

# FALUN GONG (FALUN DAFA) RESOURCE GUIDE

*(Updated to 10 December 2008)*

## Disclaimer

This package was prepared after researching public information currently available to the Research Service within a tight time constraint. This package is not, and does not purport to be, exhaustive in scope or conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for refugee status.

**Introduction :** This Guide is intended as a starting point for Members deciding applications regarding Falun Gong practitioners. It is important to note that much of the original information regarding Falun Gong is sourced directly from either the PRC Government or Falun Gong organisations themselves. There is, therefore, a noticeable polarity in the primary material available, whether cited here or in reports by human rights groups and other NGOs. In recent years, however, a wealth of secondary information and analysis has become available, and this is also cited in this package.

Please note, however, that the Guide is unlikely to address all issues raised by Falun Gong applicants..

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[In individual provinces: Fujian; Guangdong; Guangxi; Jilin; Liaoning; Hainan; Shanghai; Zhejiang.](#)

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## ESSENTIAL INTRODUCTORY READING:

- ❖ Penny, Dr Benjamin 2006, *Refugee Review Tribunal Falun Gong seminar*, 26 July
- ❖ UK Home Office 2002, *Revolution of the Wheel – the Falun Gong in China and in Exile*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, November  
INTERNET: <http://www.asylumlaw.org/docs/showDocument.cfm?documentID=997>
- ❖ US Department of State 2008, *International Religious Freedom Report 2008: China*, 19 September  
INTERNET: <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2008/108404.htm>

- ❖ ‘Illustrations and Explanations of the Falun Gong Exercise Movements’ (from Chapter 2 of Li, Hongzhi 2001, *Falun Gong*, April)  
INTERNET: [http://www.falundafa.org/book/eng/doc/flg\\_en.doc](http://www.falundafa.org/book/eng/doc/flg_en.doc)

#### OTHER RECOMMENDED READING:

- ❖ DIMIA 2005, *Falun Dafa/Falun Gong Issues Brief: Ref: CHN300605*, June
- ❖ Human Rights Watch 2002, *Dangerous Meditation: China’s Campaign against Falungong*, February  
INTERNET: <http://hrw.org/reports/2002/china/>
- ❖ Amnesty International 2000, *People’s Republic of China: the Crackdown on Falun Gong and Other So-Called “Heretical Organizations”*, 23 March, ASA 17/11/00
- ❖ DIMIA Country Information Service 2002, *Country Information Report No 136/02 – ‘Falun Gong Practitioners’*, (sourced from DFAT advice of 20 May), 24 May (CISNET – CX64757)

## BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

**Penny, Dr Benjamin 2006, *Refugee Review Tribunal Falun Gong seminar*, 26 July.**

Report focus: Transcript of a talk given by Dr Penny, an authority on Falun Gong, to Tribunal Members. Covers background and history of Li Hongzhi and the movement; beliefs and practices; government treatment; and the evolution of Falun Gong into an activist organisation. Dr Penny also responds to questions from Members related to their cases.

**UK Home Office 2008, *Country of Origin Information Report: China*, UK Home Office website, 1 June.**

INTERNET: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/china-130608.doc>

Report focus: Origins and support 21.24, Guiding principles 21.26, Exercises and movements 21.28, Possibility of practising in private 21.30, Denunciation documents 21.34, Important dates for foreign-based practitioners 21.35, Treatment of Falun Gong practitioners’ relatives 21.36, Monitoring of activists abroad 21.39, Organ harvesting 21.42.

**Ping, Hu 2003, ‘The Falungong Phenomenon’, *China Rights Forum*, 4 November.**

INTERNET: [http://www.fofg.org/downloads/a1\\_Falungong4.2003.pdf](http://www.fofg.org/downloads/a1_Falungong4.2003.pdf)

Report focus: Independent in-depth analysis of the movement apparently by a non-practitioner. Ping discusses the rapid rise of Falun Gong and other spiritual groups to fill the vacuum left by the collapse of Maoist ideology after the Tiananmen Square deaths in 1989. He comments on the attraction of the group to simple working-class people, many of whom are women, and the

courage they have shown in practising *ren* or forbearance in the face of mistreatment. He believes the group offers a serious challenge to the government.

**UK Home Office 2002, *Revolution of the Wheel – the Falun Gong in China and in Exile*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, November.**

INTERNET: <http://www.asylumlaw.org/docs/showDocument.cfm?documentID=997>

Report focus: This update to the [April 2002 report](#) includes information regarding the theoretical basis of Falun Gong (including the philosophy, leadership, organisation and nature of the group); the political issues involved in the PRC's treatment of Falun Gong (including a summary of key events in the history of the Falun Gong movement; the Chinese authorities' reactions and reasons for banning; features of the propaganda campaign against Falun Gong; the mobilisation of civil institutions; demonstrations and protests by Falun Gong; punishments utilised, including detentions, trials and sentences, torture, deaths in custody and use of psychiatric treatment; and migration issues particular to Falun Gong cases.

**ter Haar, Barend J. 2002, 'Falun Gong: Assessing its origins and present situation', *UNHCR Emergency & Security Service: WriteNet*, July.**

INTERNET: <http://www.let.leidenuniv.nl/bth/UNHCR.htm>

Report focus: Section 1 and 2 of this comprehensive study by a University of Leiden academic provide history and background. Section 3.1 provides a biography of Li Hongzhi. [See also Barend ter Haar's web site at <http://www.let.leidenuniv.nl/bth/falun.htm> or at [www.let.leidenuniv.nl/~haarbjter/index.html](http://www.let.leidenuniv.nl/~haarbjter/index.html) from 1 December 2005.]

**Aalderink, Karin 2001, 'Totally Expunge Evil, Pursue it to the End: Explaining the Crackdown on the Falun Gong' (MA Thesis, Department of Chinese Studies Leiden University, The Netherlands), September.**

INTERNET: <http://www.let.leidenuniv.nl/bth/aalderink/index.html>

Report focus: This Masters thesis provides a good overview of the underpinnings of Falun Gong. The early chapters explore the attitude of imperial governments of China and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) towards religion. Chapter six describes the eradication campaign while chapter seven examines the official documents that support the campaign. Chapter eight focuses on official accusations against the Falun Gong.

**Penny, Benjamin 2001, *The Past, Present and Future of Falun Gong (paper presented to a seminar at the Refugee Review Tribunal in Sydney Australia)*, 4 May.**

Report focus: This paper provides an overview of the Falun Gong organisation, its beliefs, its methods and its history. It also contains an appendix section with Dr Penny's comments on various questions raised by RRT Members at the seminar.

**United States Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) 1999, *Chronological List of Events for the Falun Gong Movement*, Resource Information Centre, 5 December.**

Report focus: Extensive chronological list of events regarding Falun Gong to December 1999.

**'A Chronicle of Major Events of Falun Dafa (3rd Edition)' 2004, Pure Insight website, 15 March.**

INTERNET: <http://www.pureinsight.org/pi/index.php?news=2097>

Report Focus: A useful chronology produced by the Falun Gong. Covers the period 1992 to November 1999.

[NOTE: The two DFAT reports below should not be cited as current reports. They are included because they provide some useful background material on Falun Gong in the early days of the crackdown by the Chinese government.]

**DFAT 1999, Country Information Report No 397/99 Falun Gong aka Falun Dafa in China, 5 November.**

Report focus: Updated by CISNET – CX57264. This early DFAT response regarding Falun Gong provides a range of information: it provides limited information regarding the organisational structure and leadership of Falun Gong in the PRC and contains a very broad generalisation concerning a typical Falun Gong practitioner. The report includes information about the Chinese Government's crackdown against Falun Gong in its early stages, including information about the questioning and detention of practitioners and the basis of initial arrests and sentencing, particularly mentioning early arrests and sentencing of Falun Gong practitioners in Hainan and Jilin. The report differentiates between the likely treatment of ordinary practitioners and leaders and provides information regarding the likely treatment of low level followers and those practising Falun Gong exercises in public places. It notes anecdotal evidence that indicates that the treatment of Falun Gong activists by government authorities varies by province and region. The report refers to prohibitions on civil servants and employees of state-owned representatives and refers to PRC authorities' practice of contacting and questioning family members of both well-known and ordinary Falun Gong practitioners in order to ascertain further information about the movement. DFAT also notes the Chinese authorities' capacity to monitor and/or restrict departure from China of suspected Falun Gong leaders and organisers.

**DFAT 1999, Country Information Report No 271/01 New Falun Gong Laws, 28 September.**

Report focus: Provides information relating to the operation of the Second Authoritative Judicial Interpretation issued by the Supreme People's Court and Supreme People's Procuratorate on the "Application of Law While Handling Cases of Organising and Using Cult Crimes", which took effect from 11 June 2001. The interpretation "clarifies and supplements" an earlier 1999 judicial interpretation. It outlines activities which may be construed as offences and particularly refers to the distribution of organisational and publicity materials for Falun Gong.

## **BELIEFS AND PRACTICES**

### **Falun Gong sources**

**Zeng, Jennifer and Deller, John 2006, Transcript of RRT Members Seminar "Falun Gong: A Practitioner Perspective" held at Sydney RRT/MRT on 22 June 2006, 22 June.**

Jennifer Zeng is the author of *Witnessing History: One woman's fight for freedom and Falun Gong* (2005) and is a FG practitioner and former refugee. She was arrested in Beijing in 2000, and was detained and tortured for twelve months in a labour camp. John Deller is the President of Falun Dafa Association of NSW. The speakers go into some detail about beliefs and practices, and discuss the very different levels of understanding among sincere practitioners.

**Falun Dafa Association of NSW Inc 2006, *Submission: Response to Questions from Refugee Tribunal Members*, 22 June.**

On 22 June 2006 representatives spoke at a seminar at the RRT. During the seminar they responded to questions which had been provided previously in written form by the Tribunal, and also submitted their answers in a written submission. The paper includes information on how the FG in Australia determines whether someone is a genuine practitioner, and what levels of knowledge of the exercises and of the *Zhuan Falun* should be expected from a genuine practitioner.

[NOTE: the documents listed below are a small selection of the most important works by the leader of Falun Gong, Li Hongzhi. A full list is also available at the group's web site <http://www.falundafa.org/eng/books.htm>.]

**Li, Hongzhi 2005, *Teacher's New "Jin Wen"*, 16 May.**

INTERNET: <http://www.falundafa.org/book/eng/doc/newjw.doc>

Report focus: 409 pages of lectures, poems and articles from 2002 to 2005, the latest being an address to an April 2005 Falun Gong Conference in Manhattan (p.400), at which Li discussed the *Nine Commentaries on the Communist Party* (from the *Epoch Times*) and its influence. Also of interest is an April 2004 address to students from Asia-Pacific countries such as Taiwan at a meeting in New York (p.253), where he discusses the phenomenon of people taking up Falun Gong as a way of applying for asylum: "I've heard there are seminars in New York City's Chinatown on applying for asylum...they specifically teach in there how to learn Falun Gong. Of course, they're not really teaching people Falun Gong. They're telling people how many movements there are, how many exercises, and what books there are in Falun Gong, along with what the immigration officer will ask in his test..." The same talk also contains background information on the organisation of Falun Gong, about local coordinators, the setting up of schools, and recruiting voluntary staff for media outlets such as television stations. Also of note is a February 2005 article called "Turning the Wheel towards the Human World" (p.364) in which he discusses the recent movement away from the Communist Party in China, and the fact that it will soon collapse. This is because it chose to make an enemy of Falun Gong: anyone remaining in the Party will be in peril, because "its sins are unforgivable".

**Li, Hongzhi 2001, *Falun Gong, (Translation of Chapter I, II, III Updated)*, April.**

INTERNET: [http://www.falundafa.org/book/eng/doc/flg\\_en.doc](http://www.falundafa.org/book/eng/doc/flg_en.doc)

Report focus: The Falun Dafa web site states that in this latest update of Master Li's introduction to Falun Gong, Chapters 4 and 5 have been replaced by "The Great Consummation Way of Falun Dafa".

**'Illustrations and Explanations of the Falun Gong Exercise Movements' (from Chapter 2 of Li, Hongzhi 2001, *Falun Gong*, April).**

INTERNET: [http://www.falundafa.org/book/eng/doc/flg\\_en.doc](http://www.falundafa.org/book/eng/doc/flg_en.doc)

This document has been extracted from pages 52-73 of the book described above, for the convenience of Members who wish to consult or print the five sets of exercises only.

**Li, Hongzhi 1999, "Falun Dafa Lecture in Sydney".**

INTERNET: <http://www.falundafa.org/book/eng/xnjf1.htm>

Lecture focus: A 46 page transcript of the lecture, including long list of questions and answers, translated from the Chinese in July 1999 (no date given for the lecture but presumably refers to Li's visit to Australia in May 1999).

**Li, Hongzhi 1998, *Zhuan Falun*, English Version, Internet Version, Third Translation Edition (Updated in March 2000), USA.**

INTERNET: <http://www.falundafa.org/book/eng/zflus.html>

Report focus: A 223 page document containing Master Li's Lectures (1 through to 9) explaining the beliefs and practice of Falun Gong. It explains all aspects of cultivation practices and serves as essential reading for those wishing to practice Falun Gong. It contains information about the difference between Falun Gong and other Qigongs, the right and wrong ways of cultivating the Fa, the different levels of spiritual attainment with Falun Gong, eg, transcending the five elements and the three realms, supernormal capabilities, etc

## **Other sources**

**Penny, Dr Benjamin 2006, *Refugee Review Tribunal Falun Gong seminar*, 26 July.**

Report focus: Transcript of a talk given by Dr Penny, an authority on Falun Gong, to Tribunal Members. Covers background and history of Li Hongzhi and the movement; beliefs and practices; government treatment; and the evolution of Falun Gong into an activist organisation. Dr Penny also responds to questions from Members related to their cases.

**Chang, Maria Hsia 2004, *Falun Gong: The End of Days*, New Haven, Conn., Yale University Press.**

RRT: RRT Library 322.10951 CHA

Contents: 1. A Religious Sect Defies the State – 2. Chinese Religions and Millenarian Movements – 3. Falun Gong: Beliefs and Practices – 4. The State vs. Falun Gong – 5. The Persecution of Other Faith

Report Focus: This book is an excellent and concise look at Falun Gong and its place in contemporary China. The publicity for the book states:

The world first took notice of a religious group called Falun Gong on April 25, 1999, when more than 10,000 of its followers protested before the Chinese Communist headquarters in Beijing. Maria Hsia Chang investigates events in the wake of the demonstration: Beijing's condemnation of the group as a Western, anti-Chinese force and doomsday cult, the sect's continued defiance, and the nationwide campaign that resulted in the incarceration and torture of many Falun Gong faithful.

Maria Hsia Chang discusses the Falun Gong's beliefs, including their ideas on cosmology, humanity's origin, karma, reincarnation, UFOs, and the coming apocalypse. She balances an account of the Chinese government's case against the sect with an evaluation of the credibility of those accusations. Describing China's long history of secret societies that initiated powerful uprisings and sometimes overthrew dynasties, she explains the Chinese government's brutal treatment of the sect. And she concludes with a chronicle of the ongoing persecution of religious groups in China – of which Falun Gong is only one of many.

**Penny, Benjamin 2003, 'The Life and Times of Li Hongzhi: *Falun Gong* and Religious Biography', *The China Quarterly*, Volume 175, September.**

INTERNET:

<http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayIssue?jid=CQY&volumeId=175&issueId=-1>

Report focus: Examines discrepancies between the various biographies describing Li's early life, from the Chinese government, and early and later Falun Gong material. Argues that the Falun Gong version belongs to the Chinese tradition of Buddhist and Daoist religious biographies.

**Penny, Dr Benjamin 2003, *Falun Gong: What was it? and what is it now? A talk for the Refugee Review Tribunal National Members' Conference, 29 August.***

Report focus: History of Falun Gong's formation; earlier good relations with the Chinese government; relationship to other cultivation systems; background of Li Hongzhi; general Falun Gong world view; reasons for government crackdown; evolution of Falun Gong into an activist organisation.

**Penny, Dr Benjamin 2003, *Questions and Answers on the Falun Gong movement, 22 September.***

Report focus: Following his seminar at the Tribunal in August 2003, Members submitted questions to Dr Penny. He provided answers on private and public practice of Falun Gong in China; leaders and ordinary practitioners; whether Chinese consulates would photograph FG protesters; spiritual goals of practitioners; Chinese computer databases on the FG, and travel documents; and other subjects.

**Fisher, Gareth 2003 'Resistance and Salvation in Falun Gong: The Promise and Peril of Forbearance', *Nova Religio* 6: 2, pp. 294-311.**

INTERNET: <http://caliber.ucpress.net/doi/abs/10.1525/nr.2003.6.2.294?journalCode=nr>

Report focus: Discusses in particular the principle of *ren* or forbearance and its importance in the spiritual life of the Falun Gong practitioner. *Ren* plays a significant role in determining how practitioners interact with the Chinese government, since harassment and torture are seen as opportunities to practise forbearance, leading to spiritual development.

[Note: This is a scanned PDF document, and it cannot be copied and pasted.]

**Burgdoff, Craig 2003, 'How Falun Gong practice undermines Li Hongzhi's totalistic rhetoric', *Nova Religio* 6,2, p.332.**

INTERNET: <http://caliber.ucpress.net/doi/abs/10.1525/nr.2003.6.2.332>

Report focus: This article is of interest because the writer himself joined a Falun Gong group in Ohio and participated in the practices. He makes the interesting point that ordinary practitioners did not generally discuss the details of Li Hongzhi's doctrine, and that "Falun Gong practice does not require unquestioning acceptance of all the Master's teaching". The loose organisational structure means that "there is no hierarchy in place to enforce orthodoxy and little or no emphasis upon dogmatic discipline". Participants seemed to come and go as they pleased, and there was no pressure exerted on the writer to increase his involvement or to volunteer with organising events.

[Note: This is a scanned PDF document, and it cannot be copied and pasted.]

**ter Haar, Barend J. 2002, 'Falun Gong: Assessing its origins and present situation', *UNHCR Emergency & Security Service: WriteNet*, July.**

INTERNET: <http://www.let.leidenuniv.nl/bth/UNHCR.htm>

Report focus: Section 3.2 of this comprehensive study by a University of Leiden academic gives a summary of the “great teachings of the dharma wheel”, the teachings of Li Hongzhi.

[See also Barend ter Haar’s web site at <http://www.let.leidenuniv.nl/bth/falun.htm> or at [www.let.leidenuniv.nl/~haarbjter/index.html](http://www.let.leidenuniv.nl/~haarbjter/index.html) from 1 December 2005.]

**Aalderink, Karin 2001, ‘Totally Expunge Evil, Pursue it to the End: Explaining the Crackdown on the Falun Gong’ (MA Thesis, Department of Chinese Studies Leiden University, The Netherlands), September.**

INTERNET: <http://www.let.leidenuniv.nl/bth/aalderink/index.html>

Report focus: Chapter 5 of this thesis discusses the history and nature of the Falun Dafa Research, the nature of the Falun Dafa, and the life of Li Hongzhi.

## **TREATMENT BY THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES**

**[2008](#) – [2007](#)- [2006](#) – [2005](#) – [2004](#) – [2003](#) – [2002](#) – [2001](#) – [2000](#)**

### **2008**

**Bodeen, C. 2008, ‘China Falun Gong follower receives 3-year sentence’, *Associated Press Newswires*, 25 November.**

RRT: (FACTIVA)

A Beijing court Tuesday sentenced a follower of the banned Falun Gong meditation movement to three years in prison on a vaguely worded charge, her lawyer said. Artist Xu Na was convicted of “using a cult organization to undermine implementation of the law,” her lawyer Cheng Hai said. He had yet to study the verdict – the second time authorities have used the vague charge this month to imprison a group member but said her family planned to appeal.

According to the U.S.-based Falun Gong Information Center, Xu and her husband were picked up in the Chinese capital on Jan. 26 as part of a security sweep tied to the Beijing Olympics. The center said Xu’s husband, musician Yu Zhou, died in police custody 11 days after his detention, a claim that could not be verified.

Falun Gong attracted millions of followers in the 1990s with its program of traditional Chinese calisthenics and philosophy drawn from Buddhism, Taoism and the often-unorthodox teachings of founder Li Hongzhi, who lives in hiding overseas.

Originally promoted by authorities, it was banned in 1999 after members mounted a massive demonstration outside government headquarters in Beijing. Authorities labeled it an “evil cult.”

A clerk with Beijing’s Chongwen District People’s Court, who gave only his surname, Wang, confirmed there was a verdict against Xu but declined to confirm the sentence.



Xu's sentencing follows that earlier this month of former Shanghai university librarian Liu Jin on the same charge. She was imprisoned for three and a half years. Liu's lawyer said she had passed on information about the group downloaded from the Internet.

**US Congressional-Executive Commission on China 2008, 'Freedom of Religion', Annual Report 2008, 31 October, pp.12, 38, 60, 87-93.**

INTERNET: [http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110\\_house\\_hearings&docid=f:45233.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_house_hearings&docid=f:45233.pdf)

“The central government's ‘6–10 Office’ (established in 1999 to implement the policy that outlaws Falun Gong) issued an internal directive to local governments nationwide mandating propaganda activities to prevent Falun Gong from ‘interfering with or harming’ the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. **Beijing and Shanghai Public Security Bureaus** also issued local directives providing rewards for informants who report Falun Gong activities to the police. Stories published in the state-controlled media, as well as statements made by Chinese officials, sought to link Falun Gong with terrorist threats in the lead-up to the Olympics. (p.12)

...According to the Falun Dafa Information Center, since the beginning of 2008 at least nine Falun Gong adherents in **Beijing** have died in police custody. In April, Falun Gong adherent and popular Beijing-based folk singer Yu Zhou died in police custody within two weeks of being detained on his way home from a concert. (p.38)

...In June 2008, authorities detained Ha Jingbo and Jiang Ruoling, two middle school teachers from **Dongfeng county in Jilin province**, for distributing educational leaflets about Falun Gong. (p.60)

The central government intensified its nine-year campaign of persecution against Falun Gong practitioners in the months leading up to the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympic Games. Chinese security forces continued to detain and imprison Falun Gong practitioners and subjected some who refused to disavow the practice to torture and other forms of abuse in reeducation through labor (RTL) camps and other detention facilities. In September 2007, Zhou Yongkang, then-Minister of Public Security and current member of the Politburo Standing Committee, ordered that all police and public security forces ‘strike hard on overseas and domestic hostile forces, ethnic splittists, religious extremists, violent terrorists, and the Falun Gong cult’ to safeguard ‘social stability’ for the 17th Party Congress and the Olympics. Official accounts of the crackdown were publicly available on Web sites for all 31 of China's provincial-level jurisdictions in 2007–2008. Since the government outlawed Falun Gong in July 1999, it has detained thousands—most likely hundreds of thousands—of practitioners. Chinese government Web sites regularly report detentions of Falun Gong ‘criminal suspects’ and some provincial and local authorities offer rewards as high as 5,000 yuan (US\$732) to informants who report Falun Gong ‘escaped criminals.’ In July, Chinese state media reported the arrest of 25 Falun Gong practitioners and the destruction of 7 Falun Gong publishing operations in the **Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region**.<sup>124</sup> In 2007, **Yingshang county government in Anhui province** revealed that it had detained 13 ‘Falun Gong and other cult criminals,’ held another in ‘public security detention,’ and ‘reeducated and reprimanded’ more than 1,600. During the same period, Miyi county in **Sichuan province** recorded detentions of 62 practitioners as part of its ‘strike hard’

campaign and claimed to have “transformed” 14 of them. Relying on reports from practitioners and their families in China, sources outside of China, not all of whom are themselves Falun Gong practitioners, estimate that Chinese authorities detained “at least 8,037” practitioners between December 2007 and the end of June 2008 in a nationwide pre-Olympics crackdown. (pp.87-88)

...Publicly available government documents detail the central role of the 6–10 Office in the persecution of Falun Gong. Since its inception, the 6–10 Office has also expanded its targets to include other religious and qigong groups that the central government deems “harmful.” According to **Nanjing City** Public Security provisions published in June 2008, the 6–10 Office is at the forefront of “organizing and leading the struggle against Falun Gong.” Its responsibilities include “directing investigations into significant cases,” “digging deep to uncover covert plots and organizers,” “gathering intelligence,” and “organizing and coordinating the prevention, control, and punishment of Falun Gong and other harmful qigong organizations by municipal public security forces.” A notice posted on a **Yunnan provincial government** Web site in March 2008 declares that the government must “sternly guard against” Falun Gong, calling it a “cultic, anti-Communist Party, anti-socialist organization.” It warns government workers that “if [you] hear of Falun Gong reactionary propaganda immediately notify your unit leader and the public security ‘610’ Office.”

An April 2008 notice posted on the Gutian county government Web site in **Fujian province** describes the central government’s “basic policy” outlawing the practice of Falun Gong and outlines five primary tasks to implement: (1) “explicitly order the dissemination of information regarding the ban [on Falun Gong],” (2) “carry out comprehensive administration [of the policy],” (3) “fully utilize all legal weapons, sternly punish the criminal activities of cult ringleaders and key members,” (4) “do a good job at transformation through reeducation for the great majority of practitioners,” and (5) “prevent external cults from seeping into the area, reduce the conditions that allow cults to propagate.”

Several reports mention “three zeroes” that security officials should aim to achieve. An official report from the Communist Party Political-Legal Committee of Wuling district in the **city of Changde in Hunan province** urges cadres to “resolutely achieve the ‘three zeroes goal’ in 6–10 management work,” which is defined as “no petitions in Beijing, zero incidents of local assemblies and protests, zero incidents of interference with television broadcasts.” The same report also stresses the need to carry out four tasks to this end: (1) “strengthen the prevention, control, and management [of Falun Gong] and conscientiously keep an unflinching eye on Falun Gong practitioners,” (2) “strengthen the use of transformation through reeducation as a line of attack against their fortifications, use all your might to transform obstinate Falun Gong elements,” (3) “strengthen strikes against and punishment of [Falun Gong], give the ‘Falun Gong’ underground gang a forceful scare,” and (4) “strengthen anti-cult cautionary education, reinforce the people’s ability to recognize, prevent, and oppose cults.”

Aggressive surveillance is a key aspect of the 6–10 Office’s work. The Wuling Party Political-Legal Committee describes having implemented a set of three “responsibility measures” to ensure that “more than 600 Falun Gong practitioners” are closely monitored by the district police, neighborhood committee, and their own relatives. The Committee also instructs security officials to organize an “inspect and control” system whereby local police are to conduct home “visits” of Falun Gong practitioners three

times per day. In order to monitor more “die-hard” practitioners, public security forces are to form an “inspection and control small group” to carry out “24-hour surveillance.” A county report from Jiangxi province also stresses the need to “dispatch inspection and control personnel” during “important periods of time” in order to ascertain a practitioner’s “movement 24 hours a day,” and report “unusual situations” in a timely manner to the 6–10 Office.<sup>144</sup> In addition to surveillance, the 6–10 Office is also required to develop broad “intelligence channels” that allow them to “know whenever the enemy moves.” (pp.88-90)

Working in concert with the 6–10 Office to undermine Chinese citizens’ right to believe in and practice Falun Gong and other banned religious sects is a national network of “anti-cult associations” (fanxiejiao xiehui).<sup>158</sup> Local anti-cult associations can be found at the provincial, county, municipal, and neighbourhood level. (p.91)

#### DIRECTIVES AND MEASURES RELATED TO FALUN GONG AND THE OLYMPICS

In April 2008, the central government 6–10 Office issued an internal directive to local governments nationwide mandating propaganda activities to prevent Falun Gong from “interfering with or harming” the Olympics.<sup>165</sup> References to the directive appear on official Web sites in every province and at every level of government. <sup>166</sup> Most official reports focus on demonstrating that local authorities have stepped up security and fulfilled the requirement to “educate” target audiences on the directive’s content. Local authorities distributed the directive widely in an effort to raise public awareness. References can be found on various Web sites ranging from public entities with indirect relations with the state (state-run enterprises, public schools, universities, parks, TV stations, meteorological bureaus, etc.) to commercial and social entities with no obvious ties to the state.<sup>168</sup> Anti-cult associations also actively circulated and promoted the 6–10 Office’s Olympic directive.

Olympic and municipal officials in **Shanghai and Beijing** also issued directives pertaining to Falun Gong in the lead-up to the 2008 Olympic Games. The Shanghai Public Security Bureau sent a warning to Falun Gong practitioners and other dissidents in April 2008 demanding that they remain in the city during the Olympics and report to the public security office at least once a week until the end of October. The notice threatened to detain or punish anyone who violates the order. In November 2007, Beijing Olympic organizers reminded visitors to the games that possession of Falun Gong writings is strictly forbidden and that no exceptions would be made for international visitors. The Beijing Public Security Bureau issued a public notice offering a reward of up to 500,000 yuan (US\$73,100) for informants who report Falun Gong plans to “sabotage” the Olympics. From January to June 2008, public security agents reportedly arrested at least 208 practitioners from all 18 districts and counties in **Beijing municipality**. Falun Gong sources have documented the names and other information for 141 of the 208 practitioners who were detained in Beijing, 30 of whom are now reportedly being held in reeducation through labor camps with sentences as long as two-and-a-half years. (pp.91-92)

**US Department of State 2008, *International Religious Freedom Report 2008: China, 19 September, Section II: ‘Abuses of Religious Freedom’.***

INTERNET: <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2008/108404.htm>

“The Government continued to repress groups that it designated as “cults,” which included several Christian groups and Falun Gong...The Government continued to harshly repress religious groups designated as cults, including the Falun Gong...On September 22, 2007, authorities detained Christian lawyer Gao Zhisheng shortly after a letter he wrote to a foreign government, addressing human rights and religious freedom issues, became public. Gao’s current whereabouts were unknown at the end of the reporting period. In December 2006 the Government convicted Gao of “inciting subversion” for sending a letter to President Hu Jintao detailing abuses against Falun Gong practitioners.

...According to Falun Gong practitioners abroad, since 1999 more than 100,000 practitioners have been detained for engaging in Falun Gong practices, admitting that they adhere to the teachings of Falun Gong, or refusing to criticize the organization or its founder. The organization reported that its members have been subject to excessive force, abuse, rape, detention, forcible psychiatric commitment and treatment (including involuntary medication and electric shock treatment), and torture, and that some members, including children, have died in custody. Practitioners who refused to recant their beliefs were sometimes subjected to extrajudicial “legal education” centers after the expiration of their criminal sentences.

Overseas Falun Gong organizations alleged a surge in arrests and deaths of Falun Gong practitioners carried out in order to prevent disturbance during the Olympic Games. Reports of abuse were difficult to confirm because the Government prevented Falun Gong members from meeting with foreign reporters and government officials. These organizations also reported that the Government harassed their members in other countries, including the United States, through threatening phone calls and physical harassment. The Government frequently used harsh rhetoric against the Falun Gong. Some foreign observers estimated that at least half of the 250,000 officially recorded inmates in the country’s reeducation-through-labor camps were Falun Gong adherents. Falun Gong sources overseas placed the number even higher. For a more detailed discussion, see the *2007 Human Rights Report*.

**Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2008, CHN102867.E – China: Treatment of children of Falun Gong practitioners; whether children of Falun Gong practitioners are subject to sanctions, including reduced access to education and to health care, 26 June.**

INTERNET: <http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/research/rir/?action=record.viewrec&gotorec=451962>

**Amnesty International 2008, ‘China’, *Amnesty International Report 2008*, 28 May.**

INTERNET: <http://thereport.amnesty.org/eng/regions/asia-pacific/china>

“Falun Gong practitioners were at particularly high risk of torture and other ill-treatment in detention...Millions of people were impeded from freely practising their religion.

Thousands remained in detention or serving prison sentences, at high risk of torture, for practising their religion outside of state-sanctioned channels. Falun Gong practitioners, Uighur Muslims, Tibetan Buddhists and underground Christian groups were among those most harshly persecuted... During the year over 100 Falun Gong practitioners were reported to have died in detention or shortly after release as a result of torture, denial of food or medical treatment, and other forms of ill-treatment.

**United States Commission on International Religious Freedom 2008, *Annual Report of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom*, 1 May, pp. 182 & 189.**

INTERNET: <http://www.uscirtf.gov/images/ar2008/annual%20report%202008-entire%20document.pdf>

Religious freedom restrictions and sometimes brutal abuses continued to target unregistered religious groups, those considered by the government to be “cults,” and religious communities associated with ethnic minority groups. Severe crackdowns targeting Uighur Muslims, Tibetan Buddhists, “underground” Roman Catholics, “house church” Protestants, and various spiritual movements such as Falun Gong continued in the last year. (p.182)

...Police continued to detain current and former Falun Gong practitioners and to place them in re-education camps. Police reportedly have quotas for Falun Gong arrests and also target former practitioners. Tens of thousands of Falun Gong practitioners have been sent to labor camps without trial or to mental health institutions for re-education because of their affiliation with an “evil cult.”

In the past year, reports continued to surface regarding the re-arrest of Falun Gong members who had been released after completing prison terms. For example, Bu Dongwei, a lawyer in Beijing working on legal aid issues for the Asia Foundation, was sentenced to two and one half years imprisonment for possession of Falun Gong-related literature. In addition, the Chinese government has reportedly continued to pressure foreign businesses in China to sign statements denouncing the Falun Gong and to refuse to employ the group’s followers. Numerous allegations of government-sanctioned organ harvesting from incarcerated Falun Gong practitioners have surfaced within the last year. Independent investigation into the practices of a hospital in Sujiatun, Shenyang proved inconclusive. However, based upon a report from two prominent Canadian human rights activists, international human rights organizations have called for an independent investigation and for continued international attention to allegations of organ harvesting from prisoners. (p.189)

**US Department of State 2008, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2007 – China*, 11 March, Sect. 2.c.**

INTERNET: <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2007/100518.htm>

Public Falun Gong activity in the country remained negligible, and practitioners based abroad reported that the government’s crackdown against the group continued. In the past, the mere belief in the discipline (even without any public practice of its tenets) sometimes was sufficient grounds for practitioners to receive punishments ranging from

loss of employment to imprisonment. Falun Gong sources estimated that since 1999 at least 6,000 Falun Gong practitioners have been sentenced to prison, more than 100,000 practitioners sentenced to reeducation-through-labor, and almost 3,000 died from torture while in custody. Some foreign observers estimated that Falun Gong adherents constituted at least half of the 250,000 officially recorded inmates in reeducation-through-labor camps, while Falun Gong sources overseas placed the number even higher. In the past, many practitioners were detained multiple times.

Over the past several years, Falun Gong members identified by the government as “core leaders” were singled out for particularly harsh treatment. More than a dozen Falun Gong members were sentenced to prison for the crime of “endangering state security,” but the great majority of Falun Gong members convicted by the courts since 1999 were sentenced to prison for “organizing or using a sect to undermine the implementation of the law,” a less serious offense. Most practitioners, however, were punished administratively. Some practitioners were sentenced to reeducation-through-labor. Among them, Yuan Yuju and Liang Jinhui, relatives of a Hong Kong journalist working for a television station supportive of Falun Gong, were sentenced to reeducation-through-labor for distributing Falun Gong materials. Some Falun Gong members were sent to “legal education” centers specifically established to “rehabilitate” practitioners who refused to recant their belief voluntarily after their release from reeducation-through-labor camps. Government officials denied the existence of such “legal education” centers. In addition hundreds of Falun Gong practitioners were confined to mental hospitals, according to overseas groups.

Police continued to detain current and former Falun Gong practitioners and used possession of Falun Gong material as a pretext for arresting political activists. In March Chi Jianwei, a member of the CDP, was sentenced to three years in prison for using a cult to undermine implementation of the law, reportedly after authorities found Falun Gong material at his house. Early in the year, authorities sentenced Cui Xin, an elderly resident of Harbin, to seven years’ imprisonment for her involvement with Falun Gong. Police confiscated Falun Gong materials from Cui’s home following her arrest in December 2006. The government continued its use of high-pressure tactics and mandatory anti-Falun Gong study sessions to force practitioners to renounce Falun Gong. Even practitioners who had not protested or made other public demonstrations of belief reportedly were forced to attend anti-Falun Gong classes or were sent directly to reeducation-through-labor camps. These tactics reportedly resulted in large numbers of practitioners signing pledges to renounce the movement

**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade 2008, *PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA: Review of Information on Falun Gong, 11 February.***  
RRT: CISNET CHINA CX193304

R.1, R.2 and R.3. The Chinese government has not loosened its restrictions on Falun Gong and advice provided previously (Beijing reflets CX43498, CX64757, CX125116, CX161676, CX174138) on treatment of Falun Gong practitioners remains current. We have no further advice on specific treatment of Falun Gong practitioners across different provinces.

R.4. Statistics are not available on how many people are detained in China’s Re-education Through Labour (RTL) centres, although common estimates are 300-400,000. RTL is an administrative detention system primarily used to detain people alleged to have

committed “misdemeanours” such as prostitution and drug-related offences (see CX175914). While it is also used to detain religious practitioners and for political reasons (both political dissidents and people who have upset local authority figures), we judge it unlikely that Falun Gong adherents make up half of all RTL detainees.

We have had very limited reports from independent sources (ie not connected to the Falun Gong movement) that Falun Gong adherents have suffered abuse in detention. We note findings of UN Special Rapporteur on Torture Manfred Nowak (who visited China in 2005) that torture remains “widespread” throughout China’s criminal justice and detention systems, particularly in rural areas, indicating that Falun Gong adherents would not be the only detainees to suffer abuse. There are regular reports (including from Chinese human rights activists and lawyers, other embassies and international media) of people who have been detained for political reasons suffering poor treatment in detention. Generally speaking, we judge it unlikely that detained Falun Gong adherents would suffer significantly worse abuse than people detained for political dissent.

...R.6. Our previous advice (CX161676 and CX174138) remains current [on the treatment that a Falun Gong practitioner who is an unsuccessful asylum seeker and is returned to China might receive from authorities].

## 2007

**Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2007, CHN102560.E – *China: Treatment of family members of Falun Gong practitioners by the Chinese authorities; situation of persons who unwittingly or knowingly assist Falun Gong practitioners (e.g., by allowing use or rental of property, offices, office equipment, vehicles, etc.); the treatment of such persons if they deny knowledge of having assisted Falun Gong practitioners, agree to cease such assistance, or denounce Falun Gong*, 11 July.**

INTERNET: <http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/research/rir/?action=record.viewrec&gotorec=451386>

**US Department of State, *China Profile of Asylum Claims and Country Conditions*, May 2007, Section III.B.8, pp.13-15.**

INTERNET: [http://cdjp.org/gb/fileupload/China\\_May\\_2007.pdf](http://cdjp.org/gb/fileupload/China_May_2007.pdf)

**United States Commission on International Religious Freedom 2007, *Annual Report of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom*, May, pp.124 -125.**

*Full 292 page report*

INTERNET:

<http://www.uscirf.gov/countries/publications/currentreport/2007annualRpt.pdf#page=1>

“Beginning with the banning of Falun Gong in 1999, the Chinese government has conducted a violent campaign against “evil cults” and “heretical sects.” Tens of thousands of Falun Gong practitioners have been sent to labor camps without trial or

sent to mental health institutions for re-education because of their affiliation with an “evil cult.” Falun Gong practitioners claim that nearly 6,000 practitioners have been sent to prison and over 3,000 have died while in police custody. Some human rights researchers estimate that Falun Gong adherents comprise up to half of the 250,000 officially recorded inmates in reeducation through labor camps. The UN Special Rapporteur on Torture reported that Falun Gong practitioners make up two-thirds of the alleged victims of torture. Given the lack of judicial transparency, the number and treatment of Falun Gong practitioners in confinement is difficult to confirm. During the Commission’s August 2005 visit, high level Chinese government officials defended the crackdown on the Falun Gong as necessary to promote “social harmony.”

Police continued to detain current and former Falun Gong practitioners and place them in reeducation camps. Police reportedly have quotas for Falun Gong arrests and target former practitioners, even if they are no longer practicing. In the past year, reports continued to surface regarding the re-arrest of Falun Gong practitioners who had been released after completing terms of imprisonment originating from the original crackdown in 1999 and 2000. For example, Bu Dongwei, a lawyer in Beijing working on legal aid issues for the Asia Foundation, was arrested for possession of Falun Gong-related literature. In addition, the Chinese government has reportedly continued to pressure foreign businesses in China to sign statements denouncing the Falun Gong and to refuse to employ the group’s followers. Multiple allegations of government sanctioned organ harvesting from incarcerated Falun Gong practitioners have surfaced within the last year. Independent investigation into the practices of a hospital in Sujiatun, Shenyang proved inconclusive. However, based upon a report on the allegations from two prominent Canadian human rights activists, several international human rights organizations have called for an independent investigation and continued international attention to allegations of such organ harvesting from prisoners.

**US Department of State, 2007, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2006 – China, 6 March, Section 2c ‘Freedom of Religion’.***

INTERNET: <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78771.htm>

Report focus: “The government continued to wage a severe campaign against the Falun Gong movement. Falun Gong practitioners were subject to close scrutiny by local security personnel, and their personal mobility was tightly restricted, particularly at times when the government believed public protests were likely. (Sec.1c)

Public Falun Gong activity in the country remained negligible, and practitioners based abroad reported that the government’s crackdown against the group continued. Since the government banned the Falun Gong in 1999, the mere belief in the discipline (even without any public manifestation of its tenets) has been sufficient grounds for practitioners to receive punishments ranging from loss of employment to imprisonment. Although the vast majority of practitioners detained have been released, many were detained again after release (see section 1.e.). Falun Gong sources estimated that at least 6,000 Falun Gong practitioners had been sentenced to prison, more than 100,000 practitioners sentenced to reeducation through labor, and almost 3,000 had died from torture while in custody. Some foreign observers estimated that Falun Gong adherents constituted



at least half of the 250,000 officially recorded inmates in reeducation-through-labor camps, while Falun Gong sources overseas placed the number even higher. In March UN Special Rapporteur Nowak reported that Falun Gong practitioners accounted for 66 percent of victims of alleged torture while in government custody.

Falun Gong members identified by the government as “core leaders” have been singled out for particularly harsh treatment. More than a dozen Falun Gong members have been sentenced to prison for the crime of “endangering state security,” but the great majority of Falun Gong members convicted by the courts since 1999 have been sentenced to prison for “organizing or using a sect to undermine the implementation of the law,” a less serious offense. Most practitioners, however, were punished administratively. Some practitioners were sentenced to reeducation through labor. Among them, Yuan Yuju and Liang Jinhui, relatives of a Hong Kong journalist working for a television station supportive of Falun Gong, were sentenced to reeducation through labor for distributing Falun Gong materials. Apart from reeducation through labor, some Falun Gong members were sent to “legal education” centers specifically established to “rehabilitate” practitioners who refused to recant their belief voluntarily after release from reeducation-through-labor camps. Government officials denied the existence of such “legal education” centers. In addition, hundreds of Falun Gong practitioners have been confined to mental hospitals, according to overseas groups (sec.2c)

## 2006

### **Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade 2006, *China: Return of failed asylum seekers*, 14 September.**

RRT: CISNET China CX161676.

In relation to the question “what treatment failed Falun Gong claimants might expect”, this states:

A.1. It is not possible to comment definitively on how Chinese authorities would treat returnees to China who were failed asylum seekers. It would be very likely that Chinese authorities would interview them and might keep them under surveillance and detain them for a short period. Any further action would depend on the circumstances of the individual cases. Authorities maintain a dossier on every PRC citizen and we would expect authorities would record the person’s failed asylum attempt in this file. This conceivably could impede the person’s attempts to obtain employment (particularly government employment) or engage in further education.

A.2. Advice provided in BJ019034 of 17 July 2000 remains current. China continues to regard Falun Gong as an “evil cult”: a danger to Chinese people and state security. Falun Gong followers who are obvious in their practice, who seek to spread information or otherwise promote Falun Gong are likely to be detained and, particularly if they refuse to renounce the practice, placed in detention – usually in Re-education Through Labour facilities (administrative detention). The period of detention could be weeks or years, depending both on practitioners’ past actions and their willingness to repudiate their actions and recant their beliefs. Falun Gong followers who practise privately and do not make their beliefs known are less likely to face repercussions.

Since China banned Falun Gong in 1999, the international Falun Gong organisation has become more politicised and more vocal in its opposition to China's Communist Party. If practitioners have played an active role in Falun Gong organisations overseas, the Chinese authorities are more likely to take an interest in their cases. For example, authorities might repeatedly interview people, keep them under surveillance and, particularly if authorities believe that the people remain active Falun Gong practitioners and are in contact with overseas Falun Gong groups, might detain them.

**US Department of State 2006, *International Religious Freedom Report 2006: China (includes Tibet, Hong Kong, and Macau)*, 15 September.**

INTERNET: <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2006/71338.htm>

The latest USDOS report states that during the year “the Government continued its repression of groups that it categorized as ‘cults’ in general and of small Christian-based groups and the Falun Gong in particular”. Other references to Falun Gong include:

After the revised criminal law came into effect in 1997, offenses related to membership in unapproved cults and religious groups were classified as crimes of disturbing the social order. A ban on cults, including the Falun Gong spiritual movement, was enacted in 1999. Under Article 300 of the criminal law, “cult” members who “disrupt public order” or distribute publications may be sentenced to three to seven years in prison, while “cult” leaders and recruiters may be sentenced to seven years or more in prison. Under the new Public Security Administrative Punishment Law, which took effect March 1, 2006. Falun Gong adherents could face five to fifteen days of administrative detention and fines of up to \$125 (1,000 RMB) for using superstitious cults or qigong activities to disrupt public order or harm public health. Public security officials said the law would be used against Falun Gong.

[and]

During the period covered by this report, government repression of the Falun Gong spiritual movement continued. Membership in the Falun Gong and other groups considered cults was illegal. Distributing Falun Gong literature or encouraging others to join the spiritual movement was punishable by criminal and administrative sanctions, including reeducation. As in past years, foreigners who distributed Falun Gong materials were expelled from the country, including an Australian expelled in October 2005 after attempting to distribute the book *Nine Commentaries on the Communist Party*. In January 2006 the Government released U.S. citizen Charles Lee after three years of imprisonment for Falun Gong-related activities. The authorities also continued to oppose other groups the Government considered “cults,” such as the Xiang Gong, Guo Gong, and Zhong Gong qigong groups.

**Penny, Dr Benjamin 2006, *Refugee Review Tribunal Falun Gong seminar*, 26 July.**

Report focus: Transcript of a talk given by Dr Penny, an authority on Falun Gong, to Tribunal Members. Covers background and history of Li Hongzhi and the movement; beliefs and practices; government treatment; and the evolution of Falun Gong into an activist organisation. Dr Penny also responds to questions from Members related to their cases.

**Matas, David & Kilgour, David 2006, *Report Into Allegations Of Organ Harvesting Of Falun Gong Practitioners In China*, 6 July.**

INTERNET: [www.david-kilgour.com/2006/Kilgour-Matas-organ-harvesting-rpt-July6-eng.pdf](http://www.david-kilgour.com/2006/Kilgour-Matas-organ-harvesting-rpt-July6-eng.pdf)

Report focus: Matas is a Canadian immigration and human rights lawyer and Kilgour is a Canadian former MP and Secretary of State for the Asia Pacific region. They were asked by the Coalition to Investigate the Persecution of the Falun Gong in China to investigate the claim that Falun Gong prisoners are being used for the harvesting of body organs which are then sold for profit. Their paper concludes that the evidence points to the claim being true.

**Zeng, Jennifer and Deller, John 2006, *Transcript of RRT Members Seminar “Falun Gong: A Practitioner Perspective” held at Sydney RRT/MRT on 22 June 2006, 22 June.***

Jennifer Zeng is the author of *Witnessing History: One woman’s fight for freedom and Falun Gong* (2005) and is a FG practitioner and former refugee. She was arrested in Beijing in 2000, and was detained and tortured for twelve months in a labour camp. John Deller is the President of Falun Dafa Association of NSW. Detailed discussion about the current situation in China, and about Jennifer Zeng’s own experiences.

**Falun Dafa Association of NSW Inc 2006, *Submission: Response to Questions from Refugee Tribunal Members, 22 June.***

On 22 June 2006 representatives spoke at a seminar at the RRT. During the seminar they responded to questions which had been provided previously in written form by the Tribunal, and also submitted their answers in a written submission. This paper includes information on the current situation for practitioners in China, and whether treatment varies between different provinces and between urban and rural areas. It also examines the treatment of failed asylum seekers in China.

**Ansley, Clive Malcolm 2006, *Affidavit of Clive Malcolm Ansley regarding the persecution of Falun Gong and the possibility of Falun Gong victims bringing suit in China, 27 March (Parts 1 and 2).***

Report focus: Clive Malcolm Ansley is a Canadian expert on Chinese law and its justice system, and has given expert advice to the Canadian and other government bodies. In this affidavit he declares that FG practitioners are vilified and sometimes arrested and tortured by the Chinese authorities, whose goal is to completely eliminate the group. He states that all practitioners are at risk, not only leaders; and that failed asylum seekers are at risk. The document includes several attachments such as articles from *The Epoch Times*, and a letter to the Chinese president written by Ansley on behalf of Lawyers’ Rights Watch Canada. This affidavit was submitted by the Falun Dafa Association of NSW Inc.

## **2005**

**US Department of State 2005, *International Religious Freedom Report 2005: China, 8 November.***

INTERNET: <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2005/51509.htm>

Report focus: This report focuses on restrictions of religious freedom in the PRC and contains numerous references to repression of the Falun Gong including the following:

Arrest, detention, and imprisonment of Falun Gong practitioners continued, and there have been credible reports of deaths due to torture and abuse. Practitioners who refuse to recant their beliefs are sometimes subjected to harsh treatment in prisons, reeducation-through-labor camps, and extra-judicial “legal education” centers. Falun Gong adherents engaged in few

public activities within China during the period covered by this report, perhaps due to the strength of the Government's campaign against the group. However, there were continuing revelations about the extra-legal activities of the Government's "610 office," implicated in most alleged abuses of Falun Gong practitioners...

...Estimates of the number of Falun Gong...practitioners have varied widely; the Government claimed that prior to its harsh crackdown on the Falun Gong beginning in 1999, there may have been as many as 2.1 million adherents of Falun Gong in the country. Some estimate that the true number of Falun Gong adherents in the country before the crackdown was much higher. The number has declined as a result of the crackdown, but there are still hundreds of thousands of practitioners in the country, according to reliable estimates...

...During the period covered by this report, government repression of the Falun Gong spiritual movement continued. At the National People's Congress session in March 2004, Premier Wen Jiabao's Government Work Report emphasized that the Government would "expand and deepen its battle against cults," including Falun Gong. There were credible reports of torture and deaths in custody of Falun Gong practitioners....

...According to Falun Gong practitioners in the United States, since 1999 more than 100,000 practitioners have been detained for engaging in Falun Gong practices, admitting that they adhere to the teachings of Falun Gong, or refusing to criticize the organization or its founder. The organization reports that its members have been subject to excessive force, abuse, detention, and torture, and that some of its members, including children, have died in custody. For example, in 2003, Falun Gong practitioner Liu Chengjun died after reportedly being abused in custody in Jilin Province. Some foreign observers estimate that at least half of the 250,000 officially recorded inmates in the country's reeducation-through-labor camps are Falun Gong adherents. Falun Gong places the number even higher. Hundreds of Falun Gong adherents were also incarcerated in legal education centers, a form of administrative detention, upon completion of their reeducation-through-labor sentences. Government officials denied the existence of such "legal education" centers. According to the Falun Gong, hundreds of its practitioners have been confined to psychiatric institutions and forced to take medications or undergo electric shock treatment against their will....

...In December 2004, a Beijing attorney sent an open letter to the National People's Congress highlighting legal abuses in cases involving Falun Gong. The letter focused on the April 2004 detention and subsequent administrative sentencing of Huang Wei of Shijiazhuang, Hebei Province. It described how Falun Gong cases are handled outside normal legal procedures by a special Ministry of Justice office, known as the 610 office. The letter alleged that mistreatment is typical of the ongoing campaign against Falun Gong. After the open letter was published, Huang's wife disappeared, and her whereabouts remain unknown. The asylum request of a Chinese diplomat and other former government officials allegedly involved in the Government's campaign against Falun Gong overseas brought additional scrutiny and negative attention to the extra-legal activities of the 610 office, including allegations that it sought out Falun Gong practitioners abroad and forcibly returned them to the country.

**Chaney, C. 2005, 'The despotic State Department in refugee law: Creating legal fictions to support Falun Gong asylum claims', *Asian-Pacific Law and Policy Journal*, Vol.6, Issue 1, Winter.**

INTERNET: <http://www.hawaii.edu/aplpj/archive.html#2006>

Report focus: This article argues that "Falun Gong asylum cases represent a flaw in US refugee law...[as] the system forces adjudicators to accept USDOS's politically motivated yet

unsubstantiated descriptions of the Falun Gong's situation in the PRC, causing them to grant asylum to aliens who would otherwise be excluded or removed". It makes the case that the Falun Gong is neither a religion nor a political opinion, and therefore does not fit into the framework of refugee law. Includes discussion of Falun Gong doctrine (III/A/1,2); government perceptions of the group (III/B); religion in Chinese legal discourse, including *qiqong* groups and "heretical" cults (III/B/1,2,3); and misleading aspects of the USDOS *Religious Freedom Report* of 2004 (III/C). Section IV examines some immigration appeal cases based on Falun Gong claims.

**DFAT 2005, Country Information Report No. 05/34: China: Update on Falun Gong, 30 June.**  
RRT: CISNET – CX125116

Report focus: Confirms that the advice given in CX43498 of 17 July 2000 and CX64757 of 24 May 2002 remains relevant, as regards: the type of Falun Gong followers who would be more likely to attract the attention of authorities and the kind of treatment they could expect; the current attitude/treatment by PRC authorities; differences of treatment depending on Provinces; assessment of the cause of death of followers in custody.

**DIMIA 2005, Falun Dafa/Falun Gong Issues Brief: Ref: CHN300605, June.**

Report focus: 12 Page Report. Executive summary:

Despite protestations that it is merely promoting an exercise practice conducive to health and well being, Falun Gong is regarded by the Chinese authorities as essentially destabilising to its control. Chinese authorities have concerns about the organisation's ability to mobilise large numbers of adherents to protest what they describe as their innocent practice. The overriding concern however, is Falun Gong's propagation of traditional Chinese cultural values and a belief system, fundamentally at odds with the Party's doctrine.

These concerns emerged slowly. Indeed there was some government support for the activities of Falun Gong founder Li Hongzhi up until the late 1990s. Deng's heir, Jiang Zemin, took a hard line with Falun Gong however and did so in a way intended to consolidate his power and influence over the Party apparatus. He represented Falun Gong as an enemy of the state and positioned himself in the vanguard of defending the country. Jiang contrived the passage of legislation that ultimately outlawed Falun Gong and created administrative machinery to identify and manage this threat.

That much is known and widely accepted as fact. However, the picture since the early years of this decade is far more difficult to represent with either conviction or clarity. As the two parties came into ideological collision, their respective descriptions of "facts" diverged widely to the stage where we are unable to provide Falun Gong numbers with any precision as we are similarly unable to describe the scale of their incarceration. The lack of credible, in-country observers has exacerbated this.

In some respects, a portrayal of the dimensions of Falun Gong strength in China and their numbers imprisoned is not essential to the focus of this paper. The undisputed fact is that all Falun Gong followers *claim* persecution and many are imprisoned – often illegally or without judicial trial or appeal, in either "re-education through labour" camps or psychiatric hospitals. The environmental conditions and labour regime in the camps are harsh and the death toll is probably significant.

Accounts of torture are more difficult to prove although on the balance of probability, torture of Falun Gong adherents is frequent and consequential death likely in some cases.

**US Commission on International Religious Freedom 2005, *Annual Report of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom*, May.**

INTERNET: [http://www.uscirf.gov/images/stories/pdf/Annual\\_Report/2005annualRpt.pdf](http://www.uscirf.gov/images/stories/pdf/Annual_Report/2005annualRpt.pdf)

Report focus: This report names China as a “Country of Particular Concern” and states that “the government continues to be responsible for pervasive and severe violations of religious freedom and related human rights”. Of the Falun Gong it states that:

Beginning with the banning of Falun Gong in 1999, the Chinese government has continued to carry out a campaign against what it calls “evil cults” and “heretical sects.” Thousands of Falun Gong practitioners have been sent to labor camps without trial or sent to mental health institutions for re-education due to their affiliation with an “evil cult.” Falun Gong practitioners claim that between 1,000 to 2,000 practitioners have been killed as a result of police brutality. Given the lack of judicial transparency, the number and treatment of Falun Gong practitioners in confinement is difficult to confirm. Nevertheless, there is substantial evidence from foreign diplomats, international human rights groups, and human rights activists in Hong Kong that the crackdowns on the Falun Gong are widespread and violent. In addition, the Chinese government has reportedly continued to pressure foreign businesses in China to sign statements denouncing the Falun Gong and to discriminate against its followers in hiring. Local officials in foreign countries have also stated that they were warned by Chinese diplomatic personnel about the loss of potential business contacts if they continued to advocate on behalf of Falun Gong.

For USCIRF reports see:

INTERNET:

[http://www.uscirf.gov/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=2136&Itemid=106](http://www.uscirf.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2136&Itemid=106)

**Amnesty International 2005, *Urgent Action: Fear of torture or ill-treatment/possible prisoner of conscience*, ASA 17/009/2005, 22 April.**

INTERNET: <http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGASA170092005?open&of=ENG-CHN>

Report focus: Brief urgent appeal on behalf of practitioner Liu Yawen who was detained on 31 March. Overseas groups claim that 1800 practitioners in China have either died in custody, or shortly after they have been released, largely as a result of injuries sustained in detention.

**Falun Gong Human Rights Working Group 2005, *Alienating its own citizens: A report on the Chinese Government’s worldwide refusal to renew its citizen’s passports*, April.**

INTERNET: <http://www.falunhr.org/reports/Passport/Passport-S.pdf>

Report focus: 104 page report by a Falun Gong-related human rights group. It contains case studies and personal testimonies from around the world, of Falun Gong Practitioners visiting other countries who now cannot return to China because the local Chinese consul will not renew their passports. Includes a large section on Australia.

**UN Commission on Human Rights 2005, *Civil and political rights, including the question of torture and detention: Report of the Special Rapporteur, Theo van Boven*, 30 March, E/CN.4/2005/62/Add.1.**

INTERNET:

<http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G05/132/80/PDF/G0513280.pdf?OpenElement>

Report focus: Paragraphs 226-386, on pages 49-80 (of a 450 page report), are devoted to China. Of these, paras 226, 228-237, 239-255, 258-269, 272-3, 278,280-1,286-90, 301, deal with allegations received by the Special Rapporteur about abuses against Falun Gong prisoners. Paras 305, 352,356-8, 360, 364-5, 368-72,378-81, 383-4 consist of replies from the Chinese government in relation to cases previously alleged in the 2004 report about Falun Gong practitioners: all of the allegations of torture are denied, and any deaths attributed to illness, accident or suicide (several allegations from the 2004 report do not seem to be addressed at all). Para. 382 constitutes a statement from the Chinese government on the nature of Falun Gong as a harmful cult, justifying the arrest of those who have broken the law, but affirming China's commitment to the UN Convention Against Torture and to the rights of the individual. Para.256 contains a summary of a letter of concern sent to the Chinese government by the Special Rapporteur, in collaboration with other Special Rapporteurs, which:

...expressed concern at reports of systematic repression against the Falun Gong and other "heretical organizations" ("xiejiao zuzhi"). Over the past five years, hundreds of cases of alleged violations of the human rights of Falun Gong practitioners have been brought to the attention of the Special Rapporteurs. Many of these allegations have been reported back to the Chinese authorities and are reflected in reports of the Special Rapporteurs to the Commission of Human Rights. The Special Rapporteurs are concerned that reports of arrest, detention, ill-treatment, torture, denial of adequate medical treatment, sexual violence, deaths, and unfair trial of members of so called "heretical organizations", in particular Falun Gong practitioners, are increasing. They are concerned that these allegations may reflect a deliberate and institutionalized policy of the authorities to target specific groups such as the Falun Gong. According to information received, on 10 June 1999 the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party established an office for dealing with the Falun Gong, commonly referred to as the "610 office" (for the date of its establishment) and officially later as the State Council Office for the Prevention and Handling of Cults. This institution reportedly was given a mandate to repress Falun Gong and other "heretical organizations", and is operating outside of the rule of law. Reports indicate that the Falun Gong was officially banned on 22 July 1999 through a decision of the Ministry of Civil Affairs and since then several decisions, notices, regulations and other judicial interpretations have been issued by the government and judicial authorities to legitimize the official repression against "heretical organizations", including the Falun Gong. In addition, according to reports a media campaign was launched against the Falun Gong and Falun Gong practitioners in June 1999...Further reports indicate that in February 2001, the Central Committee of the Communist Party called for a Central Work Conference of high-level party officials. The purpose of this meeting was reportedly to adopt a plan calling for the formation of local "anti-cult task forces" in all universities, state enterprises and social organizations, to reinforce the "6-10 Office" and strengthen local control over the Falun gong. An analysis of reports received by Special Rapporteurs indicates that alleged human rights violations against Falun Gong practitioners, including systematic arrest and detention, are part of a pattern of repression against members of this group. Most of those arrested are reportedly heavily fined and released, but many are detained and ill-treated in order to force them to formally renounce Falun Gong. Those who refuse are sent to "re-education through labour" camps, where reportedly torture is used routinely resulting in many deaths. The Special Rapporteurs are further concerned by reports that few Falun Gong practitioners are prosecuted. When charges are laid they reportedly include allegations such as "disturbing social order", assembling to disrupt public order", stealing or leaking state secrets" or "using a heretical organization to undermine the implementation of the law". According to the information received, those prosecuted have been unfairly tried and many have received lengthy prison sentences. In this respect it is reported that on 5 November 1999, a Notice issued by the Supreme People's Court instructed all local courts to do their "political duty" in bringing to trial and punishing "severely" those charged with "heretical organizations crimes",

“particularly Falun Gong”, and to handle these cases “under the leadership of the Party committees”...

**Reporters Without Borders 2005, ‘Cyberdissident Zhang Lin formally charged’, 22 March.**  
INTERNET: [http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id\\_article=12562](http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=12562)

Report focus: Cyberdissident Zhang Lin has been charged with “attempting to subvert state power” and faces a heavy jail sentence. Zhang has posted articles on websites linked to the Falun Gong spiritual movement such as Dajiyuan.com and Epochtimes.com, as well as Boxun.com, a website about human rights in China.

**Wiest, Nailene Chou 2005, ‘Tumultuous tenure for religion chief; Falun Gong’s banning cast a spotlight on his administration, even as party toned down hostility to “opium of the people”’, *South China Morning Post*, 14 March.**  
INTERNET: <http://www.scmp.com/portal/site/SCMP/>

Report focus: Discusses the role of the State Administration of Religious Affairs, its director Ye Xiaowen, and the new CCP concept of “mutual adaption of socialism and religion” which is said to have replaced outright hostility to religion.

**Olesen, Alexa 2005, ‘China to enact new regulations on religious freedom’, *Associated Press Newswires*, 1 March**

Report focus: The new Regulations on Religion Affairs came into effect in March 2005, covering such areas as religious donations, tax exemptions, and foreign students. They are purported to protect religion, but critics say they only protect state-sanctioned groups, and could be used against banned organisations such as the Falun Gong.

**US Department of State 2005, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2004: China (includes Tibet, Hong Kong, and Macau)*, 28 February.**  
INTERNET: <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2004/41640.htm>

Report focus: States that “the Government continued its crackdown against the Falun Gong spiritual movement, and tens of thousands of practitioners remained incarcerated in prisons, extrajudicial reeducation-through-labor camps, and psychiatric facilities. Several hundred Falun Gong adherents reportedly have died in detention due to torture, abuse, and neglect since the crackdown on Falun Gong began in 1999”. Section 2c looks specifically at freedom of religion, but several references to the Falun Gong are found in 1a. Arbitrary or Unlawful Deprivation of Life; 1c. Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; and 2b. Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and Association.

**Falun Gong Human Rights Working Group 2005, *The Falun Gong Report: Stories of Conscience*, February.**  
INTERNET: <http://www.flghrwg.net/reports/2005/Report2005.pdf>

Report focus: This is a 156 page report by a Falun Gong-related human rights group. It gives a detailed history of the movement; the crackdown by the Chinese government, including notable incidents such as the 1999 demonstrations; case histories and personal testimonies of particular individuals and families who have been imprisoned and tortured, including photographs; descriptions of the workings of the 610 office; and detailed descriptions of the methods of torture used on practitioners, with illustrations. The group’s previous reports from 2003 and 2002 can be



found on its web site at <http://www.falunhr.org/reports/2003/Report2003.pdf> and <http://www.falunhr.org/reports/2002/Report2002.pdf> .

**UNHCR 2005, *The Falun Gong Movement in China*, 1 January.**

Report focus: January 2005 advice from UNHCR which contains comments on protection considerations for practitioners. States that there exists “no evidence known to UNHCR to suggest that all Falun Gong members are being systematically targeted by the Chinese authorities (especially in view of the large numbers involved). Therefore, although membership of Falun Gong alone would not give rise to refugee status, a prominent role in certain overt activities (such as proselytising or organising demonstrations) which bring the membership to the attention of the authorities, may do so. As is general practice, each claim requires an examination on its own merits”.

## **2004**

**Chang, Maria Hsia 2004, *Falun Gong: The End of Days*, New Haven, Conn., Yale University Press.**

RRT: RRT Library 322.10951 CHA

Contents: 1. A Religious Sect Defies the State – 2. Chinese Religions and Millenarian Movements – 3. Falun Gong: Beliefs and Practices – 4. The State vs. Falun Gong – 5. The Persecution of Other Faith

Report Focus: Chapter 4 of this book includes an account of the range of laws, rules and regulations which the Chinese government has used against the Falun Gong. This includes new rules which have been formulated particularly with Falun Gong in mind. Chapter 5 includes discussion of the contradictions between the freedom of religion guaranteed in the Chinese constitution, and the regulations which prevent this in practice; and lists some of the other major religious groups across the country that have experienced restrictions and arrests. Conditions in modern China, with the widening gulf between rich and poor, are the context for the growth in these groups and for the government’s repression.

**Reporters Without Borders 2004, ‘11 Falun Gong members arrested for posting torture photos on Internet’, 29 December.**

INTERNET: [http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id\\_article=12179](http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=12179)

Report focus: 11 members of the banned Falun Gong spiritual movement were arrested for using the Internet to disseminate photos of the torture some of them have undergone in prison. More than 20 Falun Gong followers are already in prison for the same reason.

**‘Chinese Falun Gong members “confess” concocting torture photos’ 2004, *BBC Monitoring online*, source: *Xinhua News Agency*, 27 December.**

RRT: CISNET – CX118820

Report focus: *Xinhua* has accused Falun Gong of encouraging practitioners to concoct photographs of torture to “slander the country”. It quotes alleged examples of how practitioners had put together false stories and photographs to be published on Minghui.org.

**Wu, Vivian 2004, ‘New guidelines on religious freedom; Guarantees issued on the pursuit of beliefs – but not for illegal groups’, *South China Morning Post*, 20 December.**

Report focus: The new government regulations on religion, set to come into effect in March 2005. Some commentators think that a “slight improvement” could result, but critics point out that illegal groups such as Falun Gong and the underground Catholic Church will not benefit.

**Canadian Immigration and Refugee Board 2004, CHN43081.E – China: Whether the self-immolations of 23 January 2001 in Tiananmen Square were a fabrication; if so, who is making the allegations and based on what evidence (2001 to November 2004), 7 December.**  
INTERNET: <http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/research/rir/?action=record.viewrec&gotorec=416268>

**Stone, Alan A. 2004, ‘The Plight of the Falun Gong’, *Psychiatric Times*, November 2004, Vol. XXIII, Issue 13.**  
INTERNET: <http://www.psychiatrictimes.com/p041157.html>

Report Focus: The author is a psychiatrist who was involved in attempts by the World Psychiatric Association to organise an independent fact-finding mission to China. The purpose of the trip was to investigate allegations of “systematic misuse of psychiatry in China” particularly in the treatment of Falun Gong practitioners. In the end, the Chinese government would not allow the mission to take place. The report contains useful and recent background material collected by the author from other sources, including reference to “hundreds of accounts of Falun Gong psychiatric abuse reported from all over China”.

**Canadian Immigration and Refugee Board 2004, CHN43070.E – China: The censorship by Chinese authorities of email messages from abroad, particularly those containing the words “Falun Gong” or “Falun Dafa” and references to treatment of its practitioners; the filtering by Chinese authorities of email messages sent from “hotmail.com” addresses (2002-2004), 17 November.**  
INTERNET: <http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/research/rir/?action=record.viewrec&gotorec=416274>

**Falun Gong Human Rights Working Group 2004, *United Nations Reports on China’s Persecution of Falun Gong*, November.**  
INTERNET: <http://www.falunhr.org/reports/UN2004/UN2004.pdf>

Report focus: 128 page report which compiles excerpts from United Nations reports from the last few years, containing many references to Falun Gong practitioners in detention. The first 25% of the report, headed as ‘Background’, is not by the UN and contains graphic information and photographs. Not all of the UN material is specifically about Falun Gong practitioners, and some refers to countries other than China. A compilation of earlier UN reports from 2000-2003 can also be found on the website at <http://www.falunhr.org/reports/UN2000-2003/UNReport2000-2003.pdf>

**McDonald, Hamish 2004, ‘What’s wrong with Falun Gong’, *The Age*, 16 October.**  
INTERNET: <http://www.theage.com.au/articles/2004/10/15/1097784013251.html?from=storylhs>

Report focus: Feature article covering: “brainwashing centres” in Gwanzhou City and around the country where practitioners are sent; government propaganda campaigns in the media; protests outside Chinese embassies overseas, and their response.

**‘Falun Gong Practitioners Jailed for Libeling Gov’t’ 2004, *Xinhua News Agency*, Embassy of the People’s Republic of China website, 12 September.**

INTERNET: <http://www.china-embassy.org/eng/zt/ppflg/t173963.htm>

Report focus: 5 people received sentences of 5 to 14 years in prison for vilifying the government's image through spreading fabricated stories on persecution of cult practitioners.

**DFAT 2004, *DFAT Report 310 'RRT INFORMATION Request: CHN16862', 11 August.***

Report focus: Brief report on public security authorities issuing formal written warnings to cease Falun Gong activities.

**Amnesty International 2004, *Amnesty International Report 2004: China, June.***

INTERNET: [www.web.amnesty.org/report2004/chn-summary-eng](http://www.web.amnesty.org/report2004/chn-summary-eng)

Report Focus: This states only that in 2003, "Rhetoric intensified in the official media against the Falun Gong spiritual movement, which was banned as a "heretical organization" in July 1999, apparently exacerbating the climate of violence and intolerance against the Falun Gong . Detained Falun Gong practitioners, including large numbers of women, were at risk of torture, including sexual abuse, particularly if they refused to renounce their beliefs."

**UN Commission on Human Rights 2004, *Civil and political rights, including the question of torture and detention: Report of the Special Rapporteur, Theo van Boven, 23 March, E/CN.4/2004/56/Add.1.***

INTERNET:

[http://www.unhcr.ch/Huridocda/Huridoca.nsf/\(Symbol\)/E.CN.4.2004.56.Add.1.En?Opendocument](http://www.unhcr.ch/Huridocda/Huridoca.nsf/(Symbol)/E.CN.4.2004.56.Add.1.En?Opendocument)

Report focus: Pages 51-87 of this 420 page report are devoted to China. Of these, paras 246-295, 303-330, 340, 342-3, 345, 348-50, 354, 359, 386, 400, 403 deal with allegations received by the Special Rapporteur about abuses against Falun Gong prisoners. Paras 332-336 constitute a restatement of the Chinese government's position on the Falun Gong, calling it "an anti-social, anti-scientific, anti-humanitarian sect whose violent tendencies are becoming steadily more apparent". It lists various crimes committed by practitioners under the influence of the sect, including the murder of relatives, destruction of telecommunications facilities and other "spoiling activities", illegal accumulation of wealth, stealing state secrets and disrupting public order. It justifies the strong measures taken by the Chinese government in outlawing the group, but states that it does not use torture, but only "kindly assistance and patient persuasion". Later paragraphs contain replies from the Chinese government in relation to cases previously alleged in earlier reports by the Special Rapporteur: all of the allegations of torture are denied, and any deaths attributed to illness, suicide or murder by other inmates. It is not clear how many of these refer to Falun Gong practitioners.

**US Citizenship and Immigration Services 2004, *CHN04002.SND – China: Information on Treatment of Family and Relatives of Falun Gong Adherents, 25 February.***

INTERNET: <http://uscis.gov/graphics/services/asylum/ric/documentation/CHN04002.htm>

Report focus: The only specific reports of harassment of family members come mainly from the Falun Gong movement itself. The Falun Gong website provides accounts of family members allegedly being arrested in order to pressure adherents who are wanted by authorities into surrendering, or otherwise punished for the adherents' Falun Gong activities. To the extent that these accounts are accurate, however, it is unclear whether they are part of a systemic national practice or are the work of zealous local officials.

**Amnesty International 2004, *People's Republic of China: Controls tighten as Internet activism grows*, ASA 17/001/2004, 28 January**

INTERNET: <http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGASA170012004?open&of=ENG-CHN>

Report Focus: In November 2002, Amnesty International documented 33 people who had been detained for Internet-related offences, including three Falun Gong practitioners who, according to Amnesty International's information at the time, had reportedly died in custody. Prison sentences ranged from two to 12 years.

**Canadian Immigration and Refugee Board 2004, CHN42293.E – *China: Information on the release of 159 Falun Dafa practitioners from Long Shan and Shen Xin Reforming Centre; name of person who authorized the release (September 2001)*, 20 January.**

INTERNET: [http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/research/rir/index\\_e.htm?action=record.viewrec&gotorec=416337](http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/research/rir/index_e.htm?action=record.viewrec&gotorec=416337)

## 2003

**Canadian Immigration and Refugee Board 2003, CHN42185.E – *China: Situation of people who do not practice Falun Gong, but who oppose the government's policy of labelling the group a cult and who encourage others to learn about Falun Gong (2001-2003)*, 2 December.**

INTERNET: <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/topic,464db4f52,47e13a6f2,403dd1e98,0.html>

**Ping, Hu 2003, 'The Falungong Phenomenon', *China Rights Forum*, 4 November.**

INTERNET: [http://www.fofg.org/downloads/a1\\_Falungong4.2003.pdf](http://www.fofg.org/downloads/a1_Falungong4.2003.pdf)

Report focus: Independent in-depth analysis of the movement apparently by a non-practitioner. Ping discusses the rapid rise of Falun Gong and other spiritual groups to fill the vacuum left by the collapse of Maoist ideology after the Tiananmen Square deaths in 1989. He comments on the attraction of the group to simple working-class people, many of whom are women, and the courage they have shown in practising *ren* or forbearance in the face of mistreatment. He believes the group offers a serious challenge to the government.

**Amnesty International 2003, *People's Republic of China: Continuing abuses under a new leadership – summary of human rights concerns*, AI Index: ASA 17/035/2003, 1 October.**

INTERNET: <http://web.amnesty.org/library/index/engasa170352003>

Report Focus: This report includes 2 pages on the Falun Gong (pp.13-14) concluding that the Falun Gong spiritual movement remains a key target for repression in China. It states:

Amnesty International is unable to verify these figures, but continues to receive reports from various sources of serious human rights violations, including arbitrary detention, torture and ill-treatment targeted at Falun Gong practitioners across the country, particularly those who refuse to renounce their beliefs.

**Penny, Dr Benjamin 2003, *Falun Gong: What was it? and what is it now? A talk for the Refugee Review Tribunal National Members' Conference*, 29 August.**

Report focus: History of Falun Gong's formation; earlier good relations with the Chinese government; relationship to other cultivation systems; background of Li Hongzhi; general Falun Gong world view; reasons for government crackdown; evolution of Falun Gong into an activist organisation.

**Penny, Dr Benjamin 2003, *Questions and Answers on the Falun Gong movement*, 22 September.**

Report focus: Following his seminar at the Tribunal in August 2003, Members submitted questions to Dr Penny. He provided answers on private and public practice of Falun Gong in China; leaders and ordinary practitioners; whether Chinese consulates would photograph FG protesters; spiritual goals of practitioners; Chinese computer databases on the FG, and travel documents; and other subjects.

**DFAT 2003, *Country Information Report No 57/03, Criminal Changes*, 20 June.**  
CISNET – CX76018

Report Focus: This report examines the likelihood of Chinese police or officials fabricating evidence against Falun Gong practitioners

**Edelman, Bryan & Richardson, James T. 2003, 'Falun Gong and the Law: The Development of Legal Social Control in China', *Nova Religio*, 6: 2, pp. 312-331.**

INTERNET: <http://caliber.ucpress.net/doi/abs/10.1525/nr.2003.6.2.312?journalCode=nr>

Report focus: Examines the function of the legal system in China, in the context of a communist system of government, and looks in detail at the legal structures which exist to inhibit the Falun Gong. Includes a timeline of particular legislation which has been passed, and other significant reactions to the group. Describes the case of Chen Zixiu, a practitioner who was arrested and died in custody, apparently after being beaten; her daughter attempted to file criminal charges against the PSB but no lawyer would take her case.

[Note: This is a scanned PDF document, and it cannot be copied and pasted.]

**Keith, R.C. & Lin Z. 2003, 'The "Falun Gong problem": Politics and the struggle for the rule of law in China', *The China Quarterly*, No.175.**

INTERNET: <http://www.olemiss.edu/courses/inst203/keithlin03.pdf>

Report focus: Examines the relation between the criminal justice treatment of Falun Gong and "the struggle for the rule of law in China [where] it appears that the law has not been able to transcend the conceptual bias of past criminal law on counter-revolution".

**'U.S. Must Protest China's Deadly Abuse Of Religious Prisoners – Reports state that China is beating religious prisoners to death' 2003, Freedom House website (sourced from Falun Dafa Information Center website), 11 June.**

INTERNET: <http://www.freedomhouse.org/religion/news/bn2003/bn-2003-06-11.htm>

Report focus: Urgent appeal from Freedom House's Center for Religious Freedom, on five Falun Gong Practitioners who died while in Chinese custody, apparently beaten to death.

**DIMIA Country Information Service 2003, *Falun Dafa / Falun Gong (Country Issues Brief)*, May.**

CISNET – CX86201

Report focus: This is a 3 page DIMIA summary of the Falun Gong movement, including Political Context, Human Rights Issues, Practitioners of FG outside China, and FG in Australia.

**Canadian Immigration and Refugee Board 2003, CHN40908.E – ‘Subject: China: Reports on the treatment of Falun Gong practitioners post “re-education,” including whether practitioners’ employment status or their ability to travel is negatively affected’, 8 April**

INTERNET: <http://www.cisr-irb.gc.ca/en/research/rir/?action=record.viewrec&gotorec=416395>

**Canadian Immigration and Refugee Board 2003, CHN40879.E – China: The nature, mission and geographical reach of the “610” and “621” offices in China and the differences between the two, 8 January.**

INTERNET: <http://www.cisr-irb.gc.ca/en/research/rir/?action=record.viewrec&gotorec=416422>

## 2002

**Canadian Immigration and Refugee Board 2002, CHN40474.E – China: Update to CHN37941.E of 10 January 2002 on the harassment of family members of Falun Gong practitioners by the Public Security Bureau, 27 November.**

INTERNET: <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/topic,464db4f52,47e13a6f2,3f7d4d6de,0.html>

**Kindopp, Jason 2002, ‘China’s war on “evil cults”’, *Current History*, September, pp. 259-266.**

INTERNET: <http://www.currenthistory.com/Article.php?ID=210>

RRT: Library (Sydney and Melbourne)

Report focus: Examines the PRC authorities’ treatment of Falun Gong within the context of its wider “war on cults”. The author comments that the ability of groups such as Falun Gong “to mobilize large numbers of people to take concerted action against political authorities” constitutes a significant challenge to the “cornerstone of the Chinese Communist Party’s symbolic order” and provides an explanation for the ruthless crack down on Falun Gong.

**Human Rights Watch and Geneva Initiative on Psychiatry 2002, *Dangerous Minds: Political Psychiatry in China Today and its Origins in the Mao Era*, August.**

INTERNET: <http://hrw.org/reports/2002/china02/china0802.pdf>

RRT Library, HRW CHINA 2002

Report focus: This extensive report examines the use of judicial psychiatry by Chinese authorities for political purposes. Chapter VIII of the report particularly focuses on the targeting of Falun Gong practitioners for psychiatric abuse in recent years.

**ter Haar, Barend J. 2002, ‘Falun Gong: Assessing its origins and present situation’, *UNHCR Emergency & Security Service: WriteNet*, July.**

INTERNET: <http://www.let.leidenuniv.nl/bth/UNHCR.htm>

Report focus: Section 5 of this comprehensive study by a University of Leiden academic looks at the growth of protests by the Falun Gong movement in China, and the response of the Chinese government. 5.1 describes events from the 1999 demonstration in Beijing onwards. 5.2 describes the tactics used by the Chinese government to legitimate its attacks on the group. 5.3 examines the

“traditional and statist ways of looking at religious phenomena, including new religious movements”, which include labelling all kinds of groups as heretical. 5.4 looks at the Falun Gong’s response to its treatment by the Chinese government. Section 6 examines migration and asylum issues in relation to Falun Gong practitioners.

[See also Barend ter Haar’s web site at <http://www.let.leidenuniv.nl/bth/falun.htm> or at [www.let.leidenuniv.nl/~haarbjter/index.html](http://www.let.leidenuniv.nl/~haarbjter/index.html) from 1 December 2005.]

**DIMIA Country Information Service 2002, Country Information Report No 136/02, ‘Falun Gong Practitioners’, (sourced from DFAT advice of 20 May), 24 May.** CISNET – CX64757  
Report focus: Highlights authorities’ concern regarding the ability of Falun Gong members to organise themselves and propagate Falun Gong beliefs. Also highlights the considerable provincial discretion in PRC treatment of Falun Gong practitioners. Notes that PRC authorities are less interested in individual members practising alone than those actively propagating Falun Gong as a “core” member. Briefly refers to conditions of detention and deaths in custody.

**Human Rights Watch 2002, Dangerous Meditation: China’s Campaign against Falungong, February.**

INTERNET: <http://hrw.org/reports/2002/china/>

Report focus: Provides an account of the self-immolation incident in Tiananmen Square in January 2001. (See pp.19-22) Discusses freedom of belief in China in Part II.

**Canadian Immigration and Refugee Board 2002, CHN37941.E20 – China: Whether there is evidence that the Public Security Bureau (PSB) is harassing (ie arresting, interrogating, demanding self-criticism) the family members of known Falun Gong practitioners; if so, whether the PSB is performing these actions in order to obtain information about the practitioner, the organization, and / or other members, 10 January.**

INTERNET: <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/topic.464db4f52.47e13a6f2.3df4be1d30.0.html>

## 2001

**DFAT 2001, Country Information Report No 255/01 – China: Falun Gong Update, 12 September.**

CISNET – CX57264

Report focus: Updates CISNET – CX38557, noting that the PRC Government’s campaign against Falun Gong remains as outlined in that response; there has been no hardening or thawing in official attitudes.

**DFAT 2001, Country Information Report No 262/01 – Falun Gong Claim, 7 September.**

CISNET – CX57787

Report focus: Provides information on the likely treatment of Falun Gong returnees. DFAT considers that “It remains our assessment that a known Falungong follower would likely be subject to monitoring upon return to China” and notes that “We are not aware of any cases of Falungong practitioners returning from abroad who were subjected to legal or administrative penalties who were not also engaging in conduct illegal under Chinese law.”

**DFAT 2001, Country Information Report No 94/01 – Falun Gong Related Demonstrations, 20 March.**

CISNET – CX51051

Report focus: The report focuses on Falun Gong-related demonstrations. It notes that “It is likely a known activist would be subjected to monitoring on return”. Also states that DFAT is “not aware of any official membership cards or certificates associated with Falungong membership.”

## **2000**

**DFAT 2000, Country Information Report No 396/00 – Update on Falun Gong (Falun Dafa), 17 July.**

CISNET – CX43498

Report focus: Provides information regarding practices of PRC border officials in relation to the return of Falun Gong practitioners. Highlights differential treatment between leaders and ordinary practitioners of Falun Gong.

**DFAT 2000, Country Information Report No 150/00 – Falun Gong registration rejected in Japan, 28 April.**

CISNET – CX41724

Report focus: Details reports that the Tokyo Metropolitan Government had rejected an application from Falun Gong members in Japan to register the group as a non-profit organisation. The report notes that the decision had been made with consideration to the bilateral relationship with China.

**DFAT 2000, Country Information Report No 58/00 – Update Information on Falun Gong, 4 February.**

CISNET – CX39773

Report focus: The report notes that Falun Gong practitioners are likely to be subject to official monitoring on their return to China, but differentiates between the likely treatment of leaders and “ordinary” members.

## **BY PROVINCE**

### **Fujian Province**

**Canadian Immigration and Refugee Board 1999, CHN33255.EX ‘China: Falun Dafa (Falun Gong, Falungong) update; update to CHN33180.EX of 26 November 1999; update to CHN33002.EX of 8 October 1999 regarding Falun Dafa in Fujian province; existence of any documentation associated with Falun Dafa practice’, 3 December.**

INTERNET: <http://www.cisr-irb.gc.ca/en/research/ndp/ref/?action=view&doc=chn33255ex>

### **Guangdong Province**

**Canadian Immigration and Refugee Board 2002, CHN40500.E – China: Treatment of Falun Gong practitioners in Guangdong province with particular emphasis on Baiyun district, Guangzhou City (July 1999-November 2002), 29 November.**

INTERNET: <http://www.cisr-irb.gc.ca/en/research/rir/?action=record.viewrec&gotorec=416437>

**Canadian Immigration and Refugee Board 2002, CHN38346.E20 – China: Reports of Falun Gong-related events in Guangzhou City and environs (including Long Gui Village) since the self-immolations on Tiananmen Square on 23 January 2001; whether the Public Security Bureau (PSB) has increased its crackdown; reaction of members; current situation; types and**



*lengths of punishments meted out to persistent practitioners; whether a profile of a typical local Falun Gong practitioner is ascertainable (23 January 2001-2002), 20 February.*

INTERNET: <http://www.cisr-irb.gc.ca/en/research/rir/?action=record.viewrec&gotorec=416493>

**Canadian Immigration and Refugee Board, 2001, CHN36921.E – China: A demonstration held in Guangzhou, Guangdong province, on 22 June 2000 to protest the anniversary of the ban on the Falun Gong; any reports of arrests and whether practitioners had to hide out in Qingyang, 30 April.**

INTERNET: [www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/3df4be1c20.html](http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/3df4be1c20.html)

**Canadian Immigration and Refugee Board, 2001, CHN36335.E – China: “Falun Dafa Research Society” in Zhuhai district, Guangzhou; leaders, activities and treatment by the authorities, 2 February.**

## **Guangxi Province**

**DFAT 2001, Country Information Report No 195/01 – Falun Gong Movement in Bei Hai City, 2 July.**

CISNET – CX54504

Report focus: Provides information regarding treatment of Falun Gong practitioners in Bei Hai City in Guangxi.

## **Jilin Province**

**DFAT 1999, Country Information Report No 397/99 Falun Gong aka Falun Dafa in China, 5 November.**

CISNET – CX38557

Report focus: Updated by CISNET – CX57264. This early DFAT response mentions arrests and sentencing of Falun Gong practitioners in Hainan and Jilin.

## **Liaoning Province**

**Canadian Immigration and Refugee Board 2003, CHN40919.E – China: Information on the treatment of Falun Gong practitioners by the Liaoning Public Security Bureau (PSB) and other police forces; reports of police brutality; statements of police policy or attitude towards Falun Gong members in November and December 2001, 24 February.**

INTERNET: <http://www.cisr-irb.gc.ca/en/research/rir/?action=record.viewrec&gotorec=416418>

**Canadian Immigration and Refugee Board 2002, CHN39550.E – China: The existence and use of Dalian N.621 Enforcement Centre, 6 August.**

INTERNET: <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/publisher,IRBC,CHN,3f7d4d6a31,0.html>

Report focus: Provides information regarding the alleged use of a centre in Dalian for the detention and treatment of Falun Gong practitioners.

**Canadian Immigration and Refugee Board 2002, CHN39549.E – China: Whether the Dalian City Public Security Bureau (PSB) released an anti-Falun Gong campaign announcement in November 2000, 6 August.**

INTERNET: <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/topic,464db4f52,47e13a6f2,3f7d4d6a2a,0.html>

Report focus: Provides information from Falun Gong sources regarding a “strike-hard” campaign by the Dalian City Police Department against Falun Gong practitioners.

**Canadian Immigration and Refugee Board 2002, CHN39398.E – China: Treatment by the government of Falun Gong practitioners in Dalian City and Liaoning Province since the Tiannamen immolations in January 2001, 9 July.**

INTERNET: <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/topic,464db4f52,47e13a6f2,3df4be20c,0.html>

Report focus: Details a variety of sources dealing with the treatment of Falun Gong practitioners in the province of Liaoning between January 2001 and July 2002. No information specific to Dalian city could be found for this period

## **Hainan Province**

**DFAT 1999, Country Information Report No 397/99 Falun Gong aka Falun Dafa in China, 5 November.**

CISNET – CX38557

Report focus: Updated by CISNET – CX57264. This early DFAT response mentions early arrests and sentencing of Falun Gong practitioners in Hainan and Jilin.

## **Shanghai Province**

**Canadian Immigration and Refugee Board 2002, CHN40181.E – China: Treatment of Falun Gong practitioners in Shanghai (2001-November 2002), 26 November.**

INTERNET: <http://www.cisr-irb.gc.ca/en/research/rir/?action=record.viewrec&gotorec=416435>

## **Zhejiang Province**

**Canadian Immigration and Refugee Board 2002, CHN38318.E9 – China: The key contact for Falun Gong at Hangzhou University (Xixi campus) from October 1995 to March 2000; the activities and treatment of Falun Gong practitioners at Hangzhou University from September 1995 to June 2000, 8 January.**

INTERNET: <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/topic,464db4f52,47e13a6f2,3df4be1e34,0.html>

## **ORGANISATION**

### **In China and the USA**

**Zeng, Jennifer and Deller, John 2006, Transcript of RRT Members Seminar “Falun Gong: A Practitioner Perspective” held at Sydney RRT/MRT on 22 June 2006, 22 June.**

Jennifer Zeng is the author of *Witnessing History: One woman’s fight for freedom and Falun Gong* (2005) and is a FG practitioner and former refugee. She was arrested in Beijing in 2000, and was detained and tortured for twelve months in a labour camp. John Deller is the President of Falun Dafa Association of NSW.

**DIMIA 2005, Falun Dafa/Falun Gong Issues Brief: Ref: CHN300605, June.**

Report focus: Contains a brief examination of structure and organisation: “Falun Gong makes no claim to having a formal organisation. However, standardisation of websites, information flows and the nature and scale of public visibility indicate levels of activism and at the least, informal organisation, if not some controlling group”.

**Bell, M.R. & Boas, T.C. 2003, ‘Falun Gong and the Internet: Evangelism, Community, and Struggle for Survival’, *Nova Religio*, 6/2.**

INTERNET: <http://socs.berkeley.edu/~tboas/falungong.pdf> – Accessed 15 November 2005.

Report focus: Examines in detail the importance of the internet to Falun Gong’s organisation, structure, and communications, both within China and around the world: “...it is safe to say that Falun Gong is the largest religious movement born alongside the rapid global proliferation of the Internet. Certainly, its growth has coincided with the Internet boom, in China and around the world”. Within China, the internet is used to organise activities, and to pass information in and out of the country. The Chinese authorities have sought to control the internet by electronic means; by well-publicised arrests; by the “promotion of self-censorship”; and by “an aggressive propaganda campaign”.

**Penny, Dr Benjamin 2003, *Falun Gong: What was it? and what is it now? A talk for the Refugee Review Tribunal National Members’ Conference, 29 August.***

Report focus: History of Falun Gong’s formation; earlier good relations with the Chinese government; relationship to other cultivation systems; background of Li Hongzhi; general Falun Gong world view; reasons for government crackdown; evolution of Falun Gong into an activist organisation.

**Penny, Dr Benjamin 2003, *Questions and Answers on the Falun Gong movement, 22 September.***

Report focus: Following his seminar at the Tribunal in August 2003, Members submitted questions to Dr Penny. He provided answers on private and public practice of Falun Gong in China; leaders and ordinary practitioners; whether Chinese consulates would photograph FG protesters; spiritual goals of practitioners; Chinese computer databases on the FG, and travel documents; and other subjects.

**Burgdoff, Craig 2003, ‘How Falun Gong practice undermines Li Hongzhi’s totalistic rhetoric’, *Nova Religio* 6,2, p.332.**

INTERNET: <http://caliber.ucpress.net/doi/abs/10.1525/nr.2003.6.2.332>

Report focus: This article is of interest because the writer himself joined a Falun Gong group in Ohio and participated in the practices. He discusses the loose organisational structure, stating that practitioners have little contact with Li, and that “Falun Gong has at best a virtual central organization, comprised of independent cell-like local groups. There is no hierarchy in place to enforce orthodoxy and little or no emphasis upon dogmatic discipline. There is no ‘official’ membership, and practitioners are free to participate as much or as little as they like without censure. There is no attempt to isolate practitioners from society, and no manipulation of sexuality or finances other than emphasizing the need for strict moral behaviour”. It appears that “while Li jealously guards his spiritual authority, he seems to have willingly relinquished organizational control. In fact, Li insists that practitioners who take on organizational roles should have absolutely no authority over other practitioners. Arguably, the absence of any other official

authority figure strengthens Li's unique status and power and makes any relinquishment of his organizational control unlikely. In any case, the lack of an organizational hierarchy works against institutionalization". Practitioners are not required to contribute financially: although individual practitioners financed local events themselves, there was no pressure on others to contribute or to volunteer services. "The loose organizational structure of Falun Gong also means that there are no membership lists. There are no initiation rituals, instead, new members are simply taught the exercises and invited to participate in events as they occur. Increased or decreased participation does not seem to affect one's status in the group. While membership lists are not maintained, email addresses and lists are usually exchanged and this is the preferred method of communication and organization". The email system is very effective for circulating information quickly: "the organizational structure is both web-based and web-like".

[Note: This is a scanned PDF document, and it cannot be copied and pasted.]

**Fisher, Gareth 2003 'Resistance and Salvation in Falun Gong: The Promise and Peril of Forbearance', *Nova Religio* 6: 2, pp. 294-311.**

INTERNET: <http://caliber.ucpress.net/doi/abs/10.1525/nr.2003.6.2.294?journalCode=nr>

Report focus: Discusses in particular the principle of *ren* or forbearance and its importance in the spiritual life of the Falun Gong practitioner. The last part of this paper discusses the drawbacks of Falun Gong's loose organisational structure, such as the development of a Falun Gong splinter group operating in Hong Kong which has repudiated Li as leader, and follows Master Peng Shan Shan. [Note: This is a scanned PDF document, and it cannot be copied and pasted.]

**UK Home Office 2002, *Revolution of the Wheel – the Falun Gong in China and in Exile*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, November.**

INTERNET: <http://www.asylumlaw.org/docs/showDocument.cfm?documentID=997>

Report focus: Includes information on the leadership, organisation and nature of the group. See Section 1b 'Theoretical basis: leadership' and Section 1c 'Theoretical basis: organisation'.

**Tong, James 2002, 'An Organizational Analysis of the Falun Gong: Structure, Communications, Financing', *China Quarterly*, Vol.171, September, p.636-660.**

INTERNET: <http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayJournal?jid=CQY>

Report focus: Provides an analysis of the two opposing views of Falun Gong: the state's argument that Falun Gong was a well organised movement with a clear hierarchical structure, a centralised administration system, a well developed communications and mobilisation system and a solid financial base prior to its suppression; and Falun Gong's assertion that it had no organisational structure, no membership rosters, no local offices, telephones or financial accounts, etc.

**ter Haar, Barend J. 2002, 'Falun Gong: Assessing its origins and present situation', *UNHCR Emergency & Security Service: WriteNet*, July.**

INTERNET: <http://www.let.leidenuniv.nl/bth/UNHCR.htm>

Report focus: Section 4 of this comprehensive study by a University of Leiden academic examines the size, spread and structure of the movement within China. It states that "the rough geographical distribution of the membership seems to be clear. The two demonstrations and subsequent Falun Gong protests and state persecutions all indicate that the movement was represented to some considerable extent in the big cities of northern and western China (including Beijing, Tianjin, and Chongqing), as well as across all northern provinces. When we look at a

sample of the people who have died in the course of the suppression campaign, we find that the majority of the victims come from the north...All the hijackings of cable television time (which, unlike hijacking of satellites, requires local presence) also took place in Heilongjiang, Jilin, Liaoning, Shandong and Chongqing (Sichuan)'.  
[See also Barend ter Haar's web site at <http://www.let.leidenuniv.nl/bth/falun.htm> or at [www.let.leidenuniv.nl/~haarbjter/index.html](http://www.let.leidenuniv.nl/~haarbjter/index.html) from 1 December 2005.]

**DFAT 2001, Country Information Report No 94/01 – Falun Gong Related Demonstrations, 20 March.**

CISNET – CX51051

Report focus: Includes the statement that DFAT is “not aware of any official membership cards or certificates associated with Falungong membership.”

## **In Australia**

**Zeng, Jennifer and Deller, John 2006, Transcript of RRT Members Seminar “Falun Gong: A Practitioner Perspective” held at Sydney RRT/MRT on 22 June 2006, 22 June.**

Jennifer Zeng is the author of *Witnessing History: One woman's fight for freedom and Falun Gong* (2005) and is a FG practitioner and former refugee. She was arrested in Beijing in 2000, and was detained and tortured for twelve months in a labour camp. John Deller is the President of Falun Dafa Association of NSW.

**Falun Dafa Association of NSW Inc 2006, Submission: Response to Questions from Refugee Tribunal Members, 22 June.**

On 22 June 2006 representatives spoke at a seminar at the RRT. During the seminar they responded to questions which had been provided previously in written form by the Tribunal, and also submitted their answers in a written submission. The paper includes information on how the FG in Australia determines whether someone is a genuine practitioner, and when they would provide a letter of support; current numbers in Australia; and what levels of knowledge of the exercises and of the *Zhuan Falun* should be expected from a genuine practitioner.

**Falun Dafa Association of NSW 2005, Sample letter of support for application for Review of Protection, 10 June.**

Report focus: This is a scanned copy of a type of letter written in support of applicants by the President of the Falun Dafa Association of NSW, John Deller. Please note that he has since changed his email address.

**DIMIA Country Information Service 2003, Falun Dafa / Falun Gong (Country Issues Brief), May.**

CISNET – CX86201

Report focus: “The Falun Gong Association in Australia does not provide a list of officials nor does it provide any membership details. There is, however, an official website for the Falun Gong movement in Australia which can be accessed at <http://www.falundafa.org.au>. It lists contact names for further information about the movement, regional meeting places and details of other Falun Gong activities.

Mr John Deller identifies himself as a spokesperson for the Falun Dafa in Australia. In October 2001 he attended the News Corp Annual General Meeting and noted his concerns at the manner in which the Falun Dafa had been referred to by the News Corp Executive. In March Mr Deller addressed a gathering at the Villawood Processing Centre sharing his concerns about the possible deportation of two Falun Gong practitioners to China”.

**Falun Dafa Association of Australia 2001, *Information provided by the Falun Dafa Association of Australia to the Refugee Review Tribunal on 11 May 2001 as answers to the following questions with regards to the practice and operation of Falun Gong in Australia and China, 11 May.***

Report focus: Answers questions with regards to the practice and operation of Falun Gong in Australia and China. Reconfirmed information provided in January 2000 by Falun Fo Xue (Falundafa Buddhist Association) of Australia.

## **ASSOCIATED ORGANISATIONS**

### **The Epoch Times**

**Jurkowitz, Mark** 2005, ‘Time for a change; International paper puts an emphasis on universal freedoms’, *The Boston Globe*, 31 May.

INTERNET: [http://www.boston.com/news/globe/living/articles/2005/05/31/times\\_for\\_a\\_change/](http://www.boston.com/news/globe/living/articles/2005/05/31/times_for_a_change/)

Report focus: Examines *The Epoch Times*, giving some rare independent commentary on the paper, which has links with the Falun Gong. States that many staff are Falun Gong practitioners, including John Nania, the US editor in chief; Stephen Gregory, the opinion editor; and Martin Fox, the Boston editor. The paper’s name is said to mean “a time of importance and change”, and Fox comments that “the people that are involved with the paper see this as a certain time in history when things are changing...Fundamental things are going on”. The paper is said to be owned by “a privately held company of investors who ‘support the values of the paper, human rights and universal freedoms’”. A federal tax form filed last year by the Epoch Times Association Inc. indicates that it is a tax-exempt, nonprofit organization based in New Jersey”. The paper’s *Nine Commentaries on the Communist Party* is claimed to be responsible for “more than 1.9 million people” resigning from the Chinese Communist Party.

*The Nine Commentaries on the Communist Party* was published by the *The Epoch Times* <http://english.epochtimes.com/> towards the end of 2004. *The Epoch Times* stated: “The ‘Nine Commentaries’...are a book-length set of nine editorials that tell the true history of the CCP. Written under the auspices of *The Epoch Times* editorial board, the authorship is anonymous”. Although the greater part of the *Commentaries* examines issues apart from the Falun Gong, there are obviously important links between the two, and they have been referred to directly in recent talks given by Li Hongzhi.

### **New Tang Dynasty Television**

Internet: <http://www.ntdtv.com/xtr/eng/aMain.jsp>

Website focus: This television station appears to have some links to the Falun Gong. It provides general Chinese-language programming, with some leaning towards the spiritual; traditional Chinese culture [the Tang dynasty is regarded as a high point in Chinese history]; and Falun

Gong-related news items. The Chinese government has accused New Tang of being run by the Falun Gong, and continues to attempt to block its transmission into China by putting pressure on satellite providers.