

# **Violence Against Pregnant and Nursing Mothers**

## My Experience of Seventh-Month Forced Abortion

Both my husband and I are Falun Gong practitioners. Because we went to Beijing to appeal to the government to stop persecuting Falun Gong, the Beijing police arrested us and sent us to the Beijing Police Station. After we were escorted back to our hometown my husband was immediately sent to a detention center. The detention center dared not keep me there because I was seven months pregnant. Detaining a pregnant woman is against the law. They threatened to force me to have an abortion, so they could send me to a detention center, if I refused to give up Falun Gong.

I refused to renounce Falun Gong. I thought, "This is such a great practice. Why should I quit doing it?" I was taken to a hospital against my will. In the hospital, several people forcibly held me down and performed an abortion procedure on me without even informing my family. When my family got to the hospital, it was too late, and the forced abortion had taken effect. After receiving the injection to abort my seven month pregnancy, my unborn baby struggled in my womb for over forty hours before giving up its life.

While giving birth to a dead baby, I suffered tremendous pain and lingered in and out of consciousness. My mother cried while holding me tightly. I don't remember how many times I passed out. It was always my mother who pulled me back into consciousness by crying out loudly to me. I don't know how much time passed before my dead child emerged from my womb. Looking at my dead son, my heart was broken. My parents cried loudly. We loved the dead baby too much to allow the hospital to throw his body away.

During the several days I was forced to stay in the hospital, I missed my dead child. At the same time, I missed my husband, who was detained in the detention center, and he had no chance to see his baby son.

Seven days later, policemen wanted to send me to a detention center. They claimed, "according to orders from higher up, no matter what is done to Falun Gong practitioners it is not off limits." Because of my parents' determined intervention, the police didn't get their way. Instead, they sent me home under 24-hour surveillance. I was not allowed to leave home and completely lost my personal freedom. One month later, my parents were fined 2,000 Yuan. My husband wasn't released until after two months of detention.

## Forced Abortion at Full Term

**Zhang Hanyun**, female, 33, resident of Hanzhong City, Shanxi Province.

In March of 2000, because Ms. Zhang Hanyun practices Falun Gong, she was forced to attend the anti-Falun Gong brainwashing class held by the Hanzhong City "610 Office", even though she was pregnant and expecting her new baby soon. To avoid the persecution, Ms. Zhang hid with a relative's family. Her father owned a contraction company. Under instructions from the Hanzhong City "610 Office" staff members, the Beiguan Administrative Office closed down the construction sites of Ms. Zhang's father and brother in an attempt to force them to hand over Ms. Zhang. They also handcuffed Ms. Zhang's husband to the Jialing River Bridge to humiliate him.

In the end, Ms. Zhang was arrested and sent to the anti-Falun Gong brainwashing class. When the staff of the Hanzhong City "610 Office" realized Ms. Zhang would soon be giving birth to a baby, in order to detain her at the anti-Falun Gong brainwashing class, they took her to a hospital. Ms. Zhang was subjected to forced late-term abortion by dilation and extraction. The horrifying process is hard to imagine.

## Forced Abortion After Fourth Month of Pregnancy

**Jiao Fangyu**, female, employee of Laiwu Shandong Steel Factory, resident of Laiwu City, Shandong Province.

Because Ms. Jiao Fangyu distributed Falun Gong flyers, she was arrested by the Panzhuang Police Station on April 8, 2001. She was detained at the Criminal Investigation Brigade of the Laiwu Shandong Steel Factory. In June 2001, Ms. Jiao was four months pregnant. In order to keep her in custody they forced her to have an abortion. On October 8, 2001, the Laiwu Shandong Steel Factory sentenced Ms. Jiao to forced labor and sent her to the Wangcun Detention Center.

## Forced Abortion to Keep in Detention

**Lu Yunzheng**, female, 31, resident of Fengcheng City, Jiangxi Province.

In January 2000, Ms. Lu Yunzheng was detained for appealing to the government in Beijing to stop the persecution of Falun Gong. She was later escorted back to Fengcheng City. Because she was pregnant, the Chief of the Fengcheng Police Station forced her to have an abortion in order to keep her in the detention center for a longer term.

## A Pregnant Mother Jailed for Eighty-One Days

**Liang Suxian**, female, resident of Leiyang City, Hunan Province.

In late December 2000, Ms. Liang Suxian was lured to the Leiyang City Police Station for questioning, but was arrested upon arrival. During her detention, Ms. Liang was found to be two months pregnant. The police nevertheless jailed her for 81 days because she had gone to Beijing in April 2000 to appeal to the government to stop persecuting Falun Gong. Before releasing her, they also forced her to sign a document declaring that she would give up the practice of Falun Gong.

## Detained While Pregnant and Forced into Homelessness

**Yang Zhifang**, female, 28, a teacher at the Anatomy and Physiology Department of the Weifang City Husbandry and Veterinarian School, Weifang City, Shandong Province.

In October 1999, Ms. Yang Zhifang went to Beijing to appeal to the government to stop persecuting Falun Gong. She was arrested and escorted back to the Weifang City Husbandry and Veterinarian School, and detained for nearly 60 days, although she was three months pregnant. The School fired her but assigned employees to take turns watching her. Because she refused to write a statement renouncing Falun Gong, on September 5, 2001, the school authorities attempted to send Ms. Yang to be brainwashed. To avoid further persecution and possible forced abortion, Ms. Yang escaped and did not return to her home. Her husband, Mr. Hua Yuliang, also a Falun Gong practitioner, was sentenced to three years of forced labor at the Changle Detention Center. Currently, Ms. Yang is living on the streets.

## Detained while Pregnant

**Li Yanchun**, female, 29, resident of Tiefu City, Liaoning Province.

In September 2001, the police from the Tianshan Street Police Station arrested Ms. Li Yanchun because she was distributing Falun Gong flyers in Inner Mongolia. She was detained at the Tianshan Street Detention Center in Arlukeerqinqi. Ms. Li refused to reveal the source of the flyers, and went on a hunger strike to protest her illegal detention. Ms. Li was pregnant but the police denied this fact even though they had taken her to the hospital twice for pregnancy tests. They refused to let her see the examination results. They told her husband, however, when he came to visit in January 2002, that she was four months pregnant, but they still would not release her. They also tried to feed Ms. Li some unknown medicine, but she refused.

## Torture and Hard Labor During Pregnancy

**Li Dan**, female, resident of Linhe City, Inner Mongolia.

On February 19, 2000, Ms. Li Dan was arrested because she went to Beijing to appeal to the government to stop persecuting Falun Gong. She was then sent back to Linhe City and detained at Linhe City Police Station. While in the Linhe City Police Station, three policemen took turns beating her for an entire night. Policeman Yang slapped her face over a dozen times. On February 20, 2000, Ms. Li was shackled and sent to the Huhehaote City Women's Labor Camp. She was detained in this camp until July 30, 2000.

During her detention, she was forced to do heavy labor. On July 10, an examination revealed that she had been pregnant for a few months. She was still forced to unload 30 tons of coal per day with eight other Falun Gong practitioners. Also, she was forced to load and unload bull dung and till the soil. When there was no heavy work, she was forced to wrap more than 10,000 pairs of chopsticks each day. Every morning, Ms. Li was handcuffed to the stair rail and forced to squat for a long time. One day, Captain Liu of the No. 3 Team of the labor camp shocked her with an electric baton. Later, Deputy Captain Chang Hong ordered guards to hang her by handcuffs without letting her feet touch the ground. Her arms became black, cold, and numb after two hours of hanging, and she was hung this way for the entire day.

On July 30, 2000, she was released to go home with her hands still cuffed. The Linhe City Police Station ordered the clinic to force Ms. Li to abort her baby during her eighth month of pregnancy, but the forced abortion did not succeed. Shortly after she gave birth, the police ordered her to write a statement to renounce Falun Gong, or she would be fined 30,000 Yuan or taken from her house. Even three months after her release she was still harassed and five or six policemen kept her under surveillance 24 hours a day. To avoid another illegal arrest, Ms. Li left home and became homeless.

## Detained More Than 40 Days during Pregnancy

**Liu Yaqing**, female, 26, university student, resident of Quyang County, Hebei Province.

In October 2000, the local authorities ordered the Quyang Police Station to arrest all of the Falun Gong practitioners in Quyang County. On October 7, Ms. Liu Yaqing was arrested and detained at the Quyang County Detention Center. She was pregnant at the time, but the Quyang Police Station refused to release her, and fined her family 10,000 Yuan. She was detained for more than 40 days.

### **Six Months Pregnant Mother Vomited Blood after Detention**

**Cui**, female, resident of Huichun City, Jilin Province.

At around 5 a.m. on September 7, 2001, four policemen from the Huichun Police Station broke into Ms. Cui's home and searched it. They arrested Ms. Cui and her husband because they are both Falun Gong practitioners. At the time, Ms. Cui was already six months pregnant. Ms. Cui and her husband were sent to the Huichun Police Station, where they were interrogated for several hours. Ms. Cui went on a hunger strike to protest the detention. During the hunger strike, Ms. Cui and her unborn baby suffered significant physical trauma. She was released after five days of detention. After she was released, she began to vomit blood. Ms. Cui's husband escaped on the way to the detention center, and his whereabouts are unknown.

### **Detained Although Six Months Pregnant**

**Na Yafang**, female, resident of Lequn Town, Shuangcheng City, Heilongjiang Province.

Since Ms. Na Yafang went to Beijing to appeal to the government to stop persecuting Falun Gong, she was detained in the Shuangcheng City Detention Center for more than half a month and fined 3,000 Yuan. After her release, she was forced to sell her land. In January 2001, because she refused to renounce Falun Gong, she was detained again in the office of Lequn Village although she was six months pregnant.

### **Pregnant Mother Tortured**

**Zhou Jing**, female, resident of Beijing.

Since Ms. Zhou Jing was a Falun Gong practitioner, several plainclothes policemen from the Beijing Police Station broke into her home and tried to arrest her. Ms. Zhou refused to go with them. Despite her pregnancy, a strong policeman handcuffed her arms behind her back, pushed her down on the ground, and dragged her out of the room. The police tore her clothing, leaving her body uncovered. Her eyes, knees, and legs were injured while she was dragged on the cement floor.

### **Forced to Become Homeless during Pregnancy**

**Yu Ping's wife**, female, resident of Beijing.

On October 18, 2000, the Beijing police arrested Mr. Yu Ping and his wife because they are Falun Gong practitioners. Their house was searched and property confiscated. Yu Ping's wife escaped and became homeless to avoid illegal arrest. She was several months pregnant at the time. She is still on the wanted list after her escape. Yu Ping was detained at the Chaoyang District Shanjianfang Detention Center. He went on a hunger strike to protest the detention.

### **Threatened with Forced Abortion**

**Ou Yang**, female, resident of Guilin City, Guangxi Province.

On July 13, 2000, police from the Qixing Police Station arrested Ms. Ou Yang, although she was pregnant, because she was practicing the Falun Gong exercises. They sent her to the Guilin Second Detention Center. She went on a hunger strike to protest the detention. Because of her hunger strike, she was fined 10,000 Yuan. Furthermore, the police threatened her with forced abortion if she refused to renounce Falun Gong.

### **Three Months Pregnant Mother Beaten**

**Sun Guijie**, female, 33, resident of Changfeng Village, Duimiancheng Town, Shuangcheng City, Heilongjiang Province.

In March 2000, because of her practice of Falun Gong, the local government officials and police woke Ms. Sun Guijie from her sleep at home and arrested her. They detained her in a warehouse for one month. In April 2000, because she went to Beijing to appeal to the government to stop persecuting Falun Gong, she was arrested again and detained at the Shuangcheng City Detention Center for 20 days. Liu Chengjiang, the Secretary of the Party Committee of Changfeng Village, required Sun's husband, Mr. Xiao Yalin, to pay a fine of 2,600 Yuan to secure her release. Her husband had to sell their land because he didn't have the money.

On the sixth day after her release, she went to Beijing again to appeal to the government to stop persecuting Falun Gong, and was detained at the Baigumiao Detention Center in Beijing. A policewoman beat her with an electric baton. She was unable to sit down because of the torture. After she was escorted back to Shuangcheng City, she was detained at the Shuangcheng City Detention Center for two months. After paying a fine of 4,000 Yuan, she was released. After January 17, 2001, she was detained for more than one month in the Changfeng Village office because she refused to renounce Falun Gong. At that time, she was more than three months pregnant. During her detention, Liu Xingwang beat her.

### A Nursing Mother Jailed and Assaulted

**Liang Peiying**, female, resident of Shiyan City, Hubei Province.

One afternoon in the middle of October 2000, when Ms. Liang Peiying was breast-feeding her seven-month-old daughter at home, two policemen from the Sanyan Police Station, Shiyan City arrested her. Even though it is illegal to detain a woman who has a child less than one year old, they took her to the police station and beat her severely. When her husband went to see Ms. Liang, the policemen handcuffed him and hung him from the window frame by his handcuffs, although he is not a Falun Gong practitioner. They brutally beat him as well.

They then cuffed Ms. Liang's hands behind her back and made her sit on the floor all night. Her seven-month-old son was deprived of her breast milk and cried so hard that he became hoarse and nearly lost his voice. Later Ms. Liang was released.

On December 14, 2000, Gao Donghui, the Sanyan Police Station chief, and policeman Cai Xiaojun broke into Ms. Liang's home and arrested her again. In the police station, they handcuffed her behind her back, with one arm over her shoulder and the other behind her waist. The torture is called the "Carrying the Sword on the Back." With her hands still in this distorted position, they pushed Ms. Liang onto the ground, facing up. Policeman Cui Ke, while wearing leather boots, stomped on her body from her head to her toes. Ms. Liang instantly lost control of her bladder and bowels from this assault. They then hung her up on the window frame by the handcuffs.

On December 15, Ms. Liang was sent to Shiyan No. 1 Detention Center. Ten days later, when policeman Cai went to interrogate her, he closed the door of the interrogation room and brutally beat her again. To cover up the arrest of a woman with a child under one year old, the Sanyan Police Station authorities changed the document date, stating when they sent Ms. Liang to the detention center, from December 15, 2000, to February 17, 2001, which was one day after her daughter's first birthday. To support this fabrication, Ms. Liang was transferred from the detention center to an out-processing station on January 15, 2001 and transferred back again on February 17, 2001.

### Detained during Pregnancy and Homeless while Nursing

**Yu Libo**, female, 29, resident of Zhaodong City, Heilongjiang Province.

Since Ms. Yu Libo went to Beijing to appeal to the government to stop persecuting Falun Gong, she was jailed at the Zhaodong City Detention Center in January 2000. She was five months pregnant at the time. She was released after two months, but only after her family paid a fine of 1,000 Yuan. After her release, she was harassed and kept under surveillance by the local police station and the local government. She was warned that she could be arrested again at any time. In May 2000, she was warned that she would be arrested after her nursing period. To avoid illegal arrest, she fled home and wandered the streets.

### A Nursing Mother was Punitively Force-Fed

**Peng Li**, female, 25, a teacher at Dayi Shaqu Town Central Primary School, Chengdu City, Sichuan Province, resident of Longxing Village, Dayi Caichang, Chengdu City, Sichuan Province.

On January 1, 2001, Ms. Peng Li was arrested and taken to a detention center, although her daughter was only seven months old and was still being breastfed. Since then, Ms. Peng has been detained and tortured in the Shuangliu Detention Center, Chengdu City, Sichuan Province. She was handcuffed and shackled for five days, which made her unable to eat, wash her face, or even sleep at night. Ms. Peng went on a hunger strike to protest her inhumane treatment. In order to force-feed her, ten policemen pressed her limbs to the ground and tried to insert a large wooden stick into her mouth. As a result, her mouth began to bleed profusely. The next day, police took Ms. Peng to a local hospital to have a large tube inserted into her stomach to force-feed her. She was in extreme pain and she was unable to talk or move.

### **Li Yanjie and Her Baby Forced to Become Homeless**

**Li Yanjie**, female, 25, resident of Dahe Town, Yilan County, Heilongjiang Province.

In February 2000, because Ms. Li is a Falun Gong practitioner, the police from the Yilan County Police Station went to her home, searched it, and threatened to push her down the stairs from the third floor. They took Ms. Li to the Dahe Town Police Station and tried to send her to a detention center. Because Ms. Li was pregnant, they had to release her. After one week, eight policemen from the Dahe Town Police Station went to Ms. Li's home, handcuffed her, and threatened to force her to have an abortion so that they could then send her to the detention center. They detained Ms. Li for more than sixteen hours. After her release, eight policemen kept her under surveillance 24 hours a day for more than a month. In early August 2000, when her baby was only nineteen days old, more than twenty policemen from the Dahe Town Police Station searched her home and took her husband away. During the altercation, the police twice used an electric shock baton on her mother-in-law. On December 26, 2000, Ms. Li took her baby with her to Beijing to appeal to the government to stop the persecution of Falun Gong. She was arrested in Tiananmen Square. She and her baby were detained in the Fengtai Police Station in Beijing for three days. After her release, Ms. Li and her baby were forced to wander the streets to avoid further illegal arrests. After six months, she took her baby back to her hometown to visit her family. The police threatened her with another detention. Ms. Li was forced to take her baby with her to wander the streets, becoming homeless once again.

### **Nursing Mother Detained for Over One Month**

**Zhao Hongbo**, female, 26, an employee of the 208 Team, No. 2 Mine, No. 1 Oil Explorations Factory, Daqing City, Heilongjiang Province, resident at 4-4-1-501 Jingxia Dengfeng Village, Daqing City, Heilongjiang Province.

On December 19, 2000, Ms. Zhao Hongbo, went to Beijing to appeal to the government to stop the persecution of Falun Gong. The police from the Tiananmen Qianmen Police Station in Beijing arrested her and transferred her to the Miyun County Police Station in Beijing. They detained her for four days. Then they escorted her back to the Sa District Police Station in Daqing City, Heilongjiang Province, where they incarcerated her for one month. Ms. Zhao was then transferred to another detention center and detained for 15 days. All this time, while she was incarcerated, she was nursing her baby. On February 21, 2001, the Party Secretary of the No. 2 Mine, No. 1 Oil Explorations Factory, Zhang Jixian, fined Ms. Zhao 15,000 Yuan (the average monthly income for an urban worker in China is 500 Yuan), confiscated four months' salary, totaling about 2,800 Yuan, and withheld her salary several times, totaling an additional 3,000 Yuan. On August 22, 2002, the local police arrested Ms. Zhao again for giving her colleagues VCDs that contained Falun Gong information.

### **Forced to Become Homeless with Newborn Baby**

**Mr. Zhou Yongnian's wife**, resident of Tongzhou District, Yangzhou City, Jiangsu Province.

On February 19, 2000, Mr. Zhou Yongnian and his wife were arrested and detained for a month because they practiced the Falun Gong exercises outdoors. At that time, Mrs. Zhou was two months pregnant. After they were released, the police continued to threaten them relentlessly. On October 1, 2000, the Tongzhou District Police Station arrested Mr. Zhou Yongnian after he and his wife appealed to the government to stop persecuting Falun Gong. On April 6, 2001, the Tongzhou District Court sentenced him to a nine-year term. On December 8, 2000, during a search of Mr. Zhou's home, the Tongzhou District Police Station illegally took possession of all his valuables, including cash. Since then, their home has been searched and ransacked three times. The Tongzhou Police Station put Mrs. Zhou and her 28-day-old baby under constant surveillance. She was not allowed to answer phone calls and was followed if she went out. Because of this relentless persecution, she fled from her home with her newborn baby even though she had no money. Her and her baby's whereabouts are unknown.

### **Nursing Mother Taken to Brainwashing Class**

**Hou Huiru**, female, 28, a teacher of the Xinhua Elementary School, Shijiazhuang City, Hebei Province.

Since Ms. Hou Huiru practices Falun Gong, Zhao Wenting, the principal of the Xinhua Elementary School, suspended Ms. Hou from teaching classes. Zhao also withheld money from Ms. Hou's salary and detained her at the school. After releasing her, Zhao then hired two security guards to monitor Ms. Hou day and night. Later, Zhao Wenting, together with officers from the "610 Office", forcibly took Ms. Hou and her husband to an anti-Falun Gong brainwashing class, leaving their nine-month-old baby, who was still in need of breast-feeding, unattended.