiang Zemin. Citizens carried homemade banners, and wore black cloth over their mouths to represent the loss of free speech.

Iceland Citizens Rally Around Falun Gong

"We will take the place of those who are not allowed to visit Iceland and protest the violation of human rights."

- Iceland Citizen

LONDON, June 11, 2002 (European Falun Dafa Information Centre) - The people of Iceland have showed tremendous support for the practitioners of Falun Gong after the Iceland Government, in a bizarre and unprecedented decision, barred all Falun Gong practitioners from entering Iceland during the visit of Chinese president Jiang Zemin this week.

"It's the talk of the town—the whole country is behind Falun Gong," says Joel Chipkar, a Falun Gong practitioner from Canada who has been in Iceland for several days. "Every media outlet, every TV station, every radio station, every newspaper—it's been the top story here."



On June 9, a large group of Icelanders joined Falun Gong practitioners in the park to learn the Falun Gong exercises and express their concern regarding the situation. "I stand with you," offered one man, and

added with a smile, "If the Chinese delegates try to shoot you, they have to shoot me first."

China's Propaganda Minister, Politburo Member Served with Class-Action Lawsuit for Persecution of Falun Gong

SAN FRANCISCO, May 17, 2002 (Falun Dafa Information Center) - Ding Guangen, Propaganda Minister of China, Politburo Member, and Deputy Chief of the "6-10" Office, was served with a lawsuit filed Wednesday in U.S. District Court for his role in overseeing and executing severe human

rights abuses against Falun Gong practitioners in China and overseas.

"As the Deputy Chief of the "6-10" Office — an office established by Jiang Zemin specifically to carry out the persecution against Falun Gong practitioners — Ding has

directly aided in the murder, torture and hate of Falun Gong practitioners all across China and propaganda campaigns overseas," said Terri Marsh, an attorney assisting with the case. "His instrumental role in the persecution of people who practice Falun Gong makes this lawsuit significant."

Canadian Superior Court Issues Order to Stop Anti-Falun Gong Publication

MONTREAL, December 7, 2001 (Falun Dafa Information Center)—Quebec Superior Court has ordered the Montreal-based Chinese newspaper “Les Presses Chinoises” to stop anti-Falun Gong publications. The author was ordered not to circulate defamatory anti-Falun Gong materials under any circumstances.

Last Thursday, Falun Gong practitioners in Canada started their first legal action to stop the circulation of hate literature on Canadian soil after slanderous

articles appeared repeatedly in the Montreal Chinese newspaper “Les Presses Chinoises” beginning November 3, 2001. The newspapers defaming Falun Gong are circulated in Montreal and Ottawa, and through the Internet, across the country.

The hate literature appearing in “Les Presses Chinoises” repeats the Chinese government’s unfounded defamations used to demonize Falun Gong and justify their two-and-a-half-year-long persecution of Falun Gong practitioners.



Chinese Communist Regime Sued In Landmark Lawsuit Over Illegal Activities in the United States

Lawsuit Cites Coercion of U.S. Government Officials and Violence/Harassment of U.S. Citizens and Residents Who Practice Falun Gong

WASHINGTON DC, April 3, 2002 (Falun Dafa Information Center) – Representatives of nearly 50 practitioners and supporters of the Falun Gong spiritual practice announced today the filing of a landmark civil lawsuit against two government ministries of the People’s Republic of China, alleging a systematic – and often violent – campaign of criminal activities in the U.S. designed to deprive American citizens and residents of their constitutional rights and privileges.

It is regrettable that in our own nation – the beacon for religious tolerance, understanding and respect, agents of the Chinese would conduct themselves in a manner that is clearly in violation of the rights that all people in our great nation enjoy.

- US Congressman Ben Gilman

Falun Dafa in the News

International HEADLINES

China’s “Blacklist” Draws Attention in World’s Airports, Raises Alarming Questions

Citizens of Australia, France, Germany, UK, Canada, US, and other nations find themselves on Chinese Communist regime’s blacklist – Many ask, “How?”

NEW YORK, June 14, 2002 (Falun Dafa Information Center) – Dozens of individuals around the world were surprised this week to find that their travel plans to Iceland to take part in a peaceful appeal had been cancelled – by the Chinese communist regime.

Arriving at the gate to board flights on IcelandAir in cities throughout Europe and North America, many were told that their names were on “the blacklist” because they practice Falun Gong. According to a June 8 report in Iceland’s The Visir, this list – which has not

been made public – was compiled by the Chinese government and supplied to Icelandic officials long before President Jiang Zemin’s scheduled arrival.

The list is known to identify both Chinese nationals as well as citizens of several Western democratic countries. Many did not have their names listed as volunteers on Falun Gong websites that would identify them as practitioners of the discipline. Yet, somebody had identified them, and done so apparently from within the borders of Western democratic countries.



Jason Pomerleau, a US citizen, and his girlfriend, Canadian Christine Loftus are detained by Beijing police while visiting China.

U.S. Man and Canadian Woman Seized Outside Marketplace in Beijing

Detained While Traveling China to Raise Awareness About Persecution of Falun Gong

March 29, 2002 (Falun Dafa Information Center) — 25-year-old Jason Pomerleau, a graduate of Tufts University and his girlfriend 22-year-old Christine Loftus, a student at Brock University in St. Catherine's, Ontario, were seized by Chinese police at approximately 3:30 p.m. Thursday outside a marketplace in Beijing, according to an eyewitness who also photographed the scene.

Jason and Christine were traveling in China this week to raise awareness among the Chinese citizens about the ongoing persecution campaign against Falun Gong. Earlier today, friends and relatives had suspected the two were detained on their fourth day in China after both failed to call back home at agreed-upon times. A photo posted earlier this evening on a Chinese-language Internet chat forum confirmed these suspicions, showing both of them being hauled away by police officers on a busy Beijing street.

Chinese Air Force Officer Killed for Practicing Falun Gong

Esteemed Officer Forced to Flee His Home, Hunted Down by Police and Cremated Without Notifying His Family

March 6, 2002 (Falun Dafa Information Center) — A 49-year-old officer in the Chinese Air Force has died in police custody. He had been arrested because of his public appeals for the right to practice Falun Gong.

The body of Wang Yu, an officer of the Chinese Air Force who served at the Air Force Air Traffic Control Station, was sent for cremation in the southern suburbs of Gongzhuling City on February 22, 2002. Witnesses at the crematorium described the arrival at 3 p.m. of a male corpse that had suffered extensive recent "surgery," leaving the man's facial features unrecognizable. Official cause of death was recorded as a "traffic mishap." By 4pm Wang's body had been cremated, though his family never received his remains.

"Falun Dafa Day" Celebrated in over 20 Provinces in China

Chinese Citizens Throughout the Country Defy Jiang Zemin's 2.5-year Persecution

February 8, 2002 (Falun Dafa Information Center) — In the past 10 days, numerous regions of China have declared "Falun Dafa Day", and celebrated in spite of Jiang Zemin's heightened campaign of persecution and suppression. These celebrations demonstrate the widespread grassroots support for Falun Gong throughout China.

The special Falun Dafa Days are being marked with increased ac-

tivities to inform Chinese people of the reality of the persecution imposed on Falun Gong, which has been shielded by an intense and demonizing state-run propaganda campaign. The Days were jointly declared on Feb. 4 by Falun Gong practitioners in over 20 Chinese provinces. Since then, such days have been proclaimed independently by many more cities and provinces inside China.

Top Level Chinese Officials Give Orders to Shoot Falun Gong Practitioners “On Sight”

March 11, 2002 (Falun Dafa Information Center) – Reports from inside China indicate that police had been ordered to shoot “on sight” Falun Gong practitioners caught putting up banners, posters or distributing flyers.

A reliable source inside China revealed that shortly before the Chinese New Year, Liu Jing, a leader of the national 610 Office (an extra-judicial agency specifically created to persecute Falun Gong) convened a meet-

ing where he angrily criticized Jilin Province’s lack of effectiveness in the persecution. He gave strict orders to “completely eliminate” Falun Gong, and passed down the order: “shoot on sight.”

Less than one week later, two shooting incidents had occurred. On February 12, the first day of the Chinese New Year, Mishan City policeman Du Yongshan discovered Falun Gong practitioner Jiang Honglu posting Falun Gong



A practitioner (name withheld to protect identity) shot twice by police in Anshan City shortly after he participated in broadcasting videos exposing human rights abuses.

literature at around 2 a.m. The policeman reportedly opened fire, and Jiang’s leg was broken in the incident. On February 16, three Falun Gong practitioners tapped into the signal of an Anshan City cable TV network and broadcast videos exposing the ongoing persecu-

tion against Falun Gong. Police caught up with the three and opened fire. One of the men was struck twice, the first bullet traveling straight through his upper thigh, the other grazing his face (see photo above).

Falun Dafa in the News

NEWS FROM CHINA

Changchun Reduced to Chaos after T.V. Broadcasts

Concerned Overseas Supporters Launch Demonstrations, Phone Campaign to Call Torturers in China

March 13th, 2002 (Falun Dafa Information Center) - Days after the cable signal of eight major Changchun TV stations was overridden by programming exposing the illegal persecution of the banned Falun Gong spiritual practice, Changchun has been the focus of a citywide effort to round up Falun Gong practitioners. This comes amidst chilling reports of police being given orders to shoot Falun Gong practitioners “on sight.”

5,000 Detained, Dozens Dead As Chinese Police Go On Rampage Against Falun Gong in Changchun

Police Under Orders to Cremate Dead Bodies Immediately

*Quota of 5 Falun Gong Arrests per Officer; All legal Proceedings Bypassed
Amnesty International Calls for Urgent Action*

March 25, 2002 (Falun Dafa Information Center) – Over 5,000 people believed to be practitioners of Falun Gong have been detained in a vast and unprecedented police sweep in Changchun, China, according to reliable sources in China. These sources report that dozens or even as many as 100 or more might be dead already as a result of police brutality, though a total media blackout has severely hampered many attempts to contact locals and confirm the individual reports.

The deaths follow reports that on March 5th Chinese President Jiang Zemin ordered Changchun Falun Gong practitioners killed after a group of people tapped into the signal of several major television stations and broadcast footage exposing the government’s ongoing persecution campaign against Falun Gong. Two practitioners are being held responsible by police for the broadcast have been given death sentences.

A Weekend of Arts Culture and Sharing



Falun Dafa Parade through downtown Toronto, Canada

Some 2,500 Falun Dafa practitioners of all ages came from all corners of the globe to gather in Toronto for the weekend of May 18-20, 2002. They came for an experience-sharing conference—always enriching for practitioners—and also to show the beauty of Falun Dafa to the Canadian people through parades and cultural shows. The weekend of sharing, peaceful and inspirational, also celebrated the 10th anniversary of the public introduction of the practice.

Cultivating Falun Dafa, by all accounts, is a personal experience that brings positive life changes to virtually all who practice it. For some, the changes manifest in improved health, others leave behind drugs and alcohol, while others have learned to display tolerance and kindness at times when they might previously have chosen anger and spite. The process of cultivation is largely based on assimilating ourselves to “Dafa,” or the “Great Law,” the characteristic of the universe that is the fundamental teaching of Falun Dafa, “Truthfulness-Compassion-Forbearance.” As prac-

titioners, we strive to become more truthful, more compassionate and more forbearing in all that we think, say and do. Needless to say, such profound changes in our ways of thinking and living give us lots to talk about.

The Grand Ballroom at Toronto’s Sheraton Centre Hotel was filled to the brim for two days of experience sharing. During that time, about 40 practitioners stood at the podium to deliver 10-to-30 minute speeches in either English or Mandarin discussing a wide variety of topics. Simulta-

neous translation was available so all could follow the proceedings. Practitioners told of their experiences appealing on Tiananmen Square, being jailed and tortured in China, and of how their lives had turned around or improved since beginning their cultivation of Falun Dafa. The experiences shared were an inspiration to all. They help to clarify the truth about the persecution in China. They also help us see how other practitioners deal with the same challenges we face in our own cultivation, and help us all to learn, grow and act together as a whole. The stories are often heart-wrenching, revealing, for example, details of a practitioner's resolve in the face of cruel torture. While the brutality is horrifying, the kindness, compassion and inner strength exhibited by the practitioner in the situation are often truly enlightening.

At the Toronto conference, Zhao Ming from Ireland and Li Shenli from Montreal both spoke about their ordeals while being imprisoned in China for practicing Falun Gong. Zhang Cuiying, who has traveled the world exhibiting her paintings and sculpture since her release from a Chinese jail, also addressed the group. Western practitioners who had gone to Beijing's Tiananmen Square to help break through the information blockade and show Chinese people that Falun Gong is legally practiced around the world recounted their experiences. New practitioners stood up to tell how their health had seen dramatic improvement and their family, social and business lives had become more harmonious. Conferences such as this one are cherished as rare and solemn opportunities for practitioners to gather to share their understandings and inspirations of what it means to be a Falun Gong practitioner. We share from our hearts our deepest understandings of what it means to assimilate to the universal characteristic, "Truthfulness-Compassion-Forbearance." Always solemn and sacred events, no two experience sharing conferences are the same. The experience can be profound, touching, and often moves many in the crowd to tears.

While Falun Dafa experience sharing conferences are usually open to the public, the vast majority in the audience are practitioners, which is not the case at the other events often held in conjunction with the experience-sharing conference. On Saturday evening, hundreds of Torontonians came to watch practitioners showcase their talents at Convocation Hall, a stately vintage concert hall on the campus



The conference hall in downtown Toronto, Canada

of the University of Toronto. Practitioners delighted the audience with an evening of beautiful performances. From ballet to opera and more, dozens of talented performers enchanted the audience with colorful and lighthearted entertainment, Falun Dafa style.

On Sunday afternoon, more than a thousand practitioners walked together through the streets of Toronto to show the public the beauty of Falun Dafa. They held banners, distributed flyers, sang songs and danced as they paraded from Queens Park down the broad boulevard of University Avenue and through the heart of Toronto's bustling Chinatown.

Later that evening, arts enthusiasts gathered inside Toronto's City Hall to view a magnificent exhibition of paintings by Zhang Cuiying, Zhang Kunlun and Jinyu Li. These three internationally renowned artists have each experienced the persecution in China firsthand for their practice of Falun Gong. Through their art, they each have very touching stories to tell. Local artists and businesses exhibited their arts and crafts as well, as an expression of solidarity and support for Falun Gong.

Also Sunday evening, local artists and musicians joined practitioners inside the City Hall Rotunda to launch the International SOS Message in a Bottle Campaign. The

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Some of the festivities during the experience-sharing conference weekend



Westerners Appeal in Tiananmen Square



AP

It was the afternoon of November 20, 2001. The sun was shining as people strolled through historic Tiananmen Square in Beijing. Chinese tourists posed in front of their friends' cameras, while passersby curiously watched as thirty-five Westerners gathered for a group photo. Everyone in that group was smiling. A young lady held a bouquet of white flowers in the front row. Moments later, the scene dramatically changed as the Westerners in the back of the group unfurled a beautiful eight-foot-long golden banner, which read "Truth Compassion Tolerance" in Chinese and in English, while the others assumed a cross-legged meditative posture. Within seconds, seven blue and white police vans rushed towards the group. The vans quickly surrounded the group and came to a screeching stop in front of them, doors opened and slammed shut, and the policemen ran around frantically, yelling and shouting at the people sitting down as well as at the shocked tourists. The police

pounced on the meditating Westerners and tried to drag them into the police vans, but they just continued to sit in the lotus position with their eyes closed. Enraged, the police beat those who passively resisted being taken away. The Chinese onlookers were stunned: "Foreigners also practice Falun Gong?"

It was an historic moment. In an unprecedented event, Westerners traveled to Beijing to appeal for the human rights of the Chinese people. "We gathered to appeal for the tens of thousands of Falun Gong practitioners persecuted in China and to show that the international community is deeply concerned about this atrocity," they stated in a letter they wrote before they traveled to China. They did not only represent people from twelve different countries, but they also represented people from many walks of life; Among those who participated in the appeal were a CEO, a medical

doctor, a technology consultant, a housewife, a grandfather, and a few college students.

Why Tiananmen?

"Tiananmen is a natural place to go because that's the symbolic center of China and that's where other Chinese practitioners have appealed before," said John Nania, a Minnesota Information Technology consultant who joined the appeal.

Shortly after Falun Gong was banned in 1999, Falun Gong practitioners were deprived of all official channels through which Chinese citizens normally appeal to their government. Even the government's Appeals Office, turned into an "arrest office", as practitioners who went there to legally appeal were detained on the spot. Tiananmen was the only place left for them to go to.

"I have a picture that has been posted on my computer for over 2 years," says Will Barkely, grandfather of six from California. "In the picture, two Chinese Falun Gong practitioners held a banner saying Truth-Compassion-Tolerance at Tiananmen Square. I have always admired their courage for doing so." Will, a civil engineer who participated in the November 20 appeal, shares that although "we were taken to the Beijing police station, interrogated, and quite a few of us were beaten up...what we experienced was a tiny sample of what the Chinese practitioners are going through. We have return airplane tickets to come back to a land of freedom, and we have our government behind us. But these people in the picture don't. They would be sent to a detention center or a labor camp. They could be killed."

Falun Gong is an International Issue, Not Only a China Issue: "I, too, am Falun Gong"

Since November 2001, over 100 Western people who practice Falun Gong traveled from over 20 countries to China in order to peacefully appeal for an end to the persecution and propaganda campaigns.

"I, too, am Falun Gong," explained Eliana Chinn, a New York City practitioner, who joined her husband Scott and 70 other westerners in a peaceful appeal at Tiananmen Square on February 14, 2002. "Falun Gong is practiced freely in over 50 countries throughout the world", Eliana continues. "When I went to Brazil to visit my parents, I saw people practicing Falun Gong. When I vacationed in Europe, I saw people practicing Falun Gong...so Chinese President Jiang Zemin's persecution of Falun Gong practitioners is not just a China issue. It is an international issue."

At Tiananmen Square on March 7, 2002, with the PRC Congress in session across the street, former Australian Olympic medallist Jan Becker proudly raised her 1964 Tokyo Olympic mini flag and called out "Falun Dafa is good" together with nine other Australians. "I strongly felt that it was my responsibility as a Falun Gong practitioner and a former Olympian to raise awareness to as many people as possible in the world of the Chinese president's wrongful and brutal persecution of innocent Falun Gong practitioners. Many are imprisoned today in the most appalling conditions and facing the most hideous tortures," Jan said.

On January 23, 2002, Connie Chipkar, a 61-year-old mother from Mississauga, Canada, wore a sash reading "Falun Gong" and "S.O.S." and sang a song about Falun Gong for the people at Tiananmen Square that day. "I traveled in fifteen countries in Europe wearing this sash to generate awareness of the persecution. I know Falun Dafa is good. I've practiced Falun Gong for over four years now. What evil will our children suffer if 'Truth-Compassion-Forbearance' is exterminated and forbidden from their little hearts?"

Connie continued, "An elder from the Inuit Nation in northern Canada said, 'We are not on this earth for man to torture other men. It must be stopped. Let everyone know we Canadians support good, peaceful people.' That's exactly what I went to Beijing for, to support and cherish

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Unbreakable Spirit

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she could when suddenly Shenli came walking in the door escorted by two police. They softly embraced each other's arms. The policeman told her, "Your husband is an enemy of the state."

"I had to laugh because it sounded so ridiculous. Then I told the police very seriously, 'You don't understand Falun Gong. We're good people. You shouldn't do this...you shouldn't persecute such people...your own people.'" Shenli smiles as she recounts the story, saying, "they didn't know what to say and stood there with their mouths wide open."

Not knowing she wouldn't see her husband for two years, Jinyu went to the detention center that evening to take her husband some clean clothes. They refused to accept the clothes, so Jinyu began to talk to them about Falun Gong. Soon, she drew a small crowd. Bystanders concerned for her safety advised her not to talk about Falun Gong, so she turned and began to tell them how good Falun Gong really is and that they were being lied to in the media.

Before leaving for the airport, she said to the police who were escorting her and all the people passing on the street, "This persecution is wrong. Falun Gong is truly something good and beneficial to tens of millions! I will be back!"

Once Jinyu arrived in Canada she continued to work on bringing Shenli to Canada. One day, the Canadian Consulate called to say that they had approved his visa, but it was too late. Shenli had been sent to the Dafan Labor Camp a day earlier.

Three criminals repeatedly beat Shenli in his cell. Shenli decided not to silently endure this brutality, so he told the warden, "There are only two ways for me to leave this labor camp. One way is that you beat me to death. The other is that, armed with Truthfulness, Compassion and Forbearance, I touch the hearts of the people in this place so they will change and not do such terrible things anymore, and then I will leave with dignity. But you will not change me!"

The wardens then changed their tactics, sending him to brainwashing "classes" and forcing him to work for more than 12 hours a day. Shenli would leave in the morning when the stars were still shining and return in the moonlit night.

His buttocks blistered from sitting on metal stools for twelve-hour shifts or more each day. He broke out in skin

rashes. When his clothes moved, his flesh would tear. "The pain was like a knife digging into my heart. Then I recited 'Lunyu' (the foreword to the Falun Dafa book *Zhuan Falun*) about 30 times and my heart became calm and peaceful. I was determined that nothing would change me."

Later, Shenli would write of his ordeal, "I went through a lot of hardships which are beyond my ability to describe. As a human being I lost all my rights and freedom in an instant. I was beaten and was forced to do physical labour. It was an extremely abusive and dark environment. I was surrounded by criminals, bombarded with all kinds of evil lies and propaganda about Falun Dafa, kept in isolation from my family and friends, and was under a state of perpetual pressure to give up my beliefs. What kind of suffering was it? It was enough to destroy a person's will."

While Shenli was tirelessly enduring persecution to appeal for Falun Dafa in China, his wife was tirelessly appealing for his release and for Falun Dafa in Canada.

Jinyu started by writing over 300 letters to the Canadian government. She sat in front of the Chinese embassy in Ottawa for 2 weeks around the clock and carried on a hunger strike for 5 days. She participated in the 4000km SOS walk across Canada to rescue Falun Gong practitioners persecuted in China. During the process, many Members of Parliament, Mayors and other government officials have offered a great deal of help. Amnesty International initiated rescue campaigns around the world. More than 100 university professors replied to a call to rescue Shenli. Thousands of Canadians appealed to Prime Minister Jean Chretien, calling for an end to the persecution of Falun Gong and urging Canada to step forward to help gain Shenli's release.

After two years, the international pressure became too much for China to bear, and in February of this year, Jinyu received word that Shenli would be coming to Canada. At Montreal's Dorval Airport, Shenli walked out of the elevator and embraced his wife. A crowd of reporters and fellow practitioners gathered to welcome him. After two years of being confined to a cell, with the cameras rolling he was now facing 30 million Canadians. "First I want to show my appreciation to the Canadian government and people for your help in my rescue. I hope you continue in your efforts to stop the persecution in China."

At a welcoming celebration at Concordia University, Member of Parliament Irwin Cotler, who had been instrumental in obtaining Shenli's release, wrote in the guest book, "Your courage, your determination and dedication to each other, the support of Falun Gong all over the world and your inspirational values of Truth, Compassion and Tolerance – the values of our common humanity – made all of this possible. In respect and friendship, Irwin Cotler."

In a speech given in early February shortly following his release, Shenli expresses no regret for his personal loss in working to expose the persecution: “For what I believe to be the truth, I was prepared to be imprisoned for the rest of my life. They then released me. What I did is by no means, and under no definition, a crime. What I did was righteous and just and I did not do it for myself. I only want to let the people of the world know the truth and to say a few fair words about Falun Dafa.”

“I am happy to be free here in Canada,” Shenli adds, “however, I ask, please don’t forget all the Falun Dafa practitioners who continue to suffer in China. Please show your support and help end this evil persecution soon! Thank you.”



Brother and Sister

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Upon learning about the persecution of Falun Gong in China, Jason and I were both shocked. We knew how good Falun Dafa was from our own experiences and couldn’t understand why people in China were being treated so unfairly. We started to spend our spare time writing letters, making presentations and visiting government officials. Jason started meeting with the media in order to express the urgency of the persecution in China to as many people as possible and I organized an SOS walk to four universities to help students learn about the situation.

We both knew that the people that were affected the most by this vicious persecution were the people in China themselves. All of the media in China are state-run, so no Falun Gong practitioners in China could voice their side of the story, leaving the Chinese public with nothing to base their knowledge on except for Jiang Zemin’s propaganda. My brother had the wish to reveal to the Chinese people the lies that their president had created in order to incite hatred toward Falun Gong. Therefore, in February, with his brave and determined heart, my brother and Levi Browde, a practitioner from New York, traveled to China and held a press conference to expose the staged self-immolation incident to Beijing-based media and the Chinese public. They showed how CCTV (China’s state-run television network) footage reveals many clues suggesting the horrible tragedy was, in fact, a vicious propaganda stunt staged by the government.

The following month I too built up enough courage to make the trip across the ocean. I understood that this persecution affected everyone in China, even the people that didn’t practice, because there is pressure put on them to persecute the people that do. Falun Gong is like a pearl in ancient Chinese culture. I had to try to reach these people to tell them the truth. Along with my boyfriend, Jason Pomerleau, and his younger brother, Daniel, we went to China to hand out truth clarifying information to the people directly. Most were shocked.

Going to China, we both gained first-hand experiences of the situation there. The police detained us and quickly deported us, yet we are well aware that if we were Chinese, we may have been tortured or even murdered for our peaceful, non-violent appeals for justice for Falun Gong. The situation in China is critical. We feel now, more than ever, we must do more to help to bring an end to this persecution.

Together, my brother and I will do everything we can to stand up for truth.



A Family Affair

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of qigong that was free to learn, Falun Gong. My husband soon after attended a 9-day lecture series and brought home the introductory book. When I read through it, I found the answers to so many of the questions I’d been asking all of my life that I immediately wanted to learn more. Instead of sitting in front of the TV in the evenings, my husband and I did the exercises together and exchanged our understandings of the teachings.

We had three daughters aged 17, 13 and 9. They soon noticed that small fights and overreactions between us vanished, and instead there was more harmony and happiness in the family. One of my daughters told me she often quietly admired our reactions when we were confronted with their unjust criticism. We remained calm and it appeared as if we were even grateful for their harsh criticism. As a result they became very curious about Falun Gong and were always asking us questions about it. Very soon they too wanted to learn Falun Gong and we began to practice together in a nearby park. Learning to search for shortcomings within ourselves rather than blame others in conflicts led to a much more harmonious family life for all of us.

Since then, November 1998, the birth of our son brought joy to the whole family, but the addition of a new baby to the household often also tested our forbearance! We remember the principle of Truthfulness, Compassion, Forbearance, though, and continue to try and mirror it in our daily thoughts, words and actions.

We continue to walk our path. Since our children practice Falun Gong as well, their upbringing has become relatively easy. I am very pleased to see that the teachings of Falun Gong have made them good people with high moral values, willing to step forward righteously in the face of the evil persecution to help the people of the world awaken to the beautiful truth of Falun Gong.



Music, Meditation...

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Gang Chen was subjected to various forms of abuse, such as ten days of sleep deprivation along with forced hard labor and severe beatings, all to coerce him to give up his belief in Falun Dafa. On the day of his scheduled release, his wife received a phone call from the authorities telling her that his sentence had been extended for 6 months because he had not met their “requirements.” He was finally released on January 4, 2002.

The Chinese regime was not successful forcing a talented and distinguished family of well-respected artists to give up their belief in Falun Gong. Instead, many inmates who would have never have had an opportunity to meet people like Mr. and Mrs. Chen were able to learn the truth about Falun Gong. The Chens’ kindness and consideration toward them, in the harsh environment of the prison, moved them greatly and many expressed their wish to practice Falun Gong and become better people.

Today, Mr. and Mrs. Chen are fortunate to be able to live in the United States and with their daughter, who has a successful career. They continue to share their musical gifts with people around the world, through teaching and playing at a variety of cultural events to the delight of audiences everywhere. They worry about the future of their son and all the practitioners in China who are constantly threatened with detention and death because of refusing to give up their belief. As a result, the Chens have taken every opportunity to let people around the world see the beauty and know the true facts about Falun Gong.

A Weekend of Arts

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campaign is designed to raise awareness about the persecution in the arts and entertainment community worldwide. Local musicians played in solidarity for the practitioners who are being tortured in Chinese labor camps. (www.sosmessageinabottle.net).

Falun Dafa Experience-Sharing Conferences are truly priceless. Each practitioner takes home a more profound understanding of Truthfulness-Compassion-Forbearance, and the heart to be more kind, compassionate and caring for others.



Westerners Appeal

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peaceful, good people in this world.”

Steffi Koerper, a 17-year-old girl from Heidelberg, Germany joined her father and sister in the February Tiananmen appeal this year. Her father said: “At first, my wife and I didn’t agree...(that she should go) as she is too young. She finally convinced us, as she is doing a very meaningful thing to support justice.” “I started practicing Falun Gong when I was 14”, Steffi said. “Many teenagers my age started smoking, drinking and (abusing) drugs. After my practice of Falun Gong, I was able to say no to peer pressure. I know Falun Gong is good.” “When I learned people who practice Falun Gong are being persecuted in China, I cried many times. I want to help them.”

Levi Browde, an American software engineer, and Jason Loftus, a Canadian college student, unfurled a banner on February 11, 2002 at Tiananmen Square, which read: “The Self-Immolation is a Hoax - Falun Dafa is Good.”

Right before their Tiananmen appeal, the two held a press conference in a Beijing hotel in which they played a video, which exposes that the so-called “self-immolation” was actually fabricated by the Chinese Government. The video played the original footage from the Chinese Central TV (CCTV) broadcast in slow motion, revealing many fallacies and suspicious details. This was the same footage that led the International Education Development committee to make a statement at the U.N. annual convention last year

that they believe the incident was fabricated by the Chinese Government.

Family Support

Leeshai Lemish's parents - Dr. Dafna and Dr. Peter Lemish, both of whom hold executive positions in universities in Israel - initially sought to dissuade him from taking part in that first appeal in November, as they feared for his life.

"Mother and Father, imagine what the world would be like if Nelson Mandela or Mahatma Gandhi had given in to their parents' fears?" Leeshai wrote to them.

"I had to admit that I had no response to this argument," said Dr. Dafna Lemish. "Certainly, as a mother, one doesn't want to think of her son in danger, but as a humanist, what could I possibly say to him? It is true that there would be no change without the courageous acts of those willing to risk their lives."

She and her husband then began to think about how to help Leeshai prepare for the trip to Beijing and how to reduce the dangers to him and his friends.

"I found myself forced to be a spokesperson for Falun Gong. I began reading in order to speak intelligently, and I began to understand more and more," said Dr. Dafna Lemish. "I looked everywhere to find faults, but I could only see positive things." Upon learning of Leeshai's arrest, Dr. Dafna Lemish joined Israeli Falun Gong practitioners in an appeal to call for an end to the persecution of innocent Falun Gong practitioners and the immediate release of her son and his friends. Media all over the country hailed the heroic act of an Israeli's fight for human rights in China.

Leeshai's family is one of the many families around the world that supported the appeals. Ms. Orysia Dolnyckyj, mother of Canadian practitioner Zenon Dolnyckyj, told the media that, "as a mother, I can't say I am not concerned (about Zenon's arrest in Beijing), but I am not worried, as I believe good is rewarded with good and evil with evil. What Zenon did is a good thing."

Address to the People of China

These appeals have awakened and touched the hearts of many Chinese people who have been deceived and brainwashed by Jiang Zemin's state-run propaganda. Zenon addressed the Chinese public in the statement he wrote before his trip: "Falun Dafa came from your land of China and your beautiful and ever so rich culture. Without it, I would not be who I am today. With the deepest respect I have come to your country to stand up for the truth for you.

I hope with my western face and pure heart I can awaken the goodness in your heart. Please don't follow the president and his criminals to persecute Falun Gong, it is not good for you."

"I know Falun Gong is good. You don't have to travel for thousands of miles to tell me that!"

That is what a high-ranking Chinese policewoman said to the Westerners in Beijing. Indeed, people are awakening: The lies, the fabricated stories, and the propaganda eventually will soon no longer be able to cover the truth.

"I felt proud to be in Tiananmen Square that day. The courage and compassion of people from all over the world who selflessly stand to protect the principle of Truthfulness-Compassion-Tolerance touches my heart", said Joel Chipkar, a Canadian real estate broker who videotaped the first international appeal in Tiananmen Square on November 20, 2001. "We went to show the Chinese president that Falun Gong is not just a Chinese issue. We went to help awaken innocent Chinese citizens who are being brainwashed by incessant propaganda to hate and aid in the arrest, torture and murder of innocent people. And we went in solidarity with our fellow practitioners in China who continue to step forward and risk everything to protect justice and the principles of Truthfulness-Compassion-Forbearance for their fellow citizens and for future generations."



What is Falun Dafa?

An Introduction...

The Practice

Falun Dafa (also called Falun Gong) is a way to improve the body, mind, and spirit through exercise, meditation, and teachings that are rooted in ancient Chinese culture.

The practice is best known for its five sets of slow-moving, relaxing exercises. Falun Dafa's exercises are simple and gentle, yet powerful in improving health.

The foundation of Falun Dafa are teachings, known in traditional Chinese culture as the Tao, or Law, that are set forth in the book, *Zhuan Falun*. At the core of the teachings are the three principles of Truthfulness, Compassion, and Forbearance. Students of Falun Dafa consider these virtues to be the nature of the universe, and it is these that they strive to perfect in themselves.

While cultivating these virtues in themselves and improving from a gradual understanding of Falun Dafa, people learn to fundamentally abandon damaging behaviors such as selfishness, jealousy, and greed. In this process, one becomes more connected with their original, pure and altruistic nature. Thus, Falun Dafa is not only a path to better health and well-being, it is a path to one's true self.

Falun Dafa has no membership. The exercises are taught by volunteers free of charge and practice sites are open to everyone. Falun Dafa was first introduced to the public in China in 1992, and since has been taken up by millions of people in over 50 different countries.

For more information about the practice, visit www.falundafa.org.

The Principles

Truth, Compassion, Forbearance -- these three principles are what Falun Gong practitioners take to be the universe's most fundamental, most basic nature. They understand this nature is inherent in every life, every object, every element throughout the earth and cosmos.

真 善 忍
Truthfulness Compassion Forbearance

To practice Falun Gong is to cultivate these principles in yourself, to strive to live according to them at all times, in every situation, and in every circumstance.

In doing this, one gradually learns to put others first and discard selfish tendencies. Through the practice, negative thoughts and bad habits fade away. Many have come to enjoy excellent health, energy and joy in daily life.

This is the power of living in tune with the nature of the cosmos—the power of returning to your original, true self.



The Exercises



Exercise One:
Buddha Showing
A Thousand
Hands



Exercise Two:
Falun Standing
Stance



Exercise Three:
Penetrating the
Two Cosmic
Extremes



Exercise Four:
Falun Heavenly
Circulation

Exercise Five: Way of Strengthening Divine Powers





We will never forget

As of June 2002, there are more than 420 confirmed cases of Falun Dafa practitioners who died as a result of police torture and brutality in China. Reliable sources in China say the actual number is well over 1,600. This year, the Chinese dictator's persecution of Falun Dafa has only become more severe. Yet, Falun Dafa practitioners throughout China continue their grassroots efforts to reveal the human rights abuses and peacefully call for an end to the persecution. We will never forget those who have died defending their constitutional rights to freedom of belief and freedom of conscience...



Truthfulness ♦ Compassion ♦ Forbearance