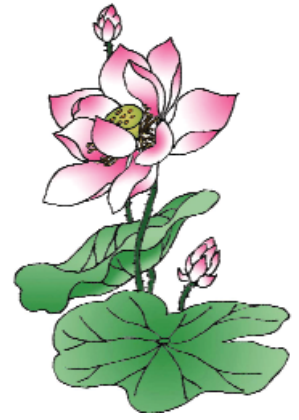


Falun Gong in California

Vol. 1. No.2. September, 2002



Domestic Issue from China

"I was chilled to the bones that a communist nation will go to this extent to suppress someone's freedom of action in this country. This is really what bothered me." Such was the reaction of Mayor Randy Voepel of Santee to the attempt by the Chinese Consulate in Los Angeles to pressure him to withdraw the proclamation honoring Falun Gong.

It used to be inconceivable that our inalienable rights could ever be threatened in this country, the leader of the free world. However, with its economic power, the Chinese government is exporting its persecution of Falun Gong to our country, and its "long arm" is now threatening our freedom.

In California alone, the two Chinese Consulates had sent



Candlelight Vigil outside of the Chinese Consulate in San Francisco

coercive letters to many mayors asking them to rescind their proclamation to Falun Gong; some mayors have withstood the pressure and some have not. The Chinese Consulate in Los Angeles had demanded Caltech and the Pasadena City to cancel two Falun Gong conferences to be held in their auditoriums. It had also pressured Samra University of Oriental Medicine to fire a faculty because he taught Falun Gong. Hotels were threatened to not hold Falun Gong events, and bookstores not carry Falun Gong books.

In addition, some Californians who traveled to China had been victimized simply because their faith in Falun Gong. They were detained, forced to do labor, or brutalized; even a girl at the age of 10 was deprived of food and water in jail for 24 hours. In San Francisco, several Falun Gong practitioners were assaulted by a group of Chinese with close tie to the Chinese Consulate, an apparent act of hate crime.

The Chinese government has always used "internal affairs" to reject international condemnations of its suppression of human rights in China. It has no respect for international borders, however, when it extends suppression of human rights to other countries. *(Continue on page 3)*

News Digest

24 Falun Gong Practitioners Died of Persecution Received in August

Three years have gone by since the Chinese government launched its violent persecution of Falun Gong practitioners in China, and the atrocities are prolonging. While the information of the persecution continues to be blocked by the Chinese government, we continue to receive horrifying reports daily from China, sometimes months after the tragic occurrences. In August, 2002, we received 24 reports of practitioners persecuted to death

Mr. Ou Keshun had late term leukemia before, but complete recovered a few months after he began to practice Falun Gong in 1998. When he refused to renounce Falun Gong which had given him his second life, he was beaten to death.

Dr. Pu Shigao, a professor at Yanbian Medical School. Dr. Pu was arrested by local police and brutally tortured in the detention center. On the morning of August 19, 2002, Dr. Pu's seriously deteriorated condition left him unable to even speak and passed away. His body was then hastily cremated in an attempt to conceal the evidence of beating.

California Representatives Say "Stop Interfering" In H.C.R. 447

On June 11, Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey (D-CA 6) chaired a Congressional Briefing focusing on the harassment of U.S. officials and Falun Gong practitioners by the P.R.C.'s foreign entities, such as the Chinese Consulates in San Francisco and Los Angeles.



Rep. Lynn Woolsey

The briefing included testimonies from government officials, lawyers, and Falun Gong practitioners from across the country. Among those testifying to the harassment they received from P.R.C. officials were Supervisor Chris Daly of San Francisco and former Mayor of Saratoga Stan Begosian, as well as human rights activist and founder of the Lao-Gai (labor camp) foundation, Harry Wu.

As a result of this briefing, Congresswoman Woolsey has initiated House Concurrent Resolution 447. H.C.R 447 states that the government of the P.R.C. has *(Continue on page 3)*

Falun Gong Exercises in Pasadena Community Health Fair



Kids is learning mediation in the health fair

On September 7, 2002, Pasadena Falun Gong practitioners participated in a Health Fair organized by the city council member Mr. Victor Gordo. The peaceful and beautiful exercise demonstration attracted many local residents. The local TV station interviewed practitioners. Many residents asked for flyers about practice sites and workshops. A small group of Mexican children learned the exercises at the site.

The local elementary school principal was very surprised at the power of Falun Gong when she saw boys who are normally rather mischievous become sweet and peaceful while learning the exercises. An organizer from the American Cancer Association said their group wanted to attend an upcoming Falun Gong workshop. Another organizer of the Health Fair, the head of United Madison Clinic, praised Falun Gong. They said that Falun Gong exercises were better than their techniques because Falun Gong can prevent people

from getting sick but theirs can only treat an ill person. They requested Falun Gong introductory materials and asked to be notified about upcoming activities. When the Health Fair was ending, Mr. Gordo came to greet practitioners and also wanted to join one of the upcoming activities. Practitioners gave him information about the next workshop scheduled.

Oakland Chinatown Street Festival

Over 20 Falun Gong practitioners participated the Oakland Chinatown Street Festival in Downtown Oakland during the weekend of August 24th and 25th.



A crowd of over 100 hundred thousand festival enthusiasts attended. Falun Gong practitioners, mostly dressed in yellow t-shirts and wearing yellow buttons, handed out fliers, music CDs, balloons and windmills from their two volunteer spaces during the festival hours of 9am to 5pm. The multi-colored windmills and balloons were so popular that lines of kids could be seen waiting to receive them.

Many Falun Gong practitioners volunteered time in helping to set up and close the festival. They arrived early on Saturday to help set up the festival, engaging in activities such as putting up banners for the stage, and helping to move barricades. After the event ended, some practitioners worked throughout Sunday evening cleaning up.

Huy Lu, 32, a practitioner that attended the street fair, said an event organizer thanked him personally for the contributions made by the practitioners in ensuring the festival was a success. Regarding the significance of the event, one in which Chinese Americans figured prominently, Lu said, "The Chinese people have been most damaged by the Chinese government- they have used TV, newspapers, and radio to defame Falun Gong."



Falun Gong Workshops

Milpitas

Milpitas Library
Sat Sep 21, 10am-5:30pm
(408) 464-2120

Pasadena

La Pintoresca Branch Library
Sun Sep 22, 2pm-4pm
626-564-9394

San Jose

Almaden Library
Sat Sep 28, 2pm-5:45pm
(408) 464-2120

Los Angeles

Ackerman Union Meeting Room 2412
UCLA Campus
Wed Oct 2, 6pm-8pm
(310)699-1020

Oakland

Oakland Main Library
Sat Oct 2, 2pm-4pm
(510) 909-3210

Canadian Campaign Leads to a Woman's Early Release from Labor Camp

TORONTO, September 11, 2002 -- Citing effective pressure from overseas government and activists, the sister of a Toronto woman has been released from a Chinese labor camp where she was held in harsh conditions for practicing Falun Gong.



Ms. Yangying Wu

As part of an international campaign to rescue those detained in China for their practice of Falun Gong, a group of Canadian volunteers initiated efforts to free 15 more relatives of Canadian citizens and residents.

Their campaign has gained attention from media and government officials in Canada. Voice of America recently reported that Canadian Foreign Minister Bill Graham has recently raised the Falun Gong issue directly with Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan. Following the success of the Canadian campaign, similar efforts are underway to rescue relatives of U.S. citizens who are also suffering in labor camps.

Domestic Issue from China (continue from page 1)

To stop the Chinese government's attempt at our right, Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey (D-CA 6) has initiated House Concurrent Resolution 447.

We applaud Congresswoman Woolsey for her initiative, and urge our California representatives to follow the suit.

Reolution 447 (Continue from page1)

"repeatedly and consistently suppressed expression by its citizens of freedom of religion, speech, press, assembly, association, procession, and demonstration inside the People's Republic of China, and is now projecting its restrictive practices into the local affairs of the United States".

447 resolves that the P.R.C.'s government (currently led by Jiang Zemin), should "immediately stop interfering" with the freedoms guaranteed in the U.S constitution, "such as the right to practice Falun Gong", and should "cease to use the diplomatic missions to the United States to spread falsehood about the nature of Falun Gong."

The resolution also calls upon the President of the United States to issue a formal protest to the P.R.C's Foreign Ministry, and requires that the U.S Attorney General further investigate the reports of harassment.

70 Minute Broadcasts Challenge PRC's Propaganda

NEW YORK, September 4, 2002 -- Falun Gong practitioners in China have once again turned the tables on one of the Chinese leader's most potent weapons for spreading propaganda about Falun Gong -- state-run television.

On August 23 and 27, video programs at least 70 minutes long were broadcasted on prime time television over a wide area in and around Baoding City, Hebei Province. Witnesses in the Fangshan area in Beijing say they saw similar videos on local TV stations earlier in the month.

The videos -- entitled "Witness and Testimonies" and "Falun Dafa Around the World" -- expose the human rights abuses suffered by practitioners of Falun Gong under Jiang Zemin's regime as well as report on the support of the practice worldwide.



Plum blossoms while everything withers,
The snow and ice can cover miles of wilderness but lie
only beneath;
What is there to be feared of the bitter Winter,
The plum blossoms to forecast the coming of Spring.

A poem and painting by a Falun Gong practitioner while in detention, depicting the steely will of practitioners to endure the extreme suppression and their ultimate faith in the triumph of Truth. Instead of a paintbrush, this traditional Chinese painting was drawn with a blue ballpoint pen made for export by forced labor. Many people risked their lives to protect this precious artwork and slip it out of the prison.

Long Time Hermosa Beach Resident Finds Peace

My name is Albert Roman. I have spent most of my life in Hermosa Beach, a small beachside community situated 10 miles south of Los Angeles. I am a banker, I enjoy surfing, and I practice Falun Gong.

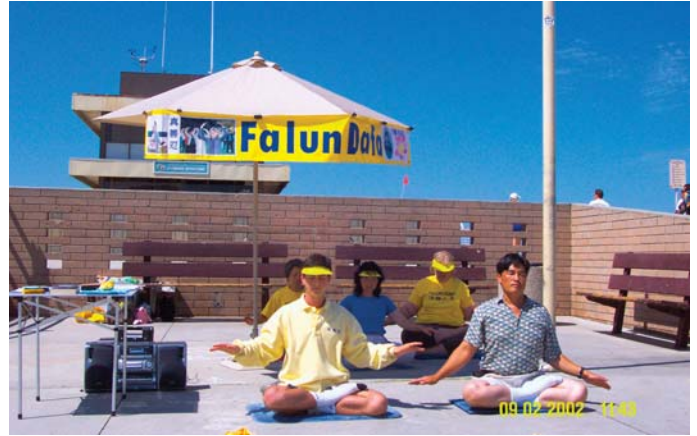
I first learned about Falun Gong a few years ago while I was teaching in China. It was the beginning of second semester, March 1999. One day after class, a student named Chian Cheng approached me and asked if I knew about Falun Gong or Qigong. I told him that I was unaware of Falun Gong but that I was interested in natural methods of achieving holistic health.

For the next two weeks we continued this conversation in which I questioned, commented and even challenged Chian Cheng about his understanding of Falun Gong. I wanted to clearly understand it rather than make premature judgments. After two weeks, Chian Cheng gave me the English version of the book Zhuan Falun that expounds upon the principles of Falun Gong. I learned that Falun Gong is a type of Qigong, a way to improve one's mind and body, through practicing five sets of exercises and constantly cultivating one's morals. It is based on the universal principle of Truthfulness-Compassion-Forbearance. I was attracted to Falun Gong because it emphasizes self-improvement.

After reading Zhuan Falun I was eager to learn the exercises, and within a couple of days, I was waking before sunrise to practice Falun Gong in a nearby park with approximately 50 others in our community. I was there when it was safe to practice Falun Gong. I was there when Falun

Gong was boasted as being the quintessence of ancient Chinese culture. I felt so fortunate. What a treasure!

Three months later, in July 1999, I returned home to be with my family in Hermosa Beach. I was delighted to find on the Falun Dafa website (falundafa.org) that there was a practice site in the city of Torrance. As soon as I got settled, I began practicing at Wilson Park in Torrance. Currently



Abert (the first left with yellow shirt) is doing sitting meditation on Hermosa Beach.

there are over 100 practice sites throughout California for anyone to learn Falun Gong for free.

I encourage everyone to learn about Falun Gong by checking out the website or by visiting one of the practice sites near your home.

What is Falun Gong?

Falun Gong, also known as Falun Dafa, is an ancient mind-body self-improvement meditation practice. Along with five gentle exercises, Li Hongzhi's teachings of Falun Gong emphasize the cultivation of one's moral character through following the universe's benevolent characteristic of:



Truthfulness-

Compassion-

Forbearance.

www.falundafa.org

Falun Gong Newsletter in California

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