



CORI Research Analysis

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Country: China

Issues: Falun Gong; Monitoring by the authorities; 6-10 Office

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1. Monitoring and potential harassment by the authorities:

- **Which authorities are responsible for the monitoring and control of the Falun Gong movement and at what level (central, district, municipality, village etc)? What are their activities? Do any of them actively search for Falun Gong practitioners in hiding?**

The Falun Gong Human Rights Working Group (FGHRWG) reports that, in a speech on June 1999 the former Communist Party leader Jiang Zemin announced that the government was to “form a leadership group to specifically handle the Falun Gong problem,” “to quickly form an attack strategy,” and “to resolutely punish Falun Gong’s main plotters and organizers, offer [them] no mercy and soft- hand”.¹ FGHRWG and the Falun Dafa Information Centre (FDIC) report that Zemin stated that “all CPP [Chinese Communist Party] central departments, all ministries, all provinces, all cities must cooperate with the group very closely”.² This “leadership group” is known as the Office 610

¹ The Conscience Foundation - The Falun Gong Human Rights Working Group, Shadow Report on the Observance of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment by the People’s Republic of China for the period from 2000 to 2008 Submitted To The United Nations Committee against Torture, October 2008, Available from http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cat/docs/ngos/CFFalunShadowReport_China_cat41.pdf, accessed 8 August 2010.

² Falun Dafa Information Centre, An Analysis of the 610 Office: Beijing’s Dark Secret, 20 June 2007, <http://www.faluninfo.net/article/486/?cid=141>, accessed 8 August 2010; The Conscience Foundation - The Falun Gong Human Rights Working Group, Shadow Report on the Observance of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment by the People’s Republic of China for the period from 2000 to 2008 Submitted To The

(or 6-10), named after the date of its creation and also known as Leading Bureau for the Prevention and Procession of Evil Cults.³ The Falun Dafa website states that although Chinese officials deny its existence, different organisations report that “a broad range of public statements, internal documents, and testimonies refute such claims.”⁴

Quoting officially published reports from provincial governments in the PRC, the US Congressional-Executive Commission on China states that

“the 6-10 office is the forefront of “organizing and leading the struggle against Falun Gong”. Its responsibilities include “directing investigations of 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 others harmful qigong organizations by municipal public security forces”.”⁵

The Falun Dafa Information Centre suggests that the 610 Office has a limited number of staff, but that its

“real power lies in its ability to force the hands of other Party and government bodies. Tianjin’s central 610 branch, for instance, employs 50–60 staff who can directly order the city’s 30,000-strong police force, with one 610 officer often supervising over 100 ordinary policemen, according to the city’s former 610 operative Hao Fengjun”.⁶

The FDIC added that the 610 Office has the

“ability to direct the campaign against Falun Gong from behind the scenes. By employing quotas and incentive systems, as well as latching onto the Party’s existing and pervasive bureaucracy, the 6-10 office is responsible for overseeing all aspects of the campaign against the Falun Gong: from controlling the criminal justice system to gathering overseas intelligence through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to infiltrating top Chinese universities”.⁷

The US Congressional-Executive Commission on China reported that “aggressive

United Nations Committee against Torture, October 2008, Available from http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cat/docs/ngos/CFFalunShadowReport_China_cat41.pdf, accessed 8 August 2010.

³ Falun Dafa Information Centre, An Analysis of the 610 Office: Beijing’s Dark Secret, 20 June 2007, <http://www.faluninfo.net/article/486/?cid=141>, accessed 8 August 2010; The Conscience Foundation - The Falun Gong Human Rights Working Group, Shadow Report on the Observance of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment by the People’s Republic of China for the period from 2000 to 2008 Submitted To The

United Nations Committee against Torture, October 2008, Available from http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cat/docs/ngos/CFFalunShadowReport_China_cat41.pdf, accessed 8 August 2010.

⁴ Falun Dafa Information Centre, The 6-10 Office, 15 June 2008, <http://www.faluninfo.net/topic/17/>, accessed 8 August 2010.

⁵ Congressional-Executive Commission on China, Annual Report 2008, 31 October 2008, <http://www.cecc.gov/pages/annualRpt/annualRpt08/CECCannRpt2008.pdf>, accessed 8 August 2010.

⁶ Falun Dafa Information Centre, “China’s Gestapo” Marks a Decade: Official government websites, Chinese lawyers cite torture, surveillance by secret agency, 9 June 2009, <http://www.faluninfo.net/article/886/>, accessed 8 August 2010.

⁷ Falun Dafa Information Centre, The 6-10 Office, 15 June 2008, <http://www.faluninfo.net/topic/17/>, accessed 8 August 2010.

surveillance is a key aspect of the 6-10 Office's work."⁸ According to the US Congressional-Executive Commission on China a notice posted on a Yunnan provincial government website in March 2008 warns government workers that "if [you] hear of Falun Gong reactionary propaganda immediately notify your unit leader and the public security '610' Office".⁹ The US Congressional-Executive Commission on China also reported that the 610 Office operates a cash rewards system for information on people distributing "reactionary propaganda" or concerning specific cases.¹⁰ The US Commission on International Religious Freedom also reported that "provincial officials reportedly offer sizable rewards to anyone who provides information leading to the arrest of a Falun Gong practitioner."¹¹ According to the US Congressional-Executive Commission on China the 610 Office also "focuses on public schools and universities as venues for spreading its "anti-cult" message."¹²

The US Congressional-Executive Commission on China, reports that 610 offices and public security bureaus are active in monitoring Falun Gong practitioners throughout the regions,

"The 6–10 Office and public security bureaus throughout China surveilled and monitored communities, residences, and workplaces in order to identify and isolate Falun Gong adherents. In May 2009, the Qidong city 6–10 Office in Jiangsu province conducted an "investigation to get to the bottom of the situation involving cults," which identified 176 Falun Gong practitioners living in one township. In October 2008, Linxiang city in Hunan province gave credit to its "24-hour control and monitoring line of vision" for allowing authorities to "thoroughly suppress" two Falun Gong incidents. In June 2008, Xuanwei city authorities in Yunnan province called for strengthened patrols, greater use of plainclothes officers, and closer cooperation between public security forces and residential committees in order to "thoroughly shatter" Falun Gong. Xuanwei authorities also authorized a "powerful political offensive" in all villages and neighborhoods involving mandatory resident participation in a propaganda campaign to "effectively frighten" Falun Gong. In Shandong province's Huimin county, a 2008 workplan for "implementing concentrated rectification" of Falun Gong requires various agencies to investigate all religious personnel within their jurisdiction for involvement with "cult organizations." In March 2009, the head of the Shashi District 6–10 Office in Jingzhou city, Hubei province, during an inspection of sub-district offices, called on officials to "reinforce monitoring and control of 'Falun Gong' practitioners." In June 2009, Jiujiang city officials in Jiangxi province described a surveillance system focused on a group of 829 "key figures," composed primarily of former Falun Gong prisoners. In July, authorities in Shandong province's Zibo city placed nine practitioners under a "system of 24-hour monitoring and control."¹³

According to the US Commission on International Religious Freedom,

⁸ Congressional-Executive Commission on China, Annual Report 2008, 31 October 2008, <http://www.cecc.gov/pages/annualRpt/annualRpt08/CECCannRpt2008.pdf>, accessed 8 August 2010.

⁹ Congressional-Executive Commission on China, Annual Report 2008, 31 October 2008, <http://www.cecc.gov/pages/annualRpt/annualRpt08/CECCannRpt2008.pdf>, accessed 8 August 2010.

¹⁰ Congressional-Executive Commission on China, Annual Report 2009, 10 October 2009, <http://www.cecc.gov/pages/annualRpt/annualRpt09/CECCannRpt2009.pdf>, accessed 8 August 2010.

¹¹ United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, Annual Report 2009: China, May 2009, <http://www.uscirf.gov/images/AR2009/china.pdf>, accessed 8 August 2010.

¹² Congressional-Executive Commission on China, Annual Report 2009, 10 October 2009, <http://www.cecc.gov/pages/annualRpt/annualRpt09/CECCannRpt2009.pdf>, accessed 8 August 2010.

¹³ Congressional-Executive Commission on China, Annual Report 2009, 10 October 2009, <http://www.cecc.gov/pages/annualRpt/annualRpt09/CECCannRpt2009.pdf>, accessed 8 August 2010.

“targeting Falun Gong adherents continues to be a high priority for Chinese government security officials. There remains a nationwide campaign to suppress Falun Gong and “transform” its practitioners. A 2009 directive by the Central Committee on the Comprehensive Management of Public Security urged security officials to “strike hard against hostile forces...[including] the infiltration, subversion, and sabotage by ‘Falun Gong.’” Similar security instructions were issued in the provinces of Jiangsu, Hubei, Jilin, Guizhou, Yunnan, Henan, Hunan, Anhui, Sichuan, and Shandong, including recommendations for surveillance, cultivation of paid informants, and propaganda efforts”.¹⁴

In its 2010 Annual Report the Falun Dafa Information Centre claimed that

“the 6-10 Offices and public security agents monitored the homes of known adherents, as well as their private correspondence conducted by telephone or email. As part of the Communist Party’s “6521 Project,” Falun Gong adherents were regularly subject to arbitrary searches of their homes or persons by security agents. Such searches routinely resulted in incarceration if documents related to Falun Gong were found, even if the documents were solely for the purposes of private religious practice”.¹⁵

The Falun Dafa Information Centre also reported cases of Falun Gong members hidden in relatives’ or friends’ houses, who were subsequently identified and arrested after their phone calls had been monitored.¹⁶

The Falun Dafa website states that Chinese authorities also targeted adherents in the West,

“Adherents have found the tires of their cars slashed; their homes vandalized and ransacked; received death threats and harassing calls; had their computers hacked into; and even, in several cases, been physically assaulted.”¹⁷

In 2010 both the US State Department and the US Commission on International Religious Freedom report continued persecution and harassment of Falun Gong practitioners¹⁸.

The Conscience Foundation – The Falun Gong Human Rights Group, stated that the Chinese government policy towards Falun Gong practitioners included torture,

¹⁴ United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, Annual Report 2010: China, May 2010, <http://www.uscifr.gov/images/ar2010/china2010.pdf>, accessed 8 August 2010.

¹⁵ Falun Dafa Information Centre, 2010 Annual Report: Falun Gong Persecution and Activism in 2009, “Surveillance and Arbitrary Interference With Home or Correspondence”, 25 April 2010, <http://faluninfo.net/article/1027/>, accessed 8 August 2010.

¹⁶ Falun Dafa Information Centre, 2010 Annual Report: Falun Gong Persecution and Activism in 2009, “Surveillance and Arbitrary Interference With Home or Correspondence”, 25 April 2010, <http://faluninfo.net/article/1027/>, accessed 8 August 2010.

¹⁷ Falun Dafa Information Centre, Falun Gong: Life Under Persecution, 17 May 2008, <http://www.faluninfo.net/topic/29/>, accessed 8 August 2010.

¹⁸ US Department of State, 2009 Human Rights Report: China (includes Tibet, Hong Kong, and Macau), March 11, 2010, <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2009/eap/135989.htm>, accessed 8 August 2010; US Department of State, International Religious Freedom Report 2009, China (includes Tibet, Hong Kong, Macau), October 26, 2009, <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2009/127268.htm>, accessed 8 August 2010; United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, Annual Report 2010: China, May 2010, <http://www.uscifr.gov/images/ar2010/china2010.pdf>, accessed 8 August 2010.

“Jiang himself directly issued some of the most unequivocal instructions of torture and killing of Falun Gong practitioners through the “610 Office” system, such as “No measure is too excessive against Falun Gong,” and “destroy their reputations, bankrupt them financially, and exterminate them physically”.¹⁹

The USDOS reported that “the Government interfered with the employment of some individuals due to their religious or spiritual beliefs or activities. There were widespread reports that employers, both Chinese and foreign, were discouraged from hiring members of Falun Gong”.²⁰

● **What role does the 610 Office also known as the Leading Bureau for the Prevention and Procession of Evil Cults have in investigation and pursuit of identified practitioners? Where are these offices located (districts, larger urban areas, other)?**

According to a 2008 report from the Congressional-Executive Commission on China, “publicly available government documents detail the central role of the 6-10 Office in the persecution of Falun Gong”²¹ According to the Falun Dafa Information Centre, the 610 Office is “an extralegal police task force responsible for carrying out the mission of eliminating Falun Gong” and that “there is no legislation establishing the 610 Office nor are there laws delineating its powers”.²² The US Commission on International Religious Freedom describes the 610 Office as an extrajudicial apparatus, whose “offices throughout China are tasked with surveillance, investigations, “transformation,” and detention of Falun Gong practitioners”.²³ The US Congressional-Executive Commission on China describes the 610 Office as “an extralegal, Party-run security apparatus”.²⁴

The Falun Dafa Information Centre claims that the 610 Office operates at all levels of Chinese society and provides a diagram of its structure, “from the Communist Party’s seat of power – the Politburo – down to neighborhood committees and village offices”.²⁵ It also claims that upon the establishment of the 610 Office under the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee, “corresponding bodies were created at every administrative level as well as in major social organizations, large companies, work units, and universities. Each branch is closely linked to the local Party committees, the political-legal committees, or

¹⁹ The Conscience Foundation - The Falun Gong Human Rights Working Group, Shadow Report on the Observance of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment by the People’s Republic of China for the period from 2000 to 2008 Submitted To The United Nations Committee against Torture, October 2008, Available from http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cat/docs/ngos/CFFalunShadowReport_China_cat41.pdf, accessed 8 August 2010.

²⁰ US Department of State, International Religious Freedom Report 2009, China (includes Tibet, Hong Kong, Macau), October 26, 2009, <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2009/127268.htm>, accessed 8 August 2010.

²¹ Congressional-Executive Commission on China, Annual Report 2008, 31 October 2008, <http://www.cecc.gov/pages/annualRpt/annualRpt08/CECCannRpt2008.pdf>, accessed 8 August 2010.

²² Falun Dafa Information Centre, An Analysis of the 610 Office: Beijing’s Dark Secret, 20 June 2007, <http://www.faluninfo.net/article/486/?cid=141>, accessed 8 August 2010.

²³ United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, Annual Report 2010: China, May 2010, <http://www.uscirf.gov/images/ar2010/china2010.pdf>, accessed 8 August 2010.

²⁴ Congressional-Executive Commission on China, Annual Report 2009, 10 October 2009, <http://www.cecc.gov/pages/annualRpt/annualRpt09/CECCannRpt2009.pdf>, accessed 8 August 2010.

²⁵ Falun Dafa Information Centre, The 6-10 Office, 15 June 2008, <http://www.faluninfo.net/topic/17/>, accessed 8 August 2010.

Public Security Bureau offices”.²⁶ The Conscience Foundation - The Falun Gong Human Rights Working Group states that the 610 Office has representation “at all levels of the government, from federal to municipal, with corresponding power to direct the resources and systems at every level”.²⁷ The 2008 and 2009 Annual Reports from the US Congressional-Executive Commission on China contain several excerpts of official communications at the provincial and municipal levels concerning the activities of the 610 Office.²⁸

The US Congressional-Executive Commission on China stated that “the duties of the secretariat of the 6-10 Office include “taking responsibility for protecting secrets”, and “supervising and solving special investigations and coordinating the work of striking against and disposing of [Falun Gong]””.²⁹ Quoting the work of Pulitzer-winner The Wall Street Journal’s Ian Johnson, the Falun Dafa Information Centre states that the central government has created a “responsibility system” of awards, quotas and punishments to ensure the collaboration of local and lower officials and citizens.³⁰

● **Is there a difference in the monitoring and severity of treatment by the authorities in different parts of the PRC?**

The US Congressional-Executive Commission on China reports that,

“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, neighbourhood 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 personal” 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. 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.”

²⁶ Falun Dafa Information Centre, “China’s Gestapo” Marks a Decade: Official government websites, Chinese lawyers cite torture, surveillance by secret agency, 9 June 2009, <http://www.faluninfo.net/article/886/>, accessed 8 August 2010.

²⁷ The Conscience Foundation - The Falun Gong Human Rights Working Group, Shadow Report on the Observance of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment by the People’s Republic of China for the period from 2000 to 2008 Submitted To The United Nations Committee against Torture, October 2008, Available from http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cat/docs/ngos/CFFalunShadowReport_China_cat41.pdf, accessed 8 August 2010.

²⁸ Congressional-Executive Commission on China, Annual Report 2008, 31 October 2008, <http://www.cecc.gov/pages/annualRpt/annualRpt08/CECCAnnRpt2008.pdf>, accessed 8 August 2010; Congressional-Executive Commission on China, Annual Report 2009, 10 October 2009, <http://www.cecc.gov/pages/annualRpt/annualRpt09/CECCAnnRpt2009.pdf>, accessed 8 August 2010.

²⁹ Congressional-Executive Commission on China, Annual Report 2009, 10 October 2009, <http://www.cecc.gov/pages/annualRpt/annualRpt09/CECCAnnRpt2009.pdf>, accessed 8 August 2010.

³⁰ Falun Dafa Information Centre, “China’s Gestapo” Marks a Decade: Official government websites, Chinese lawyers cite torture, surveillance by secret agency, 9 June 2009, <http://www.faluninfo.net/article/886/>, accessed 8 August 2010.

6-10 offices throughout China maintain extrajudicial “transformation through reeducation” facilities that are used specifically to detain Falun Gong practitioners who have completed terms in reeducation through labor (RTL) camps but whom authorities refuse to release.³¹

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US Department of State
US Congressional-Executive Commission on China
United States Commission on International Religious Freedom

³¹ Congressional-Executive Commission on China, Annual Report 2008, 31 October 2008, <http://www.cecc.gov/pages/annualRpt/annualRpt08/CECCannRpt2008.pdf>, accessed 8 August 2010