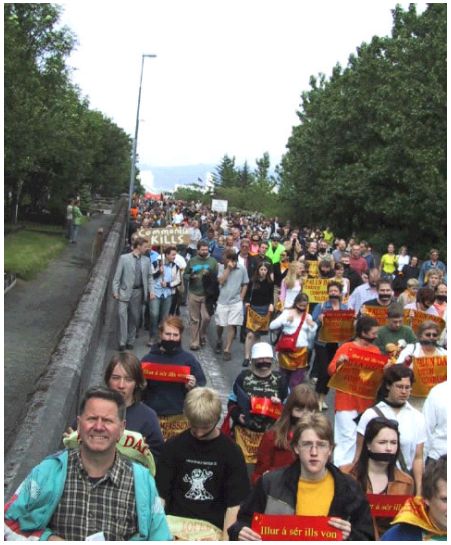
Peaceful Practitioners Blacklisted in Iceland



3,000 Icelandic citizens protest against Jiang.

In June 2002, Jiang Zemin visited Iceland. Fearing that his human rights atrocities would be exposed, he supplied the Icelandic government with a blacklist and pressured the officials to keep Falun Gong practitioners from entering the country. As a result, almost 70 practitioners were detained at the airport when they arrived in Iceland. Around 30 Americans were stopped in Paris; over 50 Europeans were blocked in London, Helsinki, Copenhagen, Frankfurt, and other major airports; and more than 40 practitioners were blocked in New York, Baltimore, Boston, Toronto, and other cities throughout the U. S. and Canada. The citizens of Iceland were outraged by this unprecedented behavior. They strongly condemned the treatment that Falun Gong practitioners received; thousands turned up to protest the ban. Many of them showed their support by holding up homemade signs and banners wherever Jiang appeared. When Icelandic officials learned the truth about Falun Gong and about the persecution, they lifted the ban and released the detained practitioners. The Icelandic people embraced Falun Gong and welcomed practitioners into their country, saying "We support you with all our hearts."

Icelandic people apologized to Falun Gong practitioners in the local newspaper. They expressed regret for their government's actions.

Icelanders seal their mouths with strips of black cloth in sympathy with Falun Gong practitioners barred from entering the country—a silent protest against Jiang's violation of the right to freedom of speech.

Practitioners clarify the truth to the police chief during their 18-hour detention in a school.

Iceland's airline was instructed to keep Falun Gong practitioners from boarding flights. Above: practitioners sit quietly in protest at the Paris airport.