

**Refugee Review Tribunal
AUSTRALIA**

RRT RESEARCH RESPONSE

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This response was prepared by the Country Research Section of the Refugee Review Tribunal (RRT) after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the RRT within time constraints. This response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum.

Questions

1. Was there a demonstration in Tiananmen Square in 2001?
2. Where is Zibo and does it have a Forced Labour Camp?
3. Information on the usual length of incarceration for Falun Gong practitioners.
4. Question deleted.

RESPONSE

1. Was there a demonstration in Tiananmen Square in 2001?

There were many Falun Gong demonstrations in Tiananmen Square in 2001. The Falun Gong claimed that protests occurred almost daily in Tiananmen square in 2001 ('Tiananmen: Court of Last Resort: A Special Report Examining the Role of Tiananmen Square in the Persecution of the Falun Gong' 2001, Falun Dafa Information Center, May <http://www.faluninfo.net/tiananmen/index.asp> – Accessed 24 April 2007 – Attachment 1). A table of some Falun Gong protests in Beijing and Tiananmen Square in 2001 appears on the following pages. This table was compiled from Falun Gong and other sources, but is not meant to be exhaustive. A number of these reports mention practitioners from Shandong province (like the Applicant).

Falun Gong Demonstrations in Beijing in 2001

Date of demonstration	No of participants	Reached Tiananmen Square?	Treatment of participants (Source of report – attachment no) * FG source
1 January 2001	1 (FG source) 700 (AFP)	Yes – opened banner Yes	1 arrested (Attachment 2) * 700 detained and beaten (Attachment 3)

23 January 2001 Self-immolation event in Tiananmen Square	7	Yes – Set themselves on fire	Seven alleged Falungong members in Tiananmen Square attempted to burn themselves alive. They were hospitalised and/or arrested. The Falun Gong dispute that these people were Falun Gong practitioners See 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. (not attached)
25 January 2001 Lunar New Year Holiday	1	Yes – opened banner	No report (Attachment 4) *
26 January 2001	1 man from Shandong	Not known	Arrested and taken to police station in Henan. Died from a beating. (Attachment 4) *
? January 2001	1 man from Guizhou	Yes	Arrested and held in Detention Centre in Beijing. Died from a beating. (Attachment 4) *
7 March 2001	2 from Jilin	Not known	Arrested and held in Detention Centre and began hunger strike. Died two days later after force- feeding tore windpipe. (Attachment 4) *
17 March 2001	1 man	Yes	Arrested and beaten by police – suffered eye injury (Attachment 4) *
25 April 2001 (Anniversary of 1999 demonstration)	At least 32 (AP report)	Yes – scattered protests throughout square, banners opened	All arrested and beaten. No reports of what happened later. (Attachment 4) *
29 April 2001	1 man from Hebei	Not known	Arrested and beaten. Returned to Hebei and later was found dead and buried. (Attachment 4) *
3 May 2001	At least 1	Yes – opened banner	Not known (Attachment 4) *
13 May 2001 World Falun Dafa Day	“Many”	Yes – opened banners	Arrested and beaten. Taken to different police stations in Beijing – some released after days (Attachment 4) *
23 May 2001	Unknown	Yes – opened banner	Unknown (Attachment 4) *
April – May Other dates		Many attempts	Most arrested before reaching square (Attachment 4) *
July 19-20, 2001 Anniversary of crackdown	Many	Yes	Many arrested (Attachment 5) *
20 November 2001	35 Western practitioners	Yes	Unknown (Attachment 6)
2 December 2001	Several dozen	Yes – opened banners	Arrested and beaten – at least one woman dies of injuries (Attachment 7) *

Sources:

- ‘Tiananmen: Court of Last Resort: In the Eyes of Western Media: Falun Gong on Tiananmen Square’ 2001, Falun Dafa Information Center, May
http://www.faluninfo.net/tiananmen/western_media.asp – Accessed 24 April 2007 – Attachment 2;
- ‘China admits growing Falungong protests but vows to crush movement ATTENTION – ADDS Frank Lu quotes’ 2001, Agence France-Presse, 5 January – Attachment 3;
- ‘Tiananmen: Court of Last Resort: Tiananmen Timeline: A History of Events on the Square (2001)’ 2001, Falun Dafa Information Center, May
<http://www.faluninfo.net/tiananmen/timeline.asp> – Accessed 24 April 2007 - Attachment 4;
- ‘Photo report: Practitioners Continually Went to Tiananmen Square to Validate Dafa On the Two-year Anniversary of 7.20’ 2001, Clearwisdom.net, 29 July
<http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2001/7/29/12618.html> – Accessed 26 April 2007 – Attachment 5;
- ‘RSF says foreign journalists still persecuted for covering Falun Gong’ 2001, BBC Monitoring (Source: Reporters Sans Frontieres press release), 4 December – Attachment 6;
- ‘A Practitioner from Weifang, Shandong Is Beaten to Death by Beijing Police’ 2002, Clearwisdom.net, 21 January
<http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2002/1/21/17972.html> – Accessed 27 April 2007 – Attachment 7.

2. Where is Zibo and does it have a Forced Labour Camp?

According to Wikipedia¹, Zibo (淄博) is a prefecture-level city in the centre of Shandong province, which is on the northeast coast of China. (‘Zibo’ 2007, Wikipedia, updated <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zibo> – Accessed 23 April 2007 – Attachment 8). Zibo city covers nearly 6,000 sq. km., includes 5 (urban) districts and 3 (rural) counties and has a population of over 4 million people. A map showing Zibo is attached (‘Zibo’ *Microsoft Encarta World Atlas 2000* – Attachment 9).

The Laogai Research Foundation, which documents Chinese prisons and labour camps (‘Laogai’ in Chinese), lists the following prisons and labour camps, also called RTL (Reform-Through-Labour camps), in Zibo city:

- Provincial RTL (aka Shandong Prov. Zibo Wangcun RTL) – located in Wangcun District, Zibo City – this contains the following branches: Prov. No. 1 RTL, Prov. No. 2 RTL, Prov. No. 1 Women’s RTL, and Prov. No. 2 Women’s RTL.
- Provincial No. 1 RTL – located in Zhoucun District, Zibo City. 2,777 male and female prisoners (also called ‘Shandong Shengjian Basan (83) Factory’).

¹ Users should be aware that [Wikipedia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia) is a Web-based free-content encyclopaedia which is written collaboratively by volunteers. Country Research recommends that users of Wikipedia familiarise themselves with the regulatory practices which Wikipedia employs as a preventative measure against vandalism, bias and inaccuracy. For more information, see the recommended background reading available in the Wikipedia Topical Information Package.

- Provincial No. 2 RTL – located in Wangcun District, Zibo City. Holds Falun Gong practitioners.
- Provincial No. 2 Women’s RTL – located in Wangcun Town, Zhoucun, Zibo City. Holds female Falun Gong practitioners.
- Zibo RTL – located in Qiugucun, Boshan District, Zibo City. 500 prisoners (also called “Boshan Tool Factory”).
- Zibo Prison – located at 1 Kunlun Road, Zibo City. 767 prisoners including local Falun gong practitioners (also called “Zibo Shengjian Machine Plant”).
- Hutian LRD (Labour Reform Detachment) – located in Hutian Town, Zhangdian District, Zibo City. 700 prisoners.
- Luzhong Prison (鲁中监狱) – Located in Hutian Town, Zhangdian District, Zibo City, only 5 km from downtown Zibo. 1,000-3,000 prisoners (also called “Shandong Maohua Silicon Limited Company” or “Shandong Lineng Cement Limited Company”).
- Provincial JOD (Juvenile Offender Detachment)- located in Wangcun Town, Zibo City.

(The Laogai Research Foundation 2006, *Laogai Handbook 2005-2006*, October, pp.298-300, 311, 315-9 – Attachment 10; Laogai Research Foundation undated, ‘Shandong Province’, *Laogai Handbook* (online version), <http://www.laogai.org/hdbook/shandong.htm> – Accessed 27 April 2007 – Attachment 11).

Many Falun Gong reports mention that Falun Gong practitioners are held in labour camps in Zibo. The following reports give details of the camps and the treatment of Falun Gong practitioners held there:

- ‘The Crimes Committed in Wangcun Forced Labour Camp in Zibo City, Shandong Province’ 2007, Clearharmony.net, 21 April
<http://www.clearharmony.net/articles/200704/39055.html> – Accessed 27 April 2007 – Attachment 12;
- ‘Seven Electric Batons Used to Shock One Practitioner in the Zibo Forced Labour Camp’ 2006, Clearharmony.net, 9 September
<http://www.clearharmony.net/articles/200609/35309.html> – Accessed 27 April 2007 – Attachment 13.
- ‘Over 260 Falun Gong Practitioners Imprisoned at Wangcun Forced Labour Camp in Shandong Province’ 2007, Clearharmony.net, 14 April
<http://www.clearharmony.net/articles/200704/38942.html> – Accessed 27 April 2007 Attachment 14.
- ‘Workplaces that Persecute Falun Gong Practitioners in Zichuan District, Zibo City, Shandong Province’ 2002, Clearharmony.net, 6 March

3. Information on the usual length of incarceration for Falun Gong practitioners.

As noted in question 1, many protesters were detained following their protests in Tiananmen Square, but most reports do not mention the length of detention. (Periods of detention can either be awarded formally by a court or less formally by “administrative detention” – in both cases the sentence is often not usually announced publicly).

Other cases reported by Falun Gong sources indicate that detention for periods of several months or even years are common.

In August 2000, the Falun Gong issued a list of 500 practitioners sentenced to between one and three years in labour camps (‘A Partial List of Falun Gong Practitioners Sentenced to Labor Camps’ in Zhou, Shiyu et al. 2000, *A report on the extensive and severe human rights violations in the suppression of Falun Gong in the People’s Republic of China*, August, pp.7-15 – Attachment 16). The same report lists a variety of punishments for protesting in Tiananmen Square, though the vast majority of reports indicate only that the people were detained with no further details:

- Hui Yan was sentenced to **one and a half years of forced labor** for unfurling banner at Tiananmen Square in mid-July 2000. (Report no 6.7, p.155)
- Hou Liwei was detained in Chaoyang District Detention Center on April 23 after attempting to unfurl a Falun Dafa banner in Tiananmen Square with 5 other practitioners. On May 30 2000, she received a notice of **one year forced labor** that had been issued on May 18, 2000, for refusing to write a “repentance” pledge. On June 6, she was transferred to Tuanhe Labor Camp. (Report no 6.52, p.168)
- Three female practitioners who went to Tiananmen Square to display Falun Dafa banners were **detained for one month** after returning to Shanghai City. Their current situation is not known. (Report no 6.66, p.171)
- Wang Yuqing was arrested in the Tiananmen Square. During her detention in Beijing, she was beaten by police. Seven days later, she was escorted back to Guangzhou City by police and given criminal detention. Nobody was allowed to visit her. After one and half months of detention, she was sent without trial to a **labor camp for two years** of forced labor “education”. (Report no 6.100, p.180)
- Ma Yan was illegally **detained for one month** for unfurling a Falun Gong banner at the Tiananmen Square. (Report no 87, p.212)
- Qiu Shuqin was **detained for one month** for unfurling a Falun Gong banner at Tiananmen Square. (Report no 8.8, p.212)
- Zhang Zhigang was **detained for one month** for unfurling a Falun Gong banner at Tiananmen Square on April 25. (Report no 8.18, p.21)
- Zhang Shuying, 35, a practitioner from the Dongcheng District of Beijing, got detained in the Dongcheng District Detention Center for unfurling a Falun Dafa

banner in Tiananmen Square on April 13 and was sentenced to **one year of forced-labor**. (Report no 10.1.8, p.233)

Many similar and more recent examples are posted on the Falun Gong websites such as www.clearwisdom.net, <http://www.clearharmony.net> and <http://www.faluninfo.net>.

4. Question deleted.

Sources Consulted

Internet Sources:

Falun Gong websites such as www.clearwisdom.net, <http://www.clearharmony.net> and <http://www.faluninfo.net>.

Government Information & Reports

Immigration & Refugee Board of Canada <http://www.irb.gc.ca/>

US Department of State <http://www.state.gov/>

Non-Government Organisations

Amnesty International website <http://www.amnesty.org/>

Human Rights Watch <http://www.hrw.org/>

International News & Politics

Search Engines

Google search engine <http://www.google.com.au/>

Databases:

FACTIVA (news database)

BACIS (DIMA Country Information database)

REFINFO (IRBDC (Canada) Country Information database)

ISYS (RRT Country Research database, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, US Department of State Reports)

RRT Library Catalogue

List of Attachments

1. 'Tiananmen: Court of Last Resort: A Special Report Examining the Role of Tiananmen Square in the Persecution of the Falun Gong' 2001, Falun Dafa Information Center, May <http://www.faluninfo.net/tiananmen/index.asp> – Accessed 24 April 2007
2. 'Tiananmen: Court of Last Resort: In the Eyes of Western Media: Falun Gong on Tiananmen Square' 2001, Falun Dafa Information Center, May http://www.faluninfo.net/tiananmen/western_media.asp – Accessed 24 April 2007
3. 'China admits growing Falungong protests but vows to crush movement ATTENTION – ADDS Frank Lu quotes' 2001, Agence France-Presse, 5 January (Factiva).
4. 'Tiananmen: Court of Last Resort: Tiananmen Timeline: A History of Events on the Square (2001)' 2001, Falun Dafa Information Center, May <http://www.faluninfo.net/tiananmen/timeline.asp> – Accessed 24 April 2007

5. 'Photo report: Practitioners Continually Went to Tiananmen Square to Validate Dafa On the Two-year Anniversary of 7.20' 2001, Clearwisdom.net, 29 July
<http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2001/7/29/12618.html> – Accessed 26 April 2007
6. 'RSF says foreign journalists still persecuted for covering Falun Gong' 2001, *BBC Monitoring* (Source: Reporters Sans Frontieres press release), 4 December (Factiva)
7. 'A Practitioner from Weifang, Shandong Is Beaten to Death by Beijing Police' 2002, Clearwisdom.net, 21 January
<http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2002/1/21/17972.html> – Accessed 27 April 2007
8. 'Zibo' 2007, Wikipedia, updated <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zibo> – Accessed 23 April 2007
9. 'Zibo' map from *Microsoft Encarta Interactive World Atlas 2000* (CD ROM)
10. The Laogai Research Foundation 2006, *Laogai Handbook 2005-2006*, October, pp.298-300, 311, 315-9
11. Laogai Research Foundation undated, 'Shandong Province', *Laogai Handbook* (online version), <http://www.laogai.org/hdbook/shandong.htm> – Accessed 27 April 2007
12. 'The Crimes Committed in Wangcun Forced Labour Camp in Zibo City, Shandong Province' 2007, Clearharmony.net, 21 April
<http://www.clearharmony.net/articles/200704/39055.html> – Accessed 27 April 2007
13. 'Seven Electric Batons Used to Shock One Practitioner in the Zibo Forced Labour Camp' 2006, Clearharmony.net, 9 September
<http://www.clearharmony.net/articles/200609/35309.html> – Accessed 27 April 2007
14. 'Over 260 Falun Gong Practitioners Imprisoned at Wangcun Forced Labour Camp in Shandong Province' 2007, Clearharmony.net, 14 April
<http://www.clearharmony.net/articles/200704/38942.html> – Accessed 27 April 2007
15. 'Workplaces that Persecute Falun Gong Practitioners in Zichuan District, Zibo City, Shandong Province' 2002, Clearharmony.net, 6 March
<http://www.clearharmony.net/articles/200203/3426.html> – Accessed 27 April 2007
16. Zhou, Shiyu et al. 2000, *A report on the extensive and severe human rights violations in the suppression of Falun Gong in the People's Republic of China*, August, pp.7-15, 155, 168, 171, 180, 212-4, 233
17. Attachment deleted.