

State Terrorism in China

As Falun Gong's popularity grew, so did the unfounded suspicions and fears of China's president. When the number of practitioners exceeded the membership of the Communist Party, he declared Falun Gong illegal nationwide on July 20, 1999. The persecution escalated to unimaginable levels of brutality as practitioners refused to renounce their belief in the practice that had so enriched their lives.

In August 2001, the International Education Development Bureau issued a statement that condemned the persecution of Falun Gong, calling it "state terrorism." The Bureau asked the UN Subcommission for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, and the international community, to stop such terrorist behavior:

"In our investigation, the only deaths have been at the hands of the Chinese authorities; families have been broken up because family members have been killed by the regime; people have been broken down, not by Falun Gong, but by extreme torture, incarceration in mental hospitals with brutal treatment, hard labour in labour camps and other such practices. As was reported in the International Herald Tribune on August 6, 2001, the regime admits that it has officially sanctioned violence against practitioners in order to wipe out Falun Gong...."

The persecution of Falun Gong practitioners in China is indeed systematic state terrorism. Its implementation is organized by the "610" Office, established on June 10, 1999, specifically for this purpose. The 610 Office, headed by Luo Gan, who reports directly to President Jiang Zemin, is like the Gestapo of Hitler's Nazi regime. It is independent from any other bodies of government and has absolute power. All orders to frame, slander, and persecute Falun Gong come from the 610 Office. Statements like "Complete elimination within three months," and orders such as "Defame them, destroy them financially, and eliminate them physically," originate from the 610 Office. The 610 Office directives "All murders are counted as suicides" and "If murdered, do not identify the victim, cremate the body immediately" are in effect throughout the country.

As of June 30, 2002, according to incomplete statistics, 429 Falun Gong practitioners have been tortured to death. Sources indicate, however, that the real number of casualties is over 1,600. Over 500 have been illegally sentenced to prison terms, 1,000 forcibly held in mental hospitals, 20,000 sent to labor camps without due process, 100,000 detained. Countless practitioners have lost their families, jobs, and homes. Relatives, friends, classmates, and colleagues have been implicated and punished for their association with Falun Gong practitioners. The pictures included in this book are only partial witness to the terrorist activities carried out against Falun Gong. We hope that through these candid pictures, the conscience of human society can be awakened.

Systematic Persecution

Under the Jiang regime, many kind people who believe in Truth, Compassion, and Tolerance have been abused and beaten to death. Some were burned alive in Beijing, Huaian, and Hubei Province. Some were tied to motorcycles and dragged to their death, as happened in Hubei Province. Others were thrown to their death from high buildings, as in Liaoning and Shandong Provinces. Even infants, the handicapped, and senior practitioners are not spared from this torture. In June 2001, two mass killings occurred in Heilongjiang Province, where 25 practitioners were killed within two days. Death reports are received daily. So that no evidence is left behind, the bodies are immediately cremated. There were reports of three unconscious practitioners cremated while still alive.

Ever since July 1999, mental hospitals in China have participated in the persecution of Falun Gong practitioners. Every day, practitioners are forced to take or are forcibly injected with large doses of drugs that are harmful to the nervous system. In addition, they are subjected to electric shocks to destroy their minds and cause excruciating pain.

Persecutors of Falun Gong use the most barbaric and horrific torture methods known to human civilization. An incomplete report shows over 100 methods being used to torture and abuse Falun Gong practitioners, including:

- Raping, gang raping, and throwing stripped female practitioners into male prison cells.
- Using electric batons to shock practitioners' sensitive body parts.
- Imprisoning practitioners in a "Water Cell" where they are immersed in dirty water up to their necks, and no light is allowed in.
- Force-feeding highly concentrated liquid pepper and saline solutions to practitioners.
- Injecting large doses of drugs into practitioners to damage their central nervous systems.
- Exposing practitioners to bites from mosquitoes, poisonous snakes, and scorpions.
- Tying practitioners to a small iron bench approximately 20 cm. (6 in.) high. They are not allowed to turn their head, close their eyes, or talk.
- Stretching and tying practitioners' limbs to the four corners of a metal bed so they cannot move.
- Poking practitioners' fingers and breasts with sharp bamboo sticks.
- Parading practitioners through the streets to humiliate them in public.