Sujiatun Death Camp: Putting Conscience On Trial

Please remember the name: Sujiatun. It will one day be as infamous as Auschwitz and Dachau.

On March 8, 2006, a Chinese journalist on the run from the Chinese communist regime disclosed to Falun Gong practitioners in the United States some appalling news: a secret death camp in Sujiatun, Shenyang City, Liaoning Province in China.

According to this journalist, over 6,000 Falun Gong practitioners have been taken to Sujiatun. “I believe that once they are in they 100% cannot come back out,” the journalist said. He also disclosed that there are incineration chambers and a large number of doctors there. “Why are there incineration chambers there? Why are there so many doctors inside? Certainly not for the benevolent treatment of prisoners. Something you simply cannot imagine...”

“The prisoners, the Communist Party definitely will not let them just waste food there. Why are they there then? ... They will all be murdered, and all their organs will be harvested and distributed to hospitals. The sale of human organs is a vastly profitable trade in China.”

Falun Gong practitioners are not the only victims of such crimes. One week after the journalist’s disclosure, a former nurse whose ex-husband had taken part in harvesting organs from Falun Gong practitioners also stepped forward to testify:

“I used to work at the Liaoning Thrombus Treatment Center, which was next to the concentration camp. My ex-husband had taken part in removing corneas from Falun Gong practitioners. This brought disaster to my family.”

“In early 2001, my husband was assigned by the hospital to secretly remove corneas from Falun Gong practitioners. He hid this from me at the beginning, but slowly I sensed he was in great agony, had nightmares often, and was always stressed. After my repeated inquiries, he told me the truth in 2003.”

“He knew they were Falun Gong practitioners. Every doctor who took part knew. They were told that eliminating Falun Gong was not a crime, but helping the Communist Party to do ‘cleansing.’ Those who were taken in on the operating tables were anesthetized. Elderly people or children were mostly used for harvesting corneas.”

“At the time when my ex-husband told me about this, he could no longer bear the torment of doing such evil things, and decided to leave China to escape the horror. He said to me: you cannot possibly know my despair, because those Falun Gong practitioners were still alive. It was different from removing organs from dead people—they were alive.”

“Because of this, I divorced him. I said to him: you are done with your career; you will not be able to hold a scalpel in the future.”

“I know there are still Falun Gong practitioners in that hospital,” this nurse said in the end. “I hope this crime can be exposed to the international society as quickly as possible, so their lives can be saved. I also hope, through my disclosure, to atone my relative’s crime.”

The victims are not even limited to Chinese. It is an open secret that China has become the world capital of organ transplantation, and ships human organs to nearby countries such as Thailand. Tens of thousands of people from different parts of the world have received organ transplants in China and Thailand, being assured that the organs have been legally obtained. How will they and their surgeons feel when they learn about the barbaric organ harvesting, even if the organs harvested from Falun Gong practitioners turn out to account for a portion of all human organs used in transplant operations? Is there a way for them to remove the doubt? Will they want to find out? Or will they bear that doubt and forever avoid mentioning “transplanted in China”?

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Another doctor recently stated that extracting organs from living prisoners is common across China. How many more camps like Sujiatun exist?

It was precisely because we abhor such appalling crimes that humanity vowed “Never again!” after the shock of the Holocaust. Yet, as this vow is still ringing in the ears of Holocaust survivors, we are in for another shock—or are we? How do we explain to ourselves and our children that we have watched the systematic eradication of Falun Gong for more than six years and allowed it to escalate to the emergence of human organ harvesting factories like Sujiatun?

It is not due to a lack of information. Ever since July 1999, Falun Gong practitioners in China have been taking great risks to collect and send abroad, on a daily basis, detailed information on the extensive and severe human rights violations committed by the Chinese communist regime. Falun Gong practitioners overseas have worked their hardest to disseminate this information to governments, media, opinion leaders, the United Nations, and the general public to appeal for their attention.

Falun Gong practitioners are risking their lives to let the world know the truth of the practice. On September 29, 1999, practitioners demonstrated the Falun Gong exercises at Tiananmen Square as a peaceful appeal to the general public. Policemen rushed over to force the practitioners into the police van.

It is not because the information is unsubstantiated. In the past few years, many Special Rapporteurs of the United Nations Human Rights Commission have cited in their annual reports numerous cases of torture and killing of Falun Gong practitioners by the Chinese regime. Special Rapporteur Asma Jahangir wrote in her 2003 report: “The cruelty and brutality of these alleged acts of torture defy description.” On October 15, 2004, seven Special Rapporteurs sent a joint letter to China to express their concern about the persecution of Falun Gong. These Special Rapporteurs are the most-respected authorities on human rights. Their findings and opinions on the Chinese regime’s persecution of Falun Gong have been reprinted to thousands upon thousands of copies and submitted to world governments and media.

History, unfortunately, repeats itself. Just as the Holocaust information provided by Jewish groups was cast aside or downplayed because of the “unsubstantiated nature of the information” and its “prejudiced sources,” information from Falun Gong practitioners has received the same fate. History has also shown that all major atrocities occurred when there was not enough media exposure, when perilous signals were ignored because they were “incomplete” or “unsubstantiated” or from “prejudiced sources”—when evildoers’ deceits prevailed, when the silence allows the evildoers to carry on unnoticed and unhindered.

History, however, never duplicates itself exactly.

There is no major military or ideological confrontation in the world now. While the Allies did not have their focus on saving the Holocaust victims, at least they were fighting the Nazis and determined to win the war. We do not have that excuse now. On the contrary, we are apparently determined to win the market in China.

Technology is far more advanced now than it was in WWII, and we do not even need to be at Auschwitz or Buchenwald to know what is going on there. If 6,000 people have been taken in to Sujiatun and none has come out, how hard is it to see from surveillance satellites the suspicious traffic going in and out to figure out that it is a death camp?

There are now many international human rights laws that were not available before the Nuremberg trials, and there are now many surveillance and protection mechanisms implemented by the United Nations. How hard is it to demand an international investigation into the serious claim of the death camp’s existence? What were those international human rights laws established for?

We do not always ignore incomplete or unsubstantiated information from China, however. When Dr. Jiang Yanyong disclosed the Chinese regime’s deadly lies about the SARS epidemic, the retired doctor’s letter to the media contained only what he had heard from his colleagues. Did the world hesitate for a second because the information was “incomplete” or “unsubstantiated”?

Why didn’t the information’s incompleteness prevent decisive action by the international community? In fact, his letter was sent only to Chinese media, but Western media got hold of it and publicized it. Why does the world react so differently to the SARS news and the Sujiatun news, both of life-and-death importance? Isn’t it because Sujiatun is about other people’s lives?

If that is not enough to make us look at the selfish side of our humanity, consider this: if Sujiatun happened anywhere else other than China, whether in democratic countries or in North Korea, Sudan, or Cuba, it would have caused major outcry. Only the human greed for economic gains from China has kept the Sujiatun death camp from being an international issue.

“The wrongs which we seek to condemn and punish have been so calculated, so malignant, and so devastating, that civilization cannot tolerate their being ignored, because it cannot survive their being repeated.” Justice Jackson knew the legacy that the Nuremberg trials would leave behind when he drafted his opening speech. If he would have lived to see the post-Nuremberg wrongs, he might have been more introspective and lead a trial on human conscience and how it could allow the wrongs to continue to happen.

On May 14, 2004, two policemen abducted Ms. Wang Yunjie while she was working in a shopping center and later sent her to the infamous Masanjia forced labor camp. To break her will and force her to renounce Falun Gong, the police tortured her every day for the next six months with beatings, hanging her in the air, depriving her of sleep, solitary confinement, forcing her to stand or squat for days at a time, etc. She was also forced to do hard labor for extended hours. In December 2002, after depriving her of sleep for many days, the police stripped her clothes and shocked her breasts with two electric batons for half an hour. They then tied her up like a ball with forcibly bending her upper body down to her legs and handcuffing her arms behind her back. While in that position, they hung her up by her wrists for seven hours. The protracted torture severely damaged her body; the electric shocks disfigured her breasts, and her left breast became infected and festered. Even then, the labor camp continued to torture her for another six months. Only when she was on the verge of death did the labor camp order her family to pay 2000 Yuan and take her home.

Mr. Wang Bin was arrested and detained at the Dongfeng Xinchun Labor Camp. On the night of September 27, 2000, five guards and prisoners beat him so severely that they broke his neck, injured his tonsils, crushed his lymph nodes, and fractured several bones. He was taken to the Daqing People’s Hospital, but died in the hospital on October 4, 2000. Two doctors in the hospital removed his heart and brain. The photo shows that his body had been operated on.
Why the Persecution?

After Falun Gong was introduced to the public in 1992, various levels of the Chinese government recognized and commended the benefits of the Falun Gong practice, and their support facilitated the spread of Falun Gong in the early 1990s. In fact, one third of the 60 million Communist Party members and a large number of high-ranking government officials practiced Falun Gong.

A few Party ideologues, however, felt affronted by Falun Gong’s increasing popularity. They could not accept the fact that after more than 40 years of Marxist indoctrination so many people would look elsewhere for moral and spiritual guidance. From clandestine undermining in early 1994, to the orchestrated smear campaign and banning of Falun Gong books in 1996, to police harassment in 1997, they gradually escalated their hostility toward Falun Gong. On April 23, 1999, in broad daylight, armed police forces in the City of Tianjin assaulted hundreds of Falun Gong practitioners and arrested 45 of them. Two days later, on April 25, over 10,000 Falun Gong practitioners gathered quietly outside the State Council Appeal Office in Beijing to request the release of the detained practitioners. Premier Zhu Rongji met with a few of them, ordered the release of the detained practitioners, and the gathering peacefully concluded. Because of this event, Falun Gong began to receive international attention.

On April 25, 1999, over 10,000 practitioners appealed outside the State Council Bureau of Appeal in Beijing. Practitioners were orderly, standing on the sidewalk and carefully leaving room for pedestrians and traffic.

Serial Rape in Hebei

On November 24, 2005, the police from the Dongchengfang Town Police Station, Zhumadian City, Hebei Province arrested, interrogated, and tortured several Falun Gong practitioners. The police stunned them with electric batons, brutally beat them with clubs, and kicked them. The next day, policeman He Xuejun took two of them, one after the other, to a room. There he savagely beat Ms. Liu Jizhi (age 51), lifted up her shirt to grope her, and shocked her nipples with an electric baton. While watching the sparks from his stun gun, he said, “This is fun! This is fun!” He then raped her. He did the same to Ms. Han Yuzhi (age 42). Both women were raped in the presence of another policeman.

Two policemen kick and drag one practitioner who is appealing on Tiananmen Square, while a plainclothes officer grasps the practitioner’s yellow banner.

Lost Brothers in China

Mr. Hu Zhiming, was released from the Shanghai Tianshui Jail. After his release, he resumed his practice of Falun Gong and kept in touch with Mr. Hu Zhiming. However, in October 2005, Mr. Hu disappeared in Beijing and could not be contacted anymore. The police notified Mr. Hu’s family that he was again in trouble, but they refused to disclose where he was. No one has ever heard from him again.

Dr. Huang Wanqing lives in the USA. His brother Huang Xiong has been missing for nearly three years. Huang Xiong lived in Wanan County, Jiangxi Province. He was sent to a forced labor camp for more than one year. After his release, he lived in exile to avoid recapture and further persecution. Police from Jiangxi Province, Shanghai, and other parts of China pursued him nationwide. In April 2003, Huang Xiong disappeared after speaking with Dr. Huang Wanqing on the phone. Since then, Dr. Huang and his family have never heard from his brother again.

On May 7, 2004, in Longshan Labor Camp of Shenyang City, the police shocked Falun Gong practitioner Ms. Gao Rongrong’s face with three electric batons for seven hours, burning her face to a crisp (the picture was taken ten days after the heinous torture). Taking great risks, and with the help of fellow Falun Gong practitioners, Ms. Gao publicized her suffering on the overseas Internet in July 2004, and escaped from police custody on October 15, 2004.

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Instead of punishing the torturers, the Chinese regime issued a warrant for capturing Ms. Gao. In March 2005, the police arrested Ms. Gao and those who helped her to escape. She was tortured to death in the notorious Masanjia Labor Camp on June 16, 2005. Many Falun Gong practitioners who had helped Ms. Gao are still in police custody and their lives are in great danger.

Ms. Liu Jizhi was brutally beaten and raped. Her hips and thighs were severely bruised. This photo shows her injured body.

On July 20, 1999, he ordered an all-out persecution of Falun Gong. The persecution, which is not dissimilar to the persecution of early Christians two thousand years ago, has since brought atrocities to countless families. From information that has leaked through the tight control of the PRC, we know that millions of people have suffered arbitrary incarceration, almost all under inhumane conditions; hundreds of thousands have been put into forced labor camps; thousands have been detained and severely tortured with nerve-damaging drugs in mental hospitals. Thousands have died in custody, while countless others are still unaccounted for. The scope and severity of the atrocities are difficult to fathom.

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Falun Gong (also known as Falun Dafa) is an ancient form of Chinese cultivation practice.

From its earliest establishment, Chinese culture has embraced the concept of the “Oneness of Heaven and Man.” The way for man to achieve this oneness is cultivation practice. Chinese literature is filled with legends of people achieving the status of deities, becoming enlightened, or obtaining the Tao through cultivation, and thousands of different schools of cultivation have existed over the course of Chinese history. Cultivation, therefore, is a traditional practice of mind and body transcendence.

Falun Gong was introduced to the public in 1992 by Mr. Li Hongzhi. The practice teaches practitioners to assimilate to the essential characteristics of the universe, Truth-Benevolence-Forbearance. When practitioners are more in tune with the energy of the universe, they become healthier in body, mind, and spirit.

At the simplest level, Falun Gong is a way of life, a choice to be a good person with higher moral standards. Practitioners give up selfish and harmful thoughts. They let go of attachments to false concepts of fame, wealth, and lust. They stop worrying about being taken advantage of. In case of conflicts, they consider others first. They search inside to find their own shortcomings, and attain inner peace. This, combined with five sets of gentle exercises of proven efficacy in health improvement, has enabled practitioners to achieve improved health, morality, and purposeful living. It is a way of life that, once experienced, few are willing to give up.

As a testament to the exceptional benefits it brings to practitioners, by 1999, just seven years after its introduction to the public, Falun Gong has been practiced by over 100 million people across more than 60 countries.

Falun Gong has five gentle meditation exercises, including a seated meditation, which you can learn quickly and easily at any of the group practice locations around the world. They can also be learned from videos, free to download from the Internet (www.falundafa.org). All Falun Gong activities are free of charge. To learn more about the persecution in China, please go to: www.faluninfo.net or www.falunhr.org

Where in China Are Your Dolls and Toys Made?

Since July 20, 1999, hundreds of thousand of Falun Gong practitioners have been detained in forced labor camps throughout China. The police use all methods of torture, including intensive labor for extended hours, to break the will of Falun Gong practitioners. Many of the products they are forced to make are for export. The following are some examples of forced labor products.

These toy rabbits are products of the Beijing Mickey Toys Co., Ltd., but were made at the Xin’an Forced Labor Camp in Beijing. In February 2001, nearly 1,000 detained Falun Gong practitioners were forced to make 100,000 toy rabbits, for Beijing Mickey Toys Co., Ltd., subcontracted by Nestle. These products were exported to many countries, including the United States, Canada, Australia, Denmark, Brazil, Hungary, Japan, and Southeast Asia.

Ms. Li Ying was imprisoned in the Shanghai Women’s Forced Labor Camp from December 2001 to October 2003 because she practices Falun Gong. In late November 2003, she was released from the labor camp and went to Australia with help from the people in Australia. Ms. Li Ying testified that she had been forced to make the above dolls while she was detained in the labor camp.

Why the Persecution?

At the same time, the PRC propaganda machinery launched a far-reaching campaign of disinformation to deceive the public and escape world condemnation. In early 2001, the authorities attempted an outrageous stunt: a staged self-immolation of five people in Tiananmen Square. No less devious than Nero’s shift of blame for the Great Fire of Rome to Christians, the Chinese Government alleged that the immolators were Falun Gong practitioners in order to incite hatred towards Falun Gong.

Third-party reporters and careful observers, however, discovered numerous loopholes in the hoax. The Washington Post revealed that Ms. Liu Chunling, one of the “immolators,” had never practiced Falun Gong. Other analysts pointed out that the police were mysteriously patrolling Tiananmen Square with dozens of pieces of firefighting equipment that day; Liu Siying, a 12-year-old girl “immolator,” was purported to have had a tracheotomy after the incident, but spoke and sang clearly to the interviewing camera, a medical impossibility; Mr. Wang Jindong was supposed to have been engulfed in flames, but his hair and the plastic 7-UP bottle that he had “used to douse gasoline” remained miraculously intact.

These holes prompted International Education Development, a UN NGO, to state, during the 2001 session of the UN Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights: “The regime points to a supposed self-immolation incident in Tiananmen Square on January 23, 2001, as proof that Falun Gong is an ‘evil cult.’ However, we have obtained a video of that incident that in our view proves that this event was staged by the government.” For an analysis of CCTV’s footage of the staged self-immolation, please visit: http://www.faluninfo.net/tiananmen/immolation.asp

The violence and lies have failed to faze the Falun Gong practitioners, however. They have answered the Chinese government’s violence with complete peace. They have also exemplified great benevolence by taking great risks to tell the facts and truth to the public to help people wake up from a persecution that is completely based on lies. As more and more people in China and in the world know the facts of Falun Gong and see through the Chinese government’s lies, the day will come when the persecution can no longer be sustained.