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 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 nationalwide systematic persecution that began five years ago, the Chinese government has been unable to “eliminate” (as ordered by the government) Falun Gong practitioners and 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.

 laws".

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.

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.

WOPFG Confirms Abuse of Psychiatry in China

In 2004, the World Organization to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong (WOPFG) 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 WOPFG’s ongoing investigation indicate that practitioners are deemed mentally ill because they practice Falun Gong and are 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.
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. Riming Lee 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. Dr. Lee 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’s report 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.”

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. Forceld 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 sent to mental hospitals for further persecution.

Yang Baohun, a resident of Handan City in Hebei Province, went first 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 in an effort to force him to renounce his belief in Falun Gong. He was interrogated 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 sense of justice, he traveled dozens of kilometers, moving with the use of his two hands since his legs had 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 Center.
Psychiatric Facilities Used in Forcing Victims to Renounce Beliefs (Continued)
Death and Disability Resulting from Psychiatric Abuse

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 to renounce their beliefs has led to 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 her 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 undergo Delirium 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 blinking. She didn't look like a human being any more, but a seriously 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 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 quiet for a while, no matter whether it was food or articles for everyday use, it would all be snatched away by other patients. Personal belongings including clothing were often missing, worn by the other patients, and sometimes thrown into the trash can or bathroom. Sometimes, you would find someone put some dirty trash under your quilt, or you would discover a very dirty person beside 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 fluro-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. Eyeballs becomes blurred and one starts sobbing unintentionally. A person often chooses not to speak because it takes a great deal of effort to open the mouth. The person sometimes tries to say something, but one 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 from the bone. The person is 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 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, 1999. 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 to be used. That day, Hou Jinyuan was given an intramuscular injection and IV fluid for four hours. After the injection, Hou Jinyuan fell and finally told the police she 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 drug, your mind would not become clear again until after two or three days of sleep. After receiving an injection, Meng Xiao would speak clearly. When the nurse gave the injection on the third day, she told Hou that her forehead and tongue had become numb. When the nurse gave the injection on the third day, she told Hou that her forehead and tongue had become numb.

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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. Many present several symptoms 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.

Baimalong Labor Camp authorities took turns putting Falun Gong practitioners into groups such as the so-called “Transformation Team,” “Reformation Team in the Ward Office,” “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 local Public Security Bureau, Zeng Yufan, Guo Zhaoqing, and Qi Manying. The team was mainly responsible for the harm done to Chen.

In April 2004, Ding transferr ed 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 Hailuai 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, there was a multiphase way of determining one’s health 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 Chen’s recantation, she was injected 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 to make her slowly become sick. As Chen was suffering from a chronic disease. Doctor Lu from the Baimalong medical office, deputy director Zhao Guoqiu’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 a mental hospital. After reunifying 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, Wu Huying, Jin Fuwun, Gao Zhaoning, and Qi Manying.

Falun Gong practitioner Xia Ting is 29 years old. She is originally from Zhejiang Province and now lives in Shenzhen City. X ina 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 shaken by sudden noises, she has shoulder and back pain and she cannot balance herself when walking. On one occasion, Xia wrote a health report to the labor camp with the help of another practitioner. Subsequently, Zhao Guoqiu brought her to a private psychiatric hospital for another form of treatment. At that time, we were working nearby, and we saw Zhao Guoqiu 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.

The last time anyone visited her, they reported that her body was still festering, her home is still under “610 Office” surveillance and her family phone is tapped.

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 guitar written all over his face. Not long after leaving the hospital, my eyes began to fester, and even opening them became difficult. The insides of my ears also started to fester and oozed 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 when I avoided answering that question, so as to turn good, innocent people into mentally ill people.

Zhang Jinlan, 53, was sentenced to re-education through forced labor several times for her still haven’t praticing Falun Gong. She became mentally disordered. She was taken to a mental hospital for more than one month, and was injected with drugs that made her become sick, as if she was suffering from a chronic disease. Doctor Lu from the Baimalong medical office, deputy director Zhao Guoqiu’s wife, is primarily responsible for the harm done to Chen.

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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.
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. My belief 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 beating he received. Even now (in 2003) he still suffers from flashbacks of various instances of torture, 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 police officer 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. These tactics are said to be psychological, 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. Theses 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 propaganda logic of the totalitarian state’s campaign of terror.

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 propaganda. In November 2001, 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 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 on 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 feature 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 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 since been used 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 Binghua, 60, was involuntarily admitted to Daliushu Mental Hospital in Dabeijiao Town for appealing to the authorities on behalf of Falun Gong. She was detained for over a year, forcibly given intravenous injections, and given a label of “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 Nervous and Mental Disease (October 2002), Robin Munro reported a case of a 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 claims also contain the assertion that 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 of Chinese Falun Gong caused by Falun Gong, 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 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 respect. 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 credibility to the baseless psychiatric abuse of Falun Gong. 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 “survivors” who certainly seem to need psychiatric care. For those who do not know the truth, such 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
1. 261 Mental Hospital of People’s Liberation Army, Beijing
2. Anding Hospital (a mental hospital), Beijing
3. Beijing Northern Suburban Rehabilitation Center, Beijing
4. Daliushu Mental Hospital, Chaoyang District, Beijing
5. Hanzhuan Mental Hospital, Pinggu, Beijing
6. Huilongguan Mental Hospital, Beijing
7. Qinglongqiao Mental Hospital, Beijing
8. Zhonkouadian Psychiatric Hospital, Fanquan District, Beijing

Shandong Province
9. Mental Hospital in Qilin Town of Linzi District, Zibo, Shandong Province
10. Mental Illness Section of Kunlun Hospital of Zibo Mental Bureau, Shandong Province
11. Qilin Town Psychiatric Treatment Center, Linzi District, Zibo, Shandong Province
12. No. 5 People’s Hospital (former mental hospital), Zichuan District, Zibo City, Shandong Province
13. Mental Patients’ Ward at Weifang Rehabilitation Hospital, Weifang City, Shandong Province
14. Third Section of the Third People’s Hospital of Weifang for Mental Illness, Shandong
15. The Rehabilitation Hospital under Civil and Administration Bureau of Weifang City, Shandong Province
16. China-Korea Mental Hospital, Laoshan, Shandong Province
17. Zhongshan Mental Hospital, Laoshan, Shandong Province
18. Jinjing Mental Hospital, Jinjing, Shandong Province
19. Jinjing City Daizhuang Mental Hospital, Shandong Province
20. Xixia Psychiatric Recovery Center, Yantai, Shandong Province
21. Yantai Mental Hospital in Yantai, Yantai, Shandong Province
22. Beiliao Town Mental Hospital, Shouguang, Shandong Province
23. Changle Mental Hospital, Shandong Province
24. Laixi City Mental Hospital, Shandong Province
25. Laiyang Mental Hospital, Laiyang, Shandong Province
26. Linyi Mental Hospital, Laiyang, Shandong Province
27. Mental Hospital in Jimuuo City, Qingdao, Shandong Province
28. Mental Hospital of Jiaozhou (also called Jiaozhou Psychological Recovery Center), Jiaozhou, Shandong Province
29. No. 6 Hospital of Pingdu City (a mental hospital) in Shandong Province
30. Psychiatric Department of People’s Hospital in Qishui, Shandong Province
31. Shandong Provincial Mental Hospital, Jinan, Shandong Province
32. Zhucheng Mental Hospital, Zhucheng, Shandong Province
33. Chinese Medicine Hospital in Mengjin County, Shandong Province
34. The Third Mental Hospital in Binzhou City, Shandong Province
35. Yantai Psychological Rehabilitation Center (former Laiyang Mental Hospital), Yantai City, Shandong Province
36. Ankang Hospital, a mental hospital run by Tangshan Police, Hebei Province
37. Mental Hospital of Tangshan City, Hebei Province
38. Feixiang Mental Hospital, Hebei Province
39. Mental Hospital in Handan City, Hebei Province
40. Mental Section of the 5th Hospital Attached to the Medical School of Hebei Province
41. No. 6 Mental Hospital in Baoding, Hebei Province
42. Shalingzi Mental Hospital in Zhangjiakou, Hebei Province
43. Shijiazhuang Mental Hospital, Hebei Province
44. Tangshan Psychiatric Hospital (4th Hospital of Tangshan), Tangshan, Hebei Province
45. No. 2 Hospital, Psychiatry Division, Hebei Province
46. No. 5 Hospital, Psychiatry Ward, Hebei Province
47. Handan City Mental Hospital, Hebei Province
48. Huangshou Mental Hospital, Hebei Province

Jiangsu Province
49. Nanjing Mental Hospital, Nanjing, Jiangsu Province
50. Nanjing Psychiatric Hospital (Section 6), Nanjing, Jiangsu Province
51. Qiongshangpsychiatric Hospital in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province
52. Nanjing Zartangsh Mental Hospital
53. Chengbei Mental Hospital, Kunshan, Jiangsu Province
54. Jiqingbing City Mental Hospital, Jiangsu Province
55. Llonggang Mental Hospital, Yancheng City, Jiangsu Province
56. Mental Section of No. 3 People’s Hospital in Wujiang County, Jiangsu Province
57. Wuzhishan Mental Hospital in Yangzhou City, Jiangsu Province
58. Treatment Center for Mental Diseases in No. 102 Hospital, Changzhou, Jiangsu Province
59. Changzhou Mental Hospital, Jiangsu Province
60. Xuzhou Mental Hospital, Jiangsu Province

Liaoning Province
61. Dalian Drug Rehabilitation Center, Liaoning Province
62. Mental Hospital in Lingyuan City, Liaoning Province
63. Linghe Mental Hospital in Lingyuan City, Liaoning Province
64. Tangjiagang Mental Hospital, Anshan, Liaoning Province
65. Xiaolongzi Psychiatric Hospital in Anshan, Liaoning Province
66. Shenyang Mental Hospital, Liaoning Province
67. Yingkou City Mental Hospital, Yingkou, Liaoning Province
68. Tiexi District Mental Hospital, Shenyang City, Liaoning Province
69. Dalian People’s Liberation Army No. 215 Hospital

Jilin Province
70. Mental Hospital in Laoyuan, Jilin Province
71. Shulan City Mental Hospital, Jilin Province
72. Siping Mental Hospital, Jilin Province
73. Jilin City Mental Hospital, Jilin Province
74. Songyuan Division of Yaosan Mental Hospital, Jilin Province

Heilongjiang Province
75. Jingtai Mental Hospital, Harbin City
76. Mental Hospital in the Eighth Division of Victory Oil Field
77. Mental Hospital in Yichun City, Heilongjiang Province
78. Jiamusi City Mental Hospital, Heilongjiang Province
79. Anshan Kangning Mental Hospital, Heilongjiang Province

Guangdong Province
80. Fangcan Mental Hospital, Guangzhou, Guangdong Province
81. Huizhou City Mental Hospital, Huizhou, Guangdong Province
82. Baiyun Mental Rehabilitation Hospital (Guangzhou City), Guangdong Province
83. Jiangmen Mental Hospital in Guangzhou City

Sichuan Province
84. Beizhen Mental Hospital in Suining City, Sichuan Province
85. Mental Hospital in Pengzhou City, Sichuan Province
86. Pengzhou City Mental Hospital, Sichuan Province
87. Wanchunzh Mental Hospital, Wanjanqiang Province, Sichuan Province
88. Division of Psychiatry in Beipei Mineral Ole Reclamation Hospital, Sichuan Province

Chongqing
89. Piaping Mental Hospital, Chongqing
90. Xiemachang Mental Hospital, Chongqing
91. Chongqing No. 1 Mental Hospital, Chongqing

Guangxi Province
92. Longzhanshan Mental Hospital, Liuzhou, Guangxi Province
93. Mental Hospital of Guangxi Army, Guilin, Guangxi Province
94. Guangxi Army Mental Hospital (Liuzhoalong), Guilin, Guangxi Province
95. 191 Hospital (a mental hospital of the army), Guiyang, Guangxi Province

Henan Province
96. Mental Hospital in Kaifeng City, Henan Province
97. Second Mental Hospital, Xinxian, Henan Province
98. Xuchang City's Mental Hospital in Henan Province

Anhui Province
99. Anhui Provincial Mental Hospital
100. Hefei Mental Hospital, Anhui Province
101. No. 4 People’s Hospital in Hefei City, Anhui Province

Hunan Province
102. Changsha Mental Hospital, Changsha, Hunan Province
103. Hunan Mental Hospital, 94 Chiling Road, Changsha, Hunan Province
104. Mental Hospital in Zhuzhou City, Hunan Province

Hubei Province
105. Macheng Mental Hospital, Hubei Province
106. Yatai Mental Hospital at Wuhan University
107. Fangjialing Mental Hospital in Wuze City, Hubei Province
108. A Mental Hospital in Changshang City

Guizhou Province
109. No. 418 Hospital, Division of Psychiatry in Kaili City, Guizhou Province
110. Public Security Hospital in Guiyang City

Other Provinces and Cities
111. Lingwu Mental Hospital, Ningxia Province
112. Cangshan Mental Hospital, Fujin Province
113. Mental Hospital in Wuwei City, Gansu Province
114. Mental Hospital in Xianyang City, Shaanxi Province
115. Mental Hospital in Xining
116. Seventh Hospital of Hangzhou City (a psychiatric hospital) in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province
117. Mental Hospital in Shanghai
118. Hemujing Mental Hospital, Xinxi City
119. Kaisuans Mental Hospital, (Xiaonan Mental Hospital)
120. Lushan Mental Hospital
121. Mental Hospital in Xiaogan City
122. Ningbo Kangning Mental Hospital, Ningbo City
123. Nanmen Mental Hospital
124. Tonghe Mental Hospital
125. Yantai Psychological Rehabilitation Center (former Laiyang Mental Hospital)
126. Shapinba Mental Hospital
127. Zaozhuang Mental Hospital

For more information (currently Chinese only), please visit: http://www.fawanghuihui.org

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