

PSYCHIATRIC ABUSE in CHINA

A newsletter by China Mental Health Watch
A non-profit, non-governmental organization: www.cmhw.org

WPA Investigation Postponed: What Do Chinese Authorities Fear?

After much deliberation and over a year's delay, the WPA's investigation into the ongoing abuse of psychiatry in China was postponed due to lack of cooperation on the part of Chinese authorities. The independent investigation was scheduled to take place by April 4, 2004.

CMHW believes that after nearly five years of systematically persecuting Falun Gong practitioners by using psychiatric hospitals and staff, Chinese authorities are afraid that people might expose the truth about what is really happening in these facilities. As in the case of SARS, the government knew about the epidemic but chose to withhold information from the international community rather than issue warnings and ask for help. Authorities reported a few cases at a time so as to imply sincere cooperation with international media. This policy continued from the advent of the disease (reportedly November 2002) until April 2003 when a courageous surgeon, Jiang Yanyong, contacted *Time* magazine for an exclusive interview in which he exposed Beijing's coverup of the SARS crisis.

It is well known that with the exception of foreign companies, there are no independent associations in China. The Party has absolute control over all levels of society. Those who head the Chinese Psychiatric Association as well as other medical associations hold their positions at the will of the Party chiefs. It is also known that once the Party adopts a policy, everyone in China is required to show enthusiastic support for that policy; dissenting opinions are not allowed. Given this social organization, the profession of psychiatry is

required to serve the Party's political goals. The individual psychiatrist has no resources for taking a stand outside the Party's control, and failure to do the Party's bidding results in sanctions that may range from losing a promotion to summary execution.

Therefore, the abuse of psychiatry in China is not an aberration and is not due to misunderstanding, a failure of education, or a lack of psychiatrists. Psychiatric abuse is the explicit goal of government policies. If this fact is not understood, any attempt to respond to such abuse is doomed to be misguided and might even prove harmful. We must understand the tremendous pressure on China's psychiatrists; however, it does not provide an excuse for some to engage in or cover up abuse. Abuse of psychiatry forces the WPA to face issues of the gravest character, issues that threaten the very integrity of the psychiatric profession itself and the basic ethical values of doctors as individuals.

The fact that the WPA could not carry out an investigation as planned clearly indicates the Chinese government's position regarding psychiatric abuse. Despite the nationwide, systematic persecution that began five years ago, the Chinese government has been unable to "eliminate" (as ordered by the government) Falun Gong and people continue to practice in China. This fact could indeed make the government feel threatened, as not only practitioners but also their families and friends may be willing to speak the truth about Falun Gong. It is therefore understandable why the regime continues to prohibit inspections of this sort.

Overview of Psychiatric Abuse in China

For the past five years, China's communist regime has conducted a systematic persecution of Falun Gong practitioners per order of the former head of state and current head of the military, Jiang Zemin, to "eradicate Falun Gong by any means." It is a sad truth that many mental health hospitals in China can now be listed along with state prisons and forced-labor camps as government facilities for persecution and torture.

Under orders from police, mental health personnel torture mentally healthy detainees with high dosages of antipsychotic medications, high-voltage electric shocks, and other horrific methods in order to carry out the regime's campaign of genocide against Falun Gong.

- Well over 1,000 normal healthy Falun Gong practitioners have been incarcerated and abused in mental hospitals.
- At least 110 psychiatric institutions have engaged in psychiatric abuse and malpractice. Among them are several "Ankang" hospitals (psychiatric hospitals) owned and administered by the Ministry of Public Security.
- Over 100,000 have been illegally sent to forced-labor camps.
- More than 500 have been sentenced to prison terms of up to 18 years. They are frequently denied adequate food and medical attention and subjected to physical as well as mental abuse, and brainwashing.
- Over 100,000 have been illegally arrested, detained, and sent to brainwashing sessions. Their families have been broken apart, and their friends, neighbors, colleagues, and co-workers implicated by association.
- At least 955 deaths resulting from police brutality, beating, and torture have been confirmed as of April 25, 2004, with sources inside China disclosing numbers exceeding 2,000. It has also been confirmed that at least 12 of the deaths were directly caused by psychiatric abuse.

Lawsuits Filed Worldwide Against Jiang

In more than a dozen countries around the world, both civil and criminal lawsuits have been filed against former Chinese leader Jiang Zemin and several other senior Chinese officials known to be the primary instigators of the persecution of Falun Gong in China. The lawsuits charge Jiang and his supporters with torture, genocide, and crimes against humanity.

Despite a string of early victories for Falun Gong in cases filed in the United States, subsequent lawsuits have met with fierce interference and pressure from Chinese officials in an effort to have them dismissed.

Along the way, a number of world-renown human rights lawyers have taken on Falun Gong-related cases in their respective countries. Mr. Georges-Henri Beauthier, best known for his role in bringing charges against former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet as well as bringing the first successful case under Belgium's human rights laws against two individuals for their roles in the Rwandan genocide of 1994, has filed cases in both Belgium and France on behalf of Falun Gong practitioners. The German lawyer Mr. Wolfgang Kaleck, who first gained notoriety for successfully representing German victims of former Argentine President Jorge Videla who was charged with the torture and killing of thousands during his rule in the late 1970s and early 1980s, filed a lawsuit on behalf of Falun Gong practitioners with the German Supreme Court against Jiang Zemin and other Chinese leaders on charges of genocide and crimes against humanity. In the U.S., lawyers for the Center for Justice and Accountability as well as Morton Sklar, who is the Executive Director of the World Organization for Human Rights USA, have filed numerous lawsuits—and in three cases received victorious judgments—on behalf of Falun Gong practitioners.

Perhaps the most significant of the legal cases is a class-action lawsuit filed in Chicago in 2002, charging Jiang Zemin and the "6-10 Office" —a Gestapo-like agency established by Jiang specifically to "eradicate Falun Gong" —with torture, genocide and crimes against humanity. In September 2003, the District Court judge dismissed the case on jurisdictional grounds, indicating Jiang enjoys immunity and cannot be tried for genocide and torture in U.S. Courts. Falun Gong practitioners' lead attorney, Dr. Terri Marsh, says that the decision contradicts case law in the U.S. and ignores international treaty law and customary international law that stipulates heads-of-state and former heads-of-state may not enjoy immunity with respect to crimes against humanity.

The case is currently on appeal with the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals. For more details, please visit

<http://www.faluninfo.net> and <http://www.flgjustice.org>.

WOIPFG Confirms Abuse of Psychiatry in China

In 2004, the World Organization to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong (WOIPFG) has confirmed the involuntary admission of Falun Gong practitioners to psychiatric hospitals in China. (Some of those hospitals are mentioned in this newsletter.) The majority of practitioners were forcibly admitted as a result of having been brought to the hospitals by Public Security officers. There are a few instances in which the practitioners' family members had them committed.

The preliminary results of WOIPFG's ongoing investigation indicate that practitioners are deemed mentally ill because they practice Falun Gong, as this is considered a crime, and their persistence in practicing despite being persecuted is seen as abnormal behavior. Some hospitals reported having admitted many Falun Gong practitioners in the past, and some hospitals have acknowledged having a few practitioners even at the present time (April 2004). Hospitals have also reported that psychiatric medications and a variety of other methods were used to "treat" practitioners.

Confirmed: 15 Doctors and Healthcare Workers Tortured to Death

As of April 2004, at least fifteen physicians and healthcare workers have been tortured to death in Chinese forced-labor camps: Ma Zhanmei (50, Hebei), Nan Chuyin (53, Hubei), Zhou Yurong (39, Xinjiang), Liu Haibo (34, Jilin), Piao Shigao (60+, Jilin), Dong Cuifan (29, Beijing), Li Huiwen (32, Sanxi), Xiang Xulin (56, Hunan), Zhang Yunyi (30+, Beijing), Sun Lianxia (Liaoning), Zhu Zongxia (51), Li Shumin (30+ Tianjin), Dai Chunhua (33, Jilin), Guo Xiumei (45, Henan), and Yu Shuqin (Helunjiang).

Dr. Ma Zhanmei, a physician in her 50s and a native of Laiyuan, Hebei Province, died in May 2003 at the Baoding Forced Labor Camp in Hebei Province as a result of being force-fed by the head of the female squad, Li Xiuqin; the instructor, Yan Qingfen; the guards, Zhang Guohong and Wuwen; and the labor camp doctor, Du.

In the camp, Dr. Ma went on frequent hunger strikes to protest her illegal detention and torture. On April 23, 2003, the eighth day of her hunger strike, the police started to force-feed her. They used a cruel method developed by the camp's doctor, Du, to feed her. Dr. Du's force-feeding method entailed having the police cuff the practitioner to a chair, pull her head back, and press her body down. Then they would firmly squeeze the victim's nose, pry open her mouth with a knife, and put a tube into the mouth. The victim's mouth would be filled with blood. The obvious intent was not to feed but to suffocate the practitioner, since the food would stick in the mouth and could not reach the stomach. According to practitioners who were tortured this way, they were in so much pain

that they wanted to die. Waiting until the practitioner had no strength to struggle and her heart had almost stopped beating, Du would firmly press on and release the practitioner's chest several times to let the food drop down the throat. Du would repeat this process six or seven times. Due to the lack of oxygen, the victim might develop heart failure. Du would ask, "How do you feel? We will continue again tomorrow."

One day in May, after being tortured this way through force-feeding, Dr. Ma rolled on the ground in pain and died. Her face and body were so distorted that her family members could not recognize her. They could only identify her by a scar on her face. The camp refused to let the family bring her body back home and cremated her instead. Afterwards, the camp strictly blocked all news regarding Dr. Ma's death. An attorney told the family that government orders said lawyers could not defend Falun Gong practitioners. A female practitioner, Liu Junge, who witnessed how Dr. Ma was tortured to death disappeared and her whereabouts are still unknown.

U.S. Citizen Charles Lee, MD, Mistreated in Chinese Prison

Dr. Charles Lee, an alumnus of the University of Illinois, was arrested in China on January 22, 2003. Regime officials charged Lee with intending to interrupt state-run television broadcasts. The latest news from China reports that Dr. Lee has been subjected to brainwashing sessions along with physical abuse, as indicated by visible bruises.

In a mock trial two months after his arrest, Dr. Lee was sentenced to three years in prison. A U.S. consular official has been allowed to visit him for only 30 minutes a month. Lee told the consular official that he was being treated like a political prisoner just because he practices Falun Gong. Dr. Lee was forced to read assigned books and watch video programs that slandered Falun Gong. He was also forced to attend "transformation classes."

In its recent human rights report, the U.S. State Department emphasized that China's criminal procedures were "not in compliance with international standards" and that the "lack of due process in the judicial system remained a serious problem." China's constitution provides for an independent judiciary system; however, as the U.S. State Department documents, "in practice the Government and the CCP, at both the central and local levels, frequently interfered in the judicial process and directed verdicts in many high-profile cases."



Psychiatric Facilities Used in Forcing Victims to Renounce Beliefs

Abuse of psychiatry is not only practiced in mental hospitals but is prevalent in labor camps as well. Forced-labor camp authorities frequently resort to drugs, brainwashing, and ECT in cases where Falun Gong practitioners are able to endure the tortures inflicted on them in the camps such as beatings, inhuman work conditions, and deprivation of food and sleep. These practitioners are often isolated, refused visitation rights, and usually hidden from visitors to the labor camps. Practitioners who still refuse to renounce their beliefs are then often sent to mental hospitals for further persecution.

Yang Baochun, a resident of Handan City in Hebei Province, first went to Beijing to appeal for Falun Gong in August 1999. Following his arrest, the authorities in the Fifth Team at the local Handan Labor Camp tortured him savagely in an effort to force him to renounce his belief in Falun Gong. He was injured so severely that his legs had to be amputated. Over the course of the last two years, since he continued to refuse to give up his belief in Falun Gong, he was sent repeatedly to the Ankang Mental Hospital to be persecuted further. During that period while out on bail, Yang decided to set out for Beijing in order to appeal to the government for the just treatment of Falun Gong. Powered by his faith and a sense of justice, he traveled dozens of kilometers, moving with the use of his two hands since his legs have been amputated. The following account is his heroic story:

Yang, in his thirties, was a worker in a textile manufacturing factory. As the Jiang Zemin regime was attempting to eradicate Falun Gong, he went to Beijing in August 1999 to appeal and explain the facts of Falun Gong. He was arrested by the Beijing police and sent back to Handan City where he was illegally detained in the Handan Administration Detention

Brainwashing in China

The term "brainwashing" has historically been used to describe a process by which an individual is intentionally and intensely bombarded with information and experiences that will result in a complete reversal of the individual's previous, strongly held thoughts or beliefs. Although current research has shown that such effects are temporary and that the actual change process is much more complex, the term "brainwashing" will be used throughout this newsletter to refer to the specific physical and psychological torture methods employed by Chinese authorities in an effort to "re-educate," "transform," or "change the minds" of Falun Gong practitioners so that they renounce their beliefs.

As a form of torture, brainwashing is the infliction of physical and mental torture with the intent to produce confusion and instability of the mind. Such practices entail one or more of the following: intimidation, threats of terror, forced repetition of detailed information, bribery, and deprivation of sleep and food. These tactics are sometimes combined with the use of loud, high-pitched sounds for long periods of time. In addition, many other physical forms of torture such as beating, electrocution, and rape are used to facilitate brainwashing Falun Gong practitioners.

For more details, please visit
<http://www.cmh.org>.

What Is Falun Gong?

Falun Gong, also known as Falun Dafa, is an ancient practice for the mind and the body. Through a combination of studying texts, performing exercises, meditating, and following the principles of Truthfulness, Compassion, and Forbearance, practitioners strive to become better persons.

Falun Gong has roots in traditional Chinese culture. It was taught in private for thousands of years before being made public in 1992 by Mr. Li Hongzhi. Millions of people all over the world have chosen to make the practice of Falun Dafa a part of their daily lives. In 1998, health surveys of 30,000 practitioners in China showed a 60% rate of complete recovery from chronic illness. Many people also stopped abusing drugs and alcohol after embracing the practice.

This practice has not always been the object of enmity of the Chinese government. In 1993, at the Oriental Health Expo in Beijing, Falun Gong was recognized as the "Star Qigong School" and Mr. Li Hongzhi received the award for "Advancing Frontier Science" and for "Qigong Master Most Acclaimed by the Masses." Mr. Li Hongzhi was also awarded the "Honor Certificate Conferred by a Foundation Under the Ministry of Public Security of China" in December 1993. Additionally, the Ministry of Public Security had published a newspaper report in September 1993, and a thank-you letter had been issued by the foundation under the same ministry in August 1993. The practice quickly spread by word of mouth throughout China, and is now practiced in more than 60 countries. Recognized for his contributions, Mr. Li has been nominated for the Nobel Peace prize three times since 2000.

Feeling threatened by the practice's quickly growing popularity, Jiang Zemin initiated a campaign in July 1999 to completely eliminate Falun Gong from China. Since people did not want to give up the practice and have been resisting through peaceful and legal channels, the persecution has continued to escalate in scope and intensity.

For more information about the practice, visit <http://www.falundafa.org>, and for information about the persecution, please visit <http://www.faluninfo.net>.

Psychiatric Facilities Used in Forcing Victims to Renounce Beliefs (Continued)

Center on September 19, 1999. During his detention, he continued to explain about Falun Gong to the guards and criminals there. He continued practicing the exercises and recited *Hong Yin*, a book of Falun Gong poems. The guards threatened him, attempting to force him to give up his practice, but he still persisted. He was held for one month in the detention center without the benefit of any legal procedure.

Yang continued practicing the exercises and studying the teachings that are central to Falun Gong. On October 19, 1999, he was summarily arrested and detained in Handan's First Detention Center for one month without being charged. **On November 19, 1999, he was sentenced without trial to two years of forced labor in the Fifth Team of the Handan Labor Camp.** The team leader of the Fifth Team was a man named Wang Feng.

While in the labor camp, Yang Baochun continued to inform the police and inmates of the truth about the persecution of Falun Gong. He often wrote letters to the police department, the labor camp, and other officials in which he explained the positive changes he experienced in his body and spirit since he began practicing Falun Gong. He did not receive any official response to his appeal letters. Without any avenues left to appeal his illegal detention and persecution at the camp, Yang Baochun began a hunger strike in March 2000 to protest the persecution. He resisted his detention by persisting in practicing the Falun Gong exercises.

After Yang had been on a hunger strike for three days, team leader Wang Feng ordered Yang to appear at the Team Office where another Falun Gong practitioner, Qin Jianxue, was being tortured for going on a hunger strike. Team leader Wang pointed to Qin Jianxue and said to Yang, "If you don't want to write the guarantee statement [to renounce belief in Falun Gong] and if you continue to go on a hunger strike, you end up the same as him." Yang Baochun said, "There is nothing wrong with my practice of Falun Dafa. I insist on protesting the persecution against me." Before he finished speaking, a group of approximately eight men jumped on him, pulled off his trousers, and cruelly beat him with rubber batons for a long time. He was so badly beaten and bruised that his skin turned color.

Yang Baochun did not renounce his belief and continued his hunger strike. Thus, team leader Wang Feng ordered that Yang be tortured and hung up using an excruciating method known as "tying ropes" in which victims are suspended by ropes tied to their arms. Yang was in extreme pain but would not go against his conscience and renounce his belief in Falun Dafa. After that, Wang cuffed Yang Baochun and Qin Jianxue to a big tree. Mr. Yang continued his hunger strike. The police and inmates, a group of more than 20 persons, held Yang down and force-fed him with a thick mixture of corn gruel that contained a high quantity of salt, causing severe abdominal pain and vomiting. In the meantime, team leader Wang directed the group of inmates to use leather belts, leather shoes, batons, wooden stools, and other objects to beat Yang and Qin. After enduring this vicious beating, Yang and Qin's heads and faces were swollen so severely that they could barely open their eyes. Yang Baochun went on another hunger strike for more than 20 days. Yang went on a hunger strike on two other occasions. Each time the police pried open his mouth with pliers and force-fed him.

Whenever Yang Baochun and Qin Jianxue started practicing the Falun Gong exercises, the guards would shackle them to either a tree or to the bed, and then beat them with rubber batons. The appeal letters they wrote to expose the police's crimes never made it to the higher authorities since Wang Feng tore them up. Yang's hand was often handcuffed to the head of one bed while the other arm was forcibly stretched out and cuffed to the head of another bed. He would be cuffed like this for one day and one night. He once wrote a letter to com-

plain about the police atrocities being committed against him. Wang Feng discovered the note and had dozens of inmates surround Yang and beat him with rubber batons, electric batons, and kick him. The beating and torture lasted for more than half an hour, resulting in wounds covering his entire body.

When visitors came to the labor camp, the policemen led by Wang Feng would hide Yang Baochun and other firm Falun Gong practitioners away from the visitors. Because Yang was often brutally tortured with various torture devices, his face and body had become unrecognizable. For fear that his injuries would expose their cruel persecution of him, the police didn't allow his family to visit for a long time.

Yang Baochun was transferred to the Handan Labor Camp New Arrival Education Team around October 2000, where he continued to practice Falun Gong exercises and was often beaten by the police and inmates. However, his firm determination was never shaken and he kept on practicing. The left side of his chest still bears a scar that is about 10 cm long (4 inches long) as well as other multiple scars which are still visible today.

In late 2000, the police's torture tactics focused on Yang's legs, which eventually resulted in severe injuries that required the amputation of both legs. In the winter, the temperature at night could reach -15 to -16 degrees C [3 degrees F]. In order to prevent Yang from practicing the Falun Gong exercises, the police confiscated all his clothes and threw his cotton shoes onto the roof. As a result, he could only wear thin clothes suitable for the autumn climate and walk around in his bare feet. However, in spite of these measures he still practiced the exercises. The police poured ice water over his head and soaked him. Due to this brutal abuse for such an extended period of time, his health deteriorated and his legs sustained frostbite from the ice water. The police, without consulting any medics, then forced his legs into hot water. This further exacerbated his injured legs. The police also tore off his thin clothes and wrapped him with a blanket while several people sat on him so that he was unable to move.

The injuries to Yang Baochun's legs got worse. Due to the severe frostbite and lack of proper medical treatment, his legs began to fester and gangrene set in. Yang lost the feeling in his legs. At that time, he was emaciated from the hunger strikes and his life was in danger. His white blood cell count went down below a safe level. In order to evade responsibility for his physical condition, the labor camp released him on medical bail in order to undergo amputation at a hospital affiliated with the Handan Textile Bureau. Notice of his critical condition was sent to his family. The doctor's diagnosis was that Yang would die if amputation was not performed within three days. So his family had to agree to the surgery.

Within ten days after the surgery, when he was still in an extremely weak condition, people from the Handan "610 Office" and from the labor camp, together with people from the textile factory, fabricated a claim that Yang suffered from a mental illness. So, on February 26, 2001, these authorities conspired to send Yang Baochun to Handan City's Ankang Mental Hospital where he was persecuted further.

During his time in the Ankang Hospital, Yang Baochun could not walk. He had to use his hands for support and dragged himself forward little by little, only supported on his hands. All he had on his mind was how to break out of the mental hospital to appeal on behalf of Falun Gong in Beijing. The doctor urged several mental patients to drag him back. They lifted him up and dropped him heavily onto the floor. Yang ignored the pain and continued to attempt to leave the mental hospital, moving inch by inch. He was again dragged back, lifted up, and dropped onto the floor. This procedure was repeated several times. Later, a doctor tied him to the bed and administered ECT. It made him convulse and

caused him extreme pain.

After more than two years of torture at this mental hospital, Yang Baochun still stood firm, and kept practicing Falun Gong. The doctors put drugs in his food that were harmful to his central nervous system and tricked him into ingesting them. After eating, the drugs made Yang salivate profusely, tremble, and feel as though he had no strength in his body. He became mentally disoriented and he moved slowly like an old man. He eventually discovered that his symptoms were due to the drugs that the doctor had secretly put in his food. Yang strongly protested to the hospital several times. They finally stopped using these harmful drugs, and Yang slowly began to show signs of recovery.

Around 3:00 p.m. on December 28, 2001, Yang Baochun was released and returned to his home. About 1:00 a.m. on December 29, he set off from his home, using his hands to drag himself along, toward Beijing to appeal once again for Falun Gong. His hands and buttocks became bloody from dragging himself, leaving a big scar. By 6:00 a.m., he had only moved a dozen miles. Unfortunately, authorities from the textile factory where he worked came to arrest him. Factory director Bai Dun and Party secretary Zhang Qin decided to send Yang back to the mental hospital.

Yang received notification of his release some time ago, but he has yet to be released.

An Anonymous Victim's Own Account

In February 2002, I was again taken hostage by the Dalian City Public Security "6-10 Office" and transported to a drug rehabilitation center where they told me that I would have to write the so-called "guarantee not to cultivate" statement in order to go home, or face brainwashing classes indefinitely. Practitioners who were taken hostage resolutely refused to write the so-called "guarantee statement" and undertook a unified action to hold a hunger strike. Failing to hold a brainwashing class, they then sent practitioners to various places, including detention centers and mental hospitals. At that point, several people from my work unit came and took me to the **Lushun 215 Military Troops Hospital**, a mental hospital.

After being admitted to the hospital, I was taken to a meeting room on the second floor. The staff momentarily left the room and I couldn't hear what they were talking about, but I felt that something was wrong, so I picked up my clothes and went downstairs. No sooner had I reached the door, than they caught up with me and dragged me backward. They dragged me to the third floor, to Mental Health Ward III. I was stripped of my regular clothes, put in a patient garment and injected with unknown drugs. In a short while, I was no longer myself. I kept hallucinating that my relatives were standing around my bed. I wanted to tell them how I was being persecuted, but I could not move my mouth to utter a word.

I felt dizzy and drowsy for the entire day. The night duty nurse was kind enough to get my home phone number from me, so she could call my family, but I could neither move my mouth nor express myself clearly. My legs would not move freely either. I was barely able to make it to the cafeteria, where I fell on the floor and could not get up. A kind-hearted nurse carried me back to my bed and brought food to me, but I could not use my hands very well, nor could I use chopsticks, so I didn't eat. Then I fell asleep again. I didn't know how much time had passed when I was awakened and forced to take some pills. In this manner, I was given one injection a day and forced to take oral medication in the morning and evening. I was dizzy and drowsy every day and was always hallucinating. After a week, I was transferred to a hospital room nearby, where they stopped giving me a daily injection, but they still made me take medicine orally, twice a day. Gradually, I

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Death and Disability Resulting from Psychiatric Abuse

Death Resulting from Psychiatric Abuse

As of April 2004, thirteen deaths caused by psychiatric abuse have been reported. This abuse of psychiatric facilities and medication is part of a systemic political campaign against Falun Gong practitioners carried out by the Chinese communist regime. Due to the extreme measures taken by the government to ensure secrecy and security, information regarding death cases is extremely hard to obtain. However, CMHW has obtained details about several cases that exemplify the extent and severity of the misuse of psychiatry in China.

Tortured to Death:

Su Gang (32, Shandong), Ma Yanfang (Shandong), Yang Weidong (54, Shandong), Yu Lixin (55, Shandong), Shi Bei (49 Zhejiang), Lu Hongfeng (37, Ningxia), Xiao Guiying (Hunan), Zhao Fulan (59, Heilongjiang), Jiang Rongzhen, (42, Heilongjiang), Song Xiangzhen (Liaoning), Ma Xinxing (Shanghai), Tang Xiaocheng (40, Sichuan), Fan Lihong (29, Qinghai)



Lu Hongfeng Ma Yanfang Yu Lixin Ma Xinxing Zhao Fulan Shi Bei

Meng Xiao was a 37-year-old Falun Gong practitioner in Chengdu City, Sichuan Province. After being savagely tortured, force-fed, tied up, and injected with toxic drugs in two mental hospitals, she died sometime between January 8 and January 12, 2004, in Jintang County, Chengdu City.

Meng, a university graduate, was an employee and division head at Chengdu Iron and Steel Works. She began practicing Falun Gong in March 1999. On November 17, 1999, she and other Falun Gong practitioners unfurled a banner that read "Falun Dafa stands in the world forever." Afterwards, Meng Xiao was detained and sentenced to two years in prison. She was severely beaten in Beijing many times; her hands were cuffed behind her back and she was shocked with electric batons. The police grabbed her hair and slammed her head against a wall, and then tied her up.

On April 22, 2000, Meng was sent to Sichuan Province's Female Prison in Yangmahe, Jianyang, during which time she was subjected to long periods of solitary confinement numerous times for doing Falun Gong exercises. The authorities and inmates beat her on countless occasions, and also dragged her down the stairs, shocked her with electric batons, tied her with ropes, threw her outside in the winter with only thin clothes on, and hung her on the window frame with her hands behind her back for several days and nights. After her sentence expired, Chengdu Iron and Steel Works fired her and sent her to a brainwashing class in Tangchang Town, Pi County, where she was tortured until she suffered bone fractures and couldn't stand up. People from her work unit picked her up when she was on the brink of death. They locked her in the security office and then in the company's hospital where they injected her with large doses of drugs.

Some time later, at the Jintang County Detention Center, she went on a hunger strike to protest the persecution. The guards sent her to the **No. 201 Hospital** (a military mental hospital) many times, where she was forcibly injected with toxic drugs. She was injected daily with two doses of **Valium** and one dose of **Thorazine**. After receiving an injection, Meng Xiao would suffer constant body aches, muddle-headedness, and muscle stiffness. Her mind would not become clear again until after two or three days of sleep. As soon as she recovered, she would immediately be sent back to the hospital to suffer the same treatment. Later, after she explained about Falun Gong and the persecution to the doctor, he stopped giving her these toxic injections and the symptoms disappeared. The police then decided to send her to the **No. 1 People's Hospital in Jintang County** for intravenous infusions, after which she lapsed into a coma for two to three days. Upon regaining consciousness, she experienced body aches and vomited, and could not speak clearly.

Meng Xiao's family begged the police to release her, but the police replied, "Only our superior can determine if she can be released. What we say doesn't count." The authorities at the Jintang County Detention Center asked the Chengdu City "6-10 Office" if Meng Xiao was to be released. The response was, "Just let her die at the hospital or detention center. Don't release her!" Jiang Zengyao, head of the detention center, shouted at the detention center personnel, "Meng Xiao won't be able to get out with a hunger strike; if she is going to die, she'll have to die at the detention center or the hospital." After that, each time she was sent to the hospital, numerous police officers would tie her up tightly and give her injections by force. Following each injection, Meng Xiao was seen covered with bruises and deep cuts and blood on her hands and feet. It was also discovered that her ribs were broken from beatings. On January 8, 2004, Meng Xiao was again sent to No. 1 People's Hospital in Jintang County and never returned to the detention center. It was later learned that Meng Xiao was tortured to death at the hospital between January 8 and 12, 2004. Her body, which was covered with bruises, was immediately cremated without her family's knowledge.

Eyewitness Account: Nurse Disabled from Torture in Mental Hospital

The abuse of high doses of typical antipsychotics, Electric Convulsion Therapy (ECT), and prolonged physical restraint for the purpose of forcing people into renouncing their beliefs has caused severe mental and physical disabilities. One such devastating case is that of a 39-year-old nurse who worked at the Health Center for Women and Children in Hunan Province.

He Xianggu started practicing Falun Gong in November 1997. After the persecution began in July 1999, she was detained for fifteen days after going to Beijing in December to appeal. On January 1, 2000, Xianggu was forced to go to **Hunan Mental Hospital** for the first time by her work unit. On August 18, 2000, her work unit arbitrarily opened her locker and found some Falun Gong books. The next day, she was bound and sent to the mental hospital for the second time. The following is an account from an eyewitness who visited Xianggu in November 2000:

When I saw her, my eyes were brimming with tears. Xianggu didn't look like a human being any more, but a serious mentally disabled figure. She stood there with a dull look in her eyes, with no expression on her face. Her back was hunched and her hands placed in front of her abdomen. She did not respond when being spoken to, and she could hardly utter a sentence even after being questioned for a long time. I asked her, "Did your husband come visit you?" She shook her head and finally told me, "Some officials from the Health Center for Women and Children had been here and brought some newspapers. They said I would be treated as a counterrevolutionary if I continued to practice. I was just given a shot a moment ago. Nowadays, I am given this kind of shot twice a month. Even for a [real] mental patient, injection of this drug normally would be once a month." The environment at the Hunan Mental Hospital was very bad. In addition to the double iron gates, the hospital is surrounded by high walls. It was dark and gloomy in the room, often with a

lot of water on the ground. There was some urine and stools from patients on the floor. There was loud crying, yelling, singing, and screaming all day and night. The patients often fought with each other until each was badly hurt and bleeding. It was hard to find a quiet moment. If something was brought in, no matter whether it was food or articles for everyday use, it would all be snatched away by other patients. Personal belongings including clothes were often missing, worn by other patients, or would end up in the trash can or bathroom. Sometimes, you would find that someone put some dirty trash under your quilt, or you would discover a very dirty person lying in your bed, and worse yet, he or she was defecating or urinating. The drug that the Hunan Mental Hospital injected into Falun Gong practitioners was **fluoro-hydroxypiperidine**, a long-term retardant of the nervous system. This is the most potent drug used against schizophrenia, and it is usually used to treat very severe cases of schizophrenia. While injecting the drug, the doctor lied by saying it was used to protect the brain.

The response after this drug has been injected: Within half an hour of the injection, a person starts getting chest pains, like having a heart attack. Due to its long-term effect, as time goes by, the whole body starts to tremble and it becomes hard to stand, sit, or lie down. Arm and leg movement is impaired. Every minute feels unbearable. If one tries to do something to divert attention from this painful feeling, the limbs are too weak to move. Eyesight becomes blurred and one starts slobbering unintentionally. A person often chooses not to speak because it takes a great deal of effort to open the mouth. There is no motivation and one often feels emotionally aggravated. The brain hurts as though a knife is scraping it. One sometimes cries without any reason, and feels very cold as if chilled to the bone. Intelligence drops lower than that of a preschool child, and the person needs assistance even just to walk. It's difficult to raise the feet or move the hands, and the face becomes all distorted and dull.

Elderly Woman Disabled as a Result of Psychiatric Abuse

Hou Jinyuan is 59 years old and was a resident of Baiyanghu Village in Hunan Province. As a Falun Gong practitioner, she was forcibly taken to the Changde City Brainwashing Center on December 24, 2000. As the brainwashing failed, she was sent back to district detention center on March 18, 2001. On January 13, 2002, Hou Jinyuan conducted a hunger strike to resist the illegal, long-term detention. On January 17, 2002, Qin Chunping, who was the Vice Director of the Shimen County "6-10 Office" [an agency specifically created to persecute Falun Gong], took Hou to the **No. 13 division (psychiatric ward) of the People's Hospital in Shimen County** and forcibly injected her with an unknown drug. It was entirely up to Qin Chunping to decide what drug was to be used. That day, Hou Jinyuan was given an intramuscular injection and IV fluid for four hours. After the injection, Hou felt that her forehead and tongue had become numb. When the nurse gave the injection on the third day, she told Hou Jinyuan in a low voice, "Auntie, you have to eat. With continued injections of this kind, your whole body and all your internal organs will wither, so you will suffer agony until death." After the injection on the fifth day, both of Hou Jinyuan's legs became numb and lost feeling when she tried to stand. By the end of January, both of Hou's legs were paralyzed, and both eyes were blurry. After the Chinese New Year (February 12, 2002), she was **completely blind in both eyes**.

Labor Camps Use Psychiatric Drugs as “Transformation” Tool

Psychiatric medications have been frequently used in labor camps as a complementary tool for controlling and “transforming” Falun Gong practitioners. The abuse had caused various degrees of physical and mental disability. CMHW has collected substantial evidence regarding the use of such medications. The following is information about psychiatric abuse at the Baimalong Labor Camp. For more information, visit <http://www.cmhw.org>.

Baimalong Labor Camp authorities took turns putting Falun Gong practitioners into groups such as the so-called “Transformation Team,” “Strict Education Team,” “Determination Team,” “Production Team,” and “Closed Team.” In July 2002, the “Steadfastness Destruction Team” (targeting those people who were steadfast in their belief in Falun Gong) was formed by the head of the labor camp, Zhao, deputy director Zhao Guibao, and supervisor Ding Cailan. Zheng Xia was appointed as the team leader in charge of persecuting Falun Gong practitioners.

In November 2001, Ding transferred a practitioner, Chen Chujun, from the “Production Team” to the so-called “Transformation Team” to be brainwashed. Chen is about 30 years old and worked at the Haihua Rail Station. The day she was sent to the “Transformation Team,” police ordered the administrators to push her down to the floor and tie up her hands. They pushed her face against the floor and cut off her hair against her will. Chen protested this brutal treatment by going on a hunger strike, and the camp director sent her to the “Production Team.” In Baimalong Labor Camp, you can be tortured in a multitude of ways if you are determined to practice Falun Gong. After six days, Chen was sent to the medical office for injections. After half a month, the director ordered two officers to watch her in the medical office. According to witnesses, the staff injected glucose, along with a drug called **Thorazine**, into Chen's bloodstream. After being injected with this drug, a person gradually develops memory loss and wants to sleep all the time. The medical staff injected Chen with small quantities of this drug each day, causing her to slowly become sick, as if she were suffering from a chronic disease. Doctor Lu from the Baimalong medical office, deputy director Zhao Guibao's wife, is primarily responsible for the harm done to Chen.

The medical office blocked all information about Chen. Later, a practitioner received a note from her, saying that she could no longer remember the short formulas recited before doing the Falun Gong exercises. She was sent to the Employee Medical Center of the Zhuzhou Chemical Plant. Many other practitioners have been hospitalized there before. Chen was force-fed during her detention in the hospital, which resulted in damage to her stomach, gall bladder, and lungs. After twenty-two days on a hunger strike, she was sent to back to the Baimalong medical office. After meeting with her sister, she began eating some food. Her family was promised that she would be allowed to go home after having a stomach operation. However, Ms. Chen was not allowed to go home. So on January 2, 2002, she once again started a hunger strike. Seven days later, she was sent to Zhuzhou Second Hospital and has not been heard from since.

In Baimalong Labor Camp, this type of brutality is common. We often do not know whether practitioners have been allowed to go home or have been tortured to death. The known death cases at Baimalong Labor Camp include Liu Qingxi, Wen Huiying, Jin Fuwan, Guo Zhaoqing, and Qi Manying.

Falun Gong practitioner Xia Ting is 29 years old. She is originally from Zhejiang Province and now lives in Shenzhen City. Xia has also been detained in Baimalong Labor Camp. She was once sent to the medical office after holding a hunger strike. She was held there for more than one month, and was injected with drugs that made her sleep around the clock. Now her vision is poor, she is sluggish, her back is crooked, her shoulders are unbalanced, and she cannot balance herself well when walking. On one occasion, Xia wrote a health report to the labor camp with the help of another practitioner. Subsequently, Zhao Guibao brought her to a private room for interrogation. At that time, we were working nearby, and we saw Zhao Guibao threatening her if she did not recant her statement.

There is yet another practitioner we know of who suffered from injections of nerve-damaging drugs. This practitioner's name is Yu Yingzhu. She's 29 years of age and is from Hunan Province. She has been detained for over three years. Yu was put in the same team as Xia Ting, and they went on hunger strike together. After Yu was injected with drugs by the labor camp medical staff, she felt like she had lost all her strength. Every time she was injected, there would be some pink fluid in her discharge. Yu felt that something was wrong after four or five days of receiving the injections, and she firmly refused to go to the medical office again. Right now, she is most likely still being held in the Baimalong Labor Camp.

► Account, continued from page 3

was able to get up from the bed to walk. Every morning I was supposed to stand up beside my bed, waiting for the Ward Chief to make his rounds of the wards and question me. One day, the Chief asked me, “How have you been feeling for the past few days? Are you still associating with them [Falun Gong practitioners]? Are you still going to Beijing?”

I avoided answering that question, so as result, they kept increasing my medicine dosage, starting at three pills per time, and finally to a dozen pills per time. Each time, I had to go to the pharmacy and wait in line to get my medicine, swallow it with water in the presence of the pharmacist, and then open my mouth to prove that I had indeed swallowed the pills. Besides regularly increasing my medicine dosage, every Friday they also took me to a lab where they closed the door and made me swallow two big yellow pills. They let me out only after opening my mouth and carefully checking whether the pills had been swallowed. After taking those pills, I felt dizzy, nauseous, and weak all over my body. I decided to go to the Ward Chief and ask him not to increase my dosage. I explained to him why I practiced Falun Gong, and how much I had benefited from the practice. He certainly didn't understand. All he knew were the lies made up by the government's mouthpiece. I told him that Falun Gong teaches people to become good people, that freedom of belief is a citizen's right, and that it was wrong to suppress Falun Gong. At last, I requested that my dosage be lowered, and the Chief said that he could do so, but only by two small pills.

Not long after I had been admitted to the mental hospital, my work unit sent in another practitioner, one with whom I had once attended a brainwashing class. After she was injected with drugs in an intensive care ward, she first fell unconscious, and then later began to hallucinate. She squatted on the floor and tried to pick up things from all over the floor, claiming that it was covered with bugs. I felt so bad for her and took her back to her bed. After awhile, she repeated the same process again. They wrote both of our names on the blackboard in the ward office and requested that hospital staff strictly monitor our medications. I was detained in the mental hospital for over four months, during which I was al-

ways dizzy and drowsy from the daily torture of the medicine. I also felt nauseous and weak, and had edema all over my body. My whole body had become totally disfigured. What was even more painful was that I was required every morning to go with the mental patients to a “club” for the so-called “mental treatments,” which included singing and dancing. There were also times when my mind was in chaos, and I felt that I could no longer bear the psychological stress. It was as if I could no longer stand it for even another minute. I was also afraid that I would become unable to control myself, so I kept telling myself not to go crazy. The Jiang regime tried to use torture as a means to turn good, innocent people into mentally ill people.

Four months later, the Ward Chief contacted my work unit and they sent someone to pick me up. When I left the hospital, the Chief walked me to the front entrance with guilt written all over his face. Not long after leaving the hospital, my eyes began to fester, and even opening them became difficult. The insides and outsides of my ears also started to fester and ooze yellow fluid, as did my scalp and neck. It caused itchiness and simply heart-wrenching pain.

The festering began in the summer of 2002. To date, the insides and outsides of my ears and scalp still ooze yellow fluid. The worst festering that I endured occurred during the two years between 2000 and 2002. Were it not for being a Falun Gong practitioner, I would have become completely festered and possibly have died. Old acquaintances that saw me couldn't bear to see me looking like that, and after learning what had happened, they all cried.

I was not the only one who went through this. In 2002, while I was in the drug rehab center, **Li Hong**, a Dalian Second High School teacher, was also admitted to the Dalian City Mental Hospital. First, after leaving the hospital, both of her eyes began to fester. Because she told her supervisors and colleagues in her work unit about the persecution that she had experienced in the mental hospital, they reported her to higher authorities. As a result, Li Hong was then sentenced to two years of forced labor in the notorious Masanjia Forced Labor Camp. The last time anyone visited her, they reported that her body was still festering, her hair had turned completely gray, and she had become disfigured beyond recognition.

► Abuse, continued from page 4

Zhang Jinlan, 53, was sentenced to re-education through forced labor several times for her persistence in practicing Falun Gong and for going to Beijing to appeal against the persecution. Later she was sent to **Ankang City Prison's Hospital** that is operated by the Public Security Bureau. She went on a hunger strike to protest. A police doctor injected her with an unknown drug that immediately caused paralysis of her lower body. That night, her entire body became paralyzed and she went into coma. However, the doctor kept injecting her with the same drug for seven consecutive days. During the first several days she received these injections, her lower body started to fester. After seven or eight days of injections, she looked like she was dying. At this point, the hospital sent a “critical situation notice” to her family, and she was taken home. Now she is paralyzed, lying in bed, and cannot recognize people. Her festered lower body is too horrible to look at. Even so, her home is still under “610 Office” surveillance and her family phone is tapped.

Song Yulong was a 29-year-old employee of the Lanshan District Water Conservation Company in Linyi County, Shandong Province. During the first five or six months of 2000, his work unit forced him to watch videos that slandered Falun Gong. In May or June of 2000, because he still refused to give up his belief in Falun Gong, his work unit forcibly sent him to a mental hospital (name not reported) where he was devastated for over one month. Every day, the police forced drugs into him that damaged his central nervous system. When he refused to take the medicine, the police subjected him to electric shock therapy. According to his accounts, the police attached plugs to his two ears, temples, and head. They then turned on the switch, causing him excruciating pain. Every second was unbearable, yet this torture often lasted over 30 minutes. Whenever he refused to take the drugs, the police would torture him this way. He had to take the drugs in the end. However, as soon as he took the drugs, he felt a sense of fear that he had never experienced before. Every night he would wake up from nightmares. Even after he was released, he was still haunted by nightmares. He became mentally disoriented from the drugs. A fellow practitioner he knew very well went to visit him, but he couldn't recognize this person.

Mental Casualties Result from the Persecution of Conscience and Freedom of Belief



Li Jinghua, 34, and her husband both practiced Falun Gong and, after the persecution began in 1999, were arrested and detained on several occasions. Li was subjected to brainwashing and subsequently sent to Masanjia Forced Labor Camp for refusing to compromise her beliefs. At Masanjia, Li was severely abused both physically and mentally. She was beaten for practicing Falun Gong exercises

and in January 2000 was forced to make clothing. Laboring long hours a day with poor nutrition, and being beaten when failing to finish the required quota, put Li under extreme physical and mental pressure. On July 6, 2000, Li was forced to undergo a course of brainwashing that lasted for several weeks. When she refused to denounce Falun Gong, she was placed in isolation and was made to remain in a contorted, bent position for long periods. Once she had to hold the same position for 72 hours without sleeping and was beaten and cursed if she moved. She was made to eat and relieve herself in the same small cell, and suffered from countless mosquito bites and the intense summer heat without any ventilation. Because she still refused to cooperate, infuriated guards began shocking her hands, feet, chest, and neck with high-voltage electric batons. While torturing her this way, a guard by the name of Zhang Yan forced her to sign her name on a statement. As officials realized that her statement was not voluntary or sincere, they continued to brainwash and torture her.

On another occasion, Li lost consciousness but officials revived her only to force her to hold the “flying dove” position for four days and nights in a small isolated cell. Not able to “transform” her, they sent her back for more forced labor and, when her year was up, her sentence was extended indefinitely. Authorities continued to beat Li whenever she attempted to practice the Falun Gong exercises. She started a hunger strike to protest the persecution and refused to take part in any more forced labor. As a result, she was subjected to more electric shocks. Every day she was taken away somewhere and sent back at night in such a poor condition until finally she developed a blank stare and would not speak. Soon after that she suffered a complete mental breakdown. She became incontinent and would walk around naked. She was then sent to the mental hospital in Shenyang City. Her family was forced to pay 4,000 Yuan for medical fees (500 Yuan is the average monthly salary for an urban worker in China.) Li Jinghua was eventually sent home in this condition in May 2001.

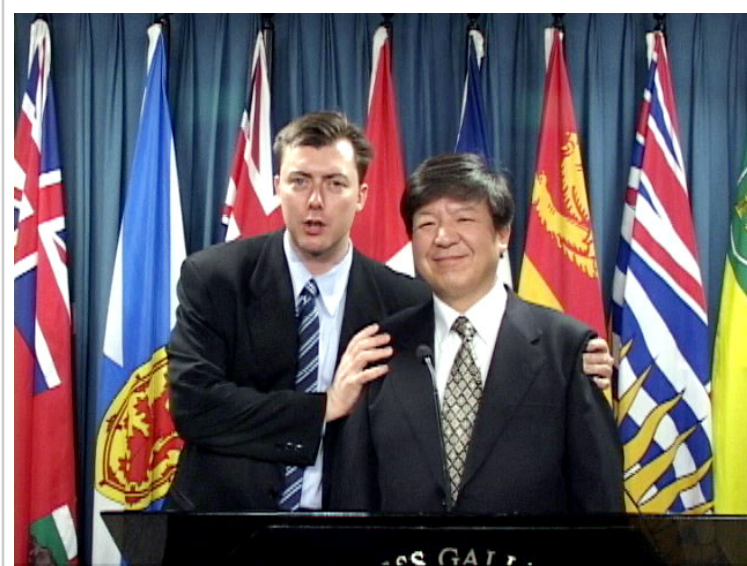


Lin Chengtao, 37, was an Assistant Research Scientist at the University of Medical Science in China. This young scholar was arrested in October 2001 and severely persecuted in Tuanhe Labor Camp for practicing

Falun Gong. He was deprived of sleep, beaten, and tortured with electric shocks carrying 30,000-volt charges. His wife, a music teacher, was also arrested and sent to Xin'an Labor Camp where she was subjected to intense brainwashing. She succumbed to the mental pressure and renounced Falun Gong. Later, she sent letters to the officials of the Tuanhe Labor Camp asking them to torture her husband further and even gave examples of how he ought to be tortured in order for him to renounce Falun Gong as she had done. The result of the brainwashing sessions, obviously, is the transformation of a compassionate, caring person into someone who would persecute her own husband. The electroshocks and the repeated reading of his wife's letter by the guards caused Lin Chengtao to have hallucinations, as he was seen shouting in the hallways and talking to empty space. Presently, Mr. Lin has been released and sent home to take antipsychotic medications for hallucinations.

CMHW Interviews Survivors of Persecution

The systematic persecution of Falun Gong launched by Jiang Zemin in July 1999 utilizes various methods of torture and abuse. This persecution, unlike many others in history, is aimed directly and indirectly at the human conscience and is causing a large number of psychiatric casualties. After being tortured, mentally healthy Falun Gong practitioners suffer Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Psychosis, Depression, or other emotional conditions. CMHW has been collecting evidence through face-to-face interviews with the victims of forced-labor camps and brainwashing sessions as well as family members who lost their loved ones through persecution.



On March 20, 2003, at a press conference hosted by MP Rob Anders, Montreal resident Mr. Lin Shen Li, who had survived two years of torture by the Chinese government, was invited to give a speech.

Mr. Lin said: “I have benefited tremendously in mind and body from cultivating Falun Dafa. ‘Truth, Compassion and Tolerance’ have helped me better understand the true meaning of life. Regardless of it

being suppressed or not, I will always persist in my belief. However, three years ago just because I signed my name to an appeal letter calling for peaceful dialogue, I was sentenced illegally to a forced labor camp. In order to forcefully transform my faith, the police tried to brainwash me with many tactics.”

Lin Shen Li is a Canadian citizen who went to Beijing in December 1999 to appeal for Falun Gong. He was sentenced to one and a half years in a forced-labor camp and told that if he did not change [his belief in Falun Gong] he would never be released. Later, the Chinese authorities extended his imprisonment by half a year, resulting in two years in a forced-labor camp. For taking a letter to the Beijing Appeals Office, Lin was placed with the most dangerous criminals.

Lin was mainly fed moldy rice. There were periods of several days when the police forced him to sit all day from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. on a 6-inch bench with his hands in his lap, without moving or talking. They beat him on his hands, knees, and legs. Most days he was forced to work long hours making basketballs by hand, and at times was forced to carry 140 pounds on his back. They placed a basketball between his legs, and he tied the pieces together with waxed leather strings. This forced labor for long hours without rest and inadequate nutrition caused the skin of his fingers to break and begin to bleed. He received no medical treatment. As a result of severe malnutrition, his body began to bleed all over. Every time he pulled down his pants, for example, the skin peeled off of his legs and back. The pain of his peeling skin, of endless hours sitting on the small bench, of pulling leather strings with his bloody fingers, of the beatings — it all became intolerable for him. From day to day, there was no time for his body to heal. But he endured because he refused to renounce Falun Gong. And because he would not “transform,” they beat him some more. Sleep was extremely difficult and he frequently woke up in pain. During the little sleep he got, he experienced nightmares of being beaten and of the person who arrested him.

Other prisoners had the right to have visitors, but Lin was totally isolated and no one was allowed to visit him. He was prohibited all communication with the world and could not receive letters from his family. He was forced to watch government propaganda videos. Three other prisoners were instructed to make sure that he watched the videos. These prisoners were also instructed to beat him.

Finally, the day for which he had been waiting—the end of his 18-month sentence—arrived, but that afternoon, the police announced without any warning that he would not be released. Lin said, “I could not believe this was happening. This cannot be! It is so hard to stay here! No reason at all! I feel I can't go on any longer!” When Lin was returned to Canada in 2002, he continued to have terror-filled nightmares of torture, the police who arrested him, and the beatings he received. Even now (in 2003) he still has occasional recurrent memories, nightmares of his persecution, and flashbacks of vivid moments like seeing the iron doors closing and hearing their echo throughout the labor camp.

Mr. Lin has become a nervous person. He is hyper-vigilant especially when he sees a policeman or when the Canadian media interviews him. He became fearful of the media, suspecting such entities to generate propaganda. He said, “The Chinese propaganda against Falun Gong incites hatred in people's hearts.” If he hears a siren, he startles, shivers, and develops heart palpitations and a racing heart. Sirens or other noises at night keep him from sleeping. He feels his energy diminishing and cries often, especially when reading about those who are dying or being tortured to death. He has little enjoyment for the things he used to do. When in the labor camp, he had suicidal thoughts and wanted to cut his arteries with the sharp tools he used to make basketballs. He denies any suicidal thoughts since he has been released. At the time of this interview (06-22-03), he met DSM-IV diagnostic criteria for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Major Depression.

For more details, please visit <http://www.cmhw.org>. There are more survivors available for interview.

Psychiatry Used in Propaganda Against Falun Gong

On July 20, 1999, Jiang Zemin (Party leader at the time) began a massive campaign of abuse in an attempt to “eliminate” the meditation practice of Falun Gong. Jiang’s propagandists claimed that the government’s actions are “for the good of” Falun Gong practitioners and made it a central feature of their propaganda. Practitioners are said to be psychotic, homicidal, and suicidal; thus the government campaign is said to be a necessary measure for ensuring public health.

So that the ongoing psychiatric abuse of Falun Gong practitioners in China can be better understood, we will examine cases that reveal the tactics used in government propaganda regarding Falun Gong and mental health. These cases show that the government’s propaganda campaign includes the participation of China’s psychiatrists as an indispensable element. At the root of this connection lies the logic of the totalitarian state. This logic has perverted psychiatry in China and introduced the practice of torture into a profession whose sole concern should be the relief of suffering. Understanding the roots of the psychiatric abuse in China helps one better understand how to approach the urgent task of reform.

Staging suicide and claiming it’s “part of Falun Gong practice”

The most notorious case advanced by China’s regime to “prove” the mental illness of Falun Gong practitioners is the so-called self-immolation incident that occurred on January 23, 2001, in which several individuals identified by the government as Falun Gong practitioners are said to have set fire to themselves in Tiananmen Square. The government media’s film of this incident, which was replayed daily on television for months after the event undeniably affected public opinion, initially by causing a skeptical public to accept the government’s claims regarding the pernicious character of Falun Gong.

Outside China, the government’s version of this incident was almost immediately called into question. The CNN reporters who happened to be on the scene at the time, and were expelled from China shortly afterward, raised the first questions. The government claimed that the footage came from CNN, but CNN employees insisted that police confiscated their film within moments after the incident began. Several articles subsequently published by western media such as the *Washington Post*, *National Review*, and *New York Times*, also raised many questions. **In fact, close examination of the government broadcast reveals a long list of details that suggest the incident was staged, and new evidence based on technologies such as voice verification continues to be presented.** To read the reports and view an analytical video, visit <http://www.faluninfo.net>.

The use of psychiatric patients who allegedly have murdered or committed suicide

In order to discredit Falun Gong, the government regularly takes actual cases of suicide, homicide, or psychotic behavior, and attributes them to the practice of Falun Gong. This tactic of deceit and fabrication has resulted in the creation of fear in millions of Chinese.

The suicide of Li Youlin is a typical eyewitness account of how police create such tactics. Li Youlin worked repairing bicycles on the streets, but the city government confiscated his tools and cart for not having a license. A neighbor said that Li started to abuse alcohol. One morning his body was found hanging from a tree and the police were called. When they arrived, the neighbors were also at the scene. Li’s wife told everyone the truth about her husband’s suicide. The police took his body to the family’s home. In the afternoon the police returned to the house, carried Li’s corpse back to the tree, and hung it up again. They placed a picture of Mr. Li Hongzhi (founder of Falun Gong) and some alcohol nearby, and then took pictures and videos of the staged scene. It then became the featured story in local and national newspapers that practicing Falun Gong had caused suicide.

The homicide case of Fu Yibin was also used as propaganda. In November 2001, Fu killed his wife and father, and severely injured his mother, during a psychotic episode. Fu had an eight-year history of psychotic episodes. Years earlier he violently beat his mother while having paranoid delusions and command hallucinations similar to those when he committed the murders. He later appeared in an interview on state-run television (CCTV), exhibiting agitation and disorganized speech, and talking about his thoughts of saving his family’s souls by killing them. Despite the regime’s propaganda, there was no evidence that he had ever been a Falun Gong practitioner.

In other cases, the government simply fabricates incidents and then blames Falun Gong. For example, the November 28, 1999, issue of the Xi-an Worker newspaper published a “Special Report” claiming that a woman named Zhang Zhiwen had burned her daughter to death, then killed herself, all because of Falun Gong. Voice of America reported on an independent investigation carried out by the Hong Kong Center for Human Rights and Democracy finding that “the people, location, time, and story in that report were all fabricated... a lady named Zhang Zhiwen did not exist at all.”

Qigong-induced mental disorder — another excuse to cover up psychiatric abuse

“Qigong induced psychosis” is a culture-bound disorder that was formally included in the Chinese Classification of Mental Diseases (CCMD-II) in 1989 and has been utilized to force practitioners into mental hospitals. The real reason behind their admittance is to persecute them for practicing Falun Gong.

The well-known painter, Qi Bingshu, 60, was involuntarily admitted to Dalushu Mental Hospital in Dabeyao Town for appealing to the authorities on behalf of Falun Gong. She was detained for over a year, forcibly given intravenous injections, and labeled with “Qigong mental disorder.” Prior to being admitted she was mentally healthy and looked like a 40-year-old woman, but soon after the torture started, she lost her hair and developed a constant tremor until she could not paint anymore.

Pre-existing psychiatric conditions blamed on Falun Gong

There have been a few cases of individuals who had been mentally ill prior to practicing Falun Gong. Propagandists then seize upon their continuing mental illness as evidence of the destructive effects of Falun Gong itself. In *The Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law* (June 2002), Robin Munro reported a case of young male worker who had been known to have mental illness since 1992. In 1997, his family, upon hearing that practicing Falun Gong could cure illnesses, urged him to begin practicing. In these cases, the government further victimizes people by subjecting them to media publicity such as radio and television interviews, in an attempt to spread the propaganda.

These cases involving pre-existing conditions do not establish the government’s claim that Falun Gong causes mental illness. Such claims are doubly unwarranted since the texts of Falun Gong explicitly advise against anyone with psychosis or severe mental illness practicing it. Moreover, the teachings of Falun Gong prohibit any violence, including suicide or homicide. However, the government also confiscates and burns Falun Gong texts to keep them from the public. The peaceful nature of Falun Gong practitioners should now be beyond doubt, and such nonviolence is firmly rooted in principle.

Falun Gong is now practiced in over 50 countries outside China. There have been no reports of mental problems or violence that the Chinese government claims Falun Gong causes. Prior to the persecution of Falun Gong, there had been no reports inside China of Falun Gong causing mental illness, even though the number of practitioners in China had grown to between 70 and 100 million by 1999. Massive surveys of tens of thousands of practitioners done by credible medical professionals in China showed a strong correlation between several indicators of mental health—less stress, giving up addiction, a greater sense of well-being, and a more harmonious family life—and the practice of Falun Gong. In Taiwan, where several hundred thousand people practice Falun Gong, there have been no reports or evidence of mental illness being connected to the practice.

Chinese psychiatrists must take a stand against abuse.

The Chinese government’s actions in handling cases of mental illness supposedly caused by Falun Gong only support the conclusion that the propaganda being spread about Falun Gong is false. Officials threaten or bribe family members, quickly cremate victims’ bodies without forensic examination, and detain any eyewitnesses aware of the truth. Investigations by third-party international organizations such as Amnesty International are blocked. Foreign journalists attempting to report on such cases or merely the practice of Falun Gong itself are detained, harassed, have their licenses revoked, and may be deported. If the truth does manage to leak out to the international community, the regime makes every effort to ensure Chinese people never hear about it.

There are other propaganda attacks on Falun Gong, but they have not been as successful in impacting the public as the propaganda involving mental illness. The psychiatric profession in China has been instrumental in this regard. If psychiatrists remain silent about the government’s claims, that silence speaks volumes to the Chinese people. In a society in which every act has political meaning, not taking part in the campaign against Falun Gong would be understood as a protest against that campaign. However, some psychiatrists in China have given this campaign credibility by attesting to the spurious claims of mental illness; they have themselves become agents of the state’s campaign of terror. **By locking up practitioners in mental hospitals, China’s psychiatrists send a powerful message to the population as a whole that Falun Gong is in fact implicated in causing mental illness.** By torturing them with psychotropic drugs and electroshocks, China’s psychiatrists in the end produce “patients” who certainly seem to need psychiatric care. For those who do not know the truth, this abusive use of psychiatry seems in fact to justify the government’s most damaging charges against Falun Gong. For those who do know the truth, such abuse may be the most terrifying weapon in the Party’s arsenal of terror.

Psychiatric Facilities Involved in the Detention and Abuse of Falun Gong Practitioners

- Beijing**
- 261 Mental Hospital of People's Liberation Army, Beijing
 - Anding Hospital (a mental hospital), Beijing
 - Beijing Northern Suburban Rehabilitation Center, Beijing
 - Daliushu Mental Hospital, Chaoyang District, Beijing
 - Hanzhuang Mental Hospital, Pinggu, Beijing
 - Huilongguan Mental Hospital, Beijing
 - Qinglongqiao Mental Hospital, Beijing
 - Zhoukoudian Psychiatric Hospital, Fanshan District, Beijing
- Shandong Province**
- Mental Hospital in Qiling Town of Linzi District, Zibo, Shandong Province
 - Mental Illness Section of Kunlun Hospital of Zibo Mineral Bureau, Shandong Province
 - Qilin Town Psychiatric Treatment Center, Linzi District, Zibo, Shandong Province
 - No. 5 People's Hospital (former mental hospital), Zichuan District, Zibo City, Shandong Province
 - Mental Patients' Ward at Weifang Rehabilitation Hospital, Weifang City, Shandong Province
 - Third Section of the Third People's Hospital of Weifang for Mental Illness, Shandong
 - The Rehabilitation Hospital under Civil and Administration Bureau of Weifang City, Shandong Province
 - China-Korea Mental Hospital, Laoshan, Shandong Province
 - Zhongshan Mental Hospital, Laoshan, Shandong Province
 - Jining Mental Hospital, Jining, Shandong Province
 - Jining City Daizhuang Mental Hospital, Shandong Province
 - Xixia Psychiatric Recovery Center, Yantai, Shandong Province
 - Yantai Mental Hospital in Yantai, Shandong Province
 - Beiluo Town Mental Hospital, Shouguang, Shandong Province
 - Changle Mental Hospital, Shandong Province
 - Laixi City Mental Hospital, Shandong Province
 - Laiyang Mental Hospital, Laiyang, Shandong Province
 - Linyi Mental Hospital, Shandong Province
 - Mental Hospital in Jimuo City, Qingdao, Shandong Province
 - Mental Hospital of Jiaozhou (also called Jiaozhou Psychological Recovery Center), Jiaozhou, Shandong Province
 - No. 6 Hospital of Pingdu City (a mental hospital) in Shandong Province
 - Psychiatric Department of People's Hospital in Qishui, Shandong Province
 - Shandong Provincial Mental Hospital, Jinan, Shandong Province
 - Zhucheng Mental Hospital, Zhucheng, Shandong Province
 - Chinese Medicine Hospital in Mengyin County, Shandong Province
 - The Third Mental Hospital in Binzhou City, Shandong Province
 - Yantai Psychological Rehabilitation Center (former Laiyang Mental Hospital), Yantai City, Shandong Province
 - Ankang Hospital, a mental hospital run by Tangshan Police, Hebei Province
 - Mental Hospital of Tangshan City, Hebei Province
 - Feixiang Mental Hospital, Hebei Province
 - Mental Hospital in Handan City, Hebei Province
 - Mental Section of the 5th Hospital Attached to the Medical School of Hebei Province
 - No. 6 Mental Hospital in Baoding, Hebei Province
 - Shalingzi Mental Hospital in Zhangjiakou, Hebei Province
 - Shijiazhuang Mental Hospital, Hebei Province
 - Tangshan Psychiatric Hospital (5th Hospital of Tangshan), Tangshan, Hebei Province
 - No. 2 Hospital, Psychiatry Division, Hebei Province
 - No. 5 Hospital, Psychiatry Ward, Hebei Province
 - Handan City Mental Hospital, Hebei Province
 - Huanghua Mental Hospital, Hebei Province
- Jiangsu Province**
- Nanjing Mental Hospital, Nanjing, Jiangsu Province
 - Nanjing Psychiatric Hospital (Section 6), Nanjing, Jiangsu Province
 - Qinglongshan Psychiatric Hospital in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province
 - Nanjing Zutangshan Mental Hospital
 - Chengbei Mental Hospital, Kunshan, Jiangsu Province
 - Jinjiang City Mental Hospital, Jiangsu Province
 - Longgang Mental Hospital, Yancheng City, Jiangsu Province
 - Mental Section of No. 3 People's Hospital in Wujin County, Jiangsu Province
 - Wutaishan Mental Hospital in Yangzhou City, Jiangsu Province
 - Treatment Center for Mental Diseases in No. 102 Hospital, Changzhou, Jiangsu Province
 - Changzhou Mental Hospital, Jiangsu Province
 - Xuzhou Mental Hospital, Jiangsu Province
- Liaoning Province**
- Dalian Drug Rehabilitation Center, Liaoning Province
 - Mental Hospital in Lingyuan City, Liaoning Province
 - Linghe Mental Hospital in Lingyuan City, Liaoning Province
 - Tangjiafang Mental Hospital, Anshan, Liaoning Province
 - Xiaolingzi Psychiatric Hospital in Anshan, Liaoning Province
 - Shenyang Mental Hospital, Liaoning Province
 - Yingkou City Mental Hospital, Yingkou, Liaoning Province
 - Tiexi District Mental Hospital, Shenyang City, Liaoning Province
 - Dalian People's Liberation Army No. 215 Hospital
- Jilin Province**
- Mental Hospital in Laoyuan, Jilin Province
 - Shulan City Mental Hospital, Jilin Province
 - Siping Mental Hospital, Jilin Province
 - Jilin City Mental Hospital, Jilin Province
 - Songyuan Division of Yiaonan Mental Hospital, Jilin Province
- Heilongjiang Province**
- Jingbei Mental Hospital, Harbin City
 - Mental Hospital in the Eighth Division of Victory Oil Field
 - Mental Hospital in Yichun City, Heilongjiang Province
 - Jiamusi City Mental Hospital, Heilongjiang Province
 - Anshan Kangning Mental Hospital, Heilongjiang Province
- Guangdong Province**
- Fangcun Mental Hospital, Guangzhou, Guangdong Province
 - Huizhou City Mental Hospital, Huizhou, Guangdong Province
 - Baiyun Mental Rehabilitation Hospital (Guangzhou City), Guangdong Province
 - Jiangcun Mental Hospital in Guangzhou City
- Sichuan Province**
- Beimen Mental Hospital in Suining City, Sichuan Province
 - Mental Hospital in Pengzhou City, Sichuan Province
 - Pengzhou City Mental Hospital, Sichuan
 - Wanchunzhen Mental Hospital, Wanjiang Province, Sichuan Province
 - Division of Psychiatry in Beipei Mineral Ole Recovery Hospital, Sichuan Province
- Chongqing**
- Pibaping Mental Hospital, Chongqing
 - Xiemachang Mental Hospital, Chongqing
 - Chongqing No. 1 Mental Hospital, Chongqing
- Guangxi Province**
- Longqianshan Mental Hospital, Liuzhou, Guangxi Province
 - Mental Hospital of Guangxi Army, Guilin, Guangxi Province
 - Guangxi Army Mental Hospital, (Liuzhou), Guilin, Guangxi Province
 - 191 Hospital (a mental hospital of the army), Guigang, Guangxi Province
- Henan Province**
- Mental Hospital in Kanfeng City, Henan Province
 - Second Mental Hospital, Xinxiang, Henan Province
 - Xuchang City's Mental Hospital in Henan Province
- Anhui Province**
- Anhui Province Mental Hospital
 - Hefei Mental Hospital, Anhui Province
 - No. 4 People's Hospital in Hefei City, Anhui Province
- Hunan Province**
- Changsha Mental Hospital, Changsha, Hunan Province
 - Hunan Mental Hospital, 94 Chiling Road, Changsha, Hunan Province
 - Mental Hospital in Zhuzhou City, Hunan Province
- Hubei Province**
- Macheng Mental Hospital, Hubei Province
 - Yatai Mental Hospital at Wuhan University
 - Fangjialing Mental Hospital in Wuxue City, Hubei Province
 - A Mental Hospital in Changshan City
- Guizhou Province**
- No. 418 Hospital, Division of Psychiatry in Kaili City, Guizhou Province
 - Public Security Hospital in Guiyang City
- Other Provinces and Cities**
- Lingwu Mental Hospital, Ningxia Province
 - Cangshan Mental Hospital, Fujin Province
 - Mental Hospital in Wuwei Province, Gangsu Province
 - Mental Hospital in Xianyang City, Shanxi Province
 - Mental Hospital in Xinjiang
 - Seventh Hospital of Hangzhou City (a psychiatric hospital) in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province
 - Mental Hospital in Shanghai
 - Hemujiang Mental Hospital, Xinji City
 - Kaixuan Mental Hospital, (Xiaonan Mental Hospital)
 - Lushuan Mental Hospital
 - Mental Hospital in Xiaogan City
 - Ningbo Kangning Mental Hospital, Ningbo City
 - Nanmen Mental Hospital
 - Tonghe Mental Hospital
 - Yantai Psychological Rehabilitation Center (former Laiyang Mental Hospital)
 - Shapingba Mental Hospital
 - Zaozhuang Mental Hospital

For more information (currently Chinese only), please visit:

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