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A King Who Devours His People: Jiang Zemin and the Falun Gong Crackdown: A Bibliography

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Introduction

In July 1999, the government of the People’s Republic of China (PRC) and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) began an official crackdown against the qigong cultivation group known as Falun Gong. Intended to quickly contain and eliminate what the PRC considers an evil or heretical cult (xiejiao), the suppression has instead created the longest sustained and, since the Tiananmen Square protests of June 1989, most widely known human rights protest conducted in the PRC. The Falun Gong has received worldwide recognition and support while the crackdown continues to provoke harsh criticism against the PRC as new allegations of human rights violations arise.

Because of its international notoriety, the Falun Gong crackdown has generated significant academic research and governmental interest. Scholars from the fields of sociology, psychology, political science, law, journalism, religious studies, and anthropology have all contributed to the academic discourse. Governmental and non-governmental organizations such as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and the U.S. Congressional-Executive Commission on China keep a close watch on the development of the rule of law and human rights in China and issue reports on the same. The

+ Head of Public Services and Reference Librarian (mjgreenl@uidaho.edu) at the University of Idaho College of Law.
1 Qigong (chee-gung) refers to the cultivation of qi energy in the human body through breathing exercises and meditation to promote health or cure illness. The regulation of qi is the basis of traditional Chinese medicine. Richard Madsen, Understanding Falun Gong, 99 Current History 243, 243-44 (2000).
2 The name Falun Gong means ‘Practice of the Wheel of the Law’. Falun Gong is also commonly known by its practitioners as Falun Dafa or ‘Great Method of the Wheel of Law’. Benjamin Penny, The Falun Gong, Buddhism, and “Buddhist qigong”, 29 Asian Stud. Rev. 35, 35 (2005). In this paper, I will use Falun Gong when referring to the group and Falun Dafa when referring to the practice.
media coverage given to the Falun Gong has produced thousands of articles since the suppression began in 1999.3

This article provides a brief history of the Falun Gong crackdown and a bibliography of English-language materials. Included in these materials are: treatises; articles; U.S. government publications; reports of NGOs, IGOs, and other organizations; newspaper and press reports; Falun Gong websites; and translations of PRC laws and regulations affecting religious activities and the Falun Gong. Falun Gong websites and materials mainly devoted to the practice of Falun Dafa (apart from the two main texts Zhuan Falun and Falun Gong) are not included; likewise, websites mainly soliciting support for the Falun Gong and its practice have been omitted. All websites included in this bibliography are publicly accessible.

The Crackdown Against Falun Gong

The Falun Gong emerged as a qigong cultivation group in 1992, as part of the “qigong boom” which began in the 1980s. The qigong boom was a reaction to the loosening of the PRC ban on religious activities following the end of the Cultural Revolution in 1976.4 Although religious groups and activities were still tightly controlled by the PRC, qigong groups offered an alternative “spiritual” practice outside religion. Qigong groups attracted not only popular support, but the interest of the PRC as well, as evidenced by the establishment of the China Qigong Scientific Research Association (CQSRA) in 1986.5 By 1998, qigong affiliations numbered more than 2,400.6

Of these emerging qigong associations, the Falun Gong quickly became one of the most popular and widespread.7 Founded by Li Hongzhi,

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3 Using the term “Falun Gong” to search the headlines of “Major Newspapers” in the Lexis-Nexis Academic database retrieves over 1,000 results.
4 During the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976) the PRC attempted to eradicate religion by closing all temples, mosques, monasteries, and all other venues for religious activity. See e.g. God and Caesar in China: Policy Implications of Church-State Relations (Jason Kindopp & Carol Lee Harmin eds., Brookings Institution Press 2004).
5 The PRC was quite taken with the idea of qigong as a specifically “Chinese science” and hoped its widespread practice might improve the overall health of the general population. David Ownby, A History for Falun Gong: Popular Religion and the Chinese State since the Ming Dynasty, 6 Nova Religio 223, 233-34 (2003).
7 Li Hongzhi received the “Advancing Marginal Sciences Award” at the 1993 Oriental Health Expos in Beijing. Also in 1993, “The Foundation for Encouraging
Falun Gong began as a cultivation system focusing on improving health and curing illness. Prior to founding Falun Gong, Li Hongzhi was an employee at the Changchun Municipal Cereals and Oils Company and had received some qigong training.

The CQSRA accredited the Falun Dafa Research Society in August 1993. In 1994, Li published Zhuan Falun (Turning the Wheel of Dharma) changing the focus of Falun Dafa practice from mere qigong “energy” cultivation to a cultivation method leading to salvation by following the three principles of Truthfulness, Compassion, and Forbearance (Zen-Shan-Ren). Although the teachings in Zhuan Falun are heavily influenced by Buddhism and Daoism, Li claims that his teachings are at a “higher level,” and insists that Falun Gong is not a religious group and that its exercises are not religious rituals. Despite Li’s insistence, Western governments and human rights organizations frequently characterize the crackdown against Falun Gong as a violation of the right to freedom of religion. Oddly enough, this is the one point on which the PRC and the Falun Gong find themselves in agreement: that Falun Gong is not a religious organization. The PRC recognizes only registered religious groups, and the Falun Gong has never sought such a classification.

This change in focus may have contributed to the growing popularity of Falun Dafa. Membership in Falun Gong was, and continues to be, largely

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8. Chang, supra n. 6, at 3.
13. Id. at 1.
15. There are five official religions recognized by the PRC: Daoism, Buddhism, Islam, Protestantism, and Catholicism. God and Caesar in China, supra n. 4, at 2.
informal, crossing into all strata of society: middle aged, middle class, peasants, elderly, students, teachers, physicians, soldiers, and even CCP cadres, diplomats, and other government officials.16 In 1996, Zhuan Falun reportedly sold nearly a million copies.17 At the time of the government crackdown in 1999, estimates of Falun Gong membership ranged from 2.1 million (PRC estimate) to as high as 60-80 million (Falun Gong).18

The Falun Gong operated under a loose pyramid structure, with Li Hongzhi acting as Chairman. Apart from the main headquarters in Beijing, there were city and provincial headquarters, arch-instruction centers, instruction centers, and practice points.19 As of 1999, there were 28,000 practice points established throughout the PRC.20 The Falun Gong also efficiently employed the use of modern communication technology (email, mobile phones, the Internet) to organize meetings and distribute information.21

In September 1994, Li announced that he would cease training sessions in China, followed in 1995 with the termination of overseas training sessions.22 The qigong boom of the previous decade was on the decline and the PRC was hardening its policy toward all qigong groups.23 Fearing that these groups might morph into political organizations, the authorities saw the potential for rebellion and sought to ban such organizations in the name of combating superstition and unscientific ideas.24 In March 1996, Li instructed two of his assistants to file for official withdrawal from the China Qigong Scientific Research Association and the Falun Gong was terminated in

16 Chang, supra n. 6, at 5.
17 Id. at 6.
18 Tong, supra n. 11, at 636.
19 Beatrice Leung, China and Falun Gong: Party and society relations in the modern era, 11 J. Contemporary China 761, 765 (2002); Tong, supra n. 11, at 642-46.
20 Leung, supra n. 19, at 765.
21 Id.; Tong, supra n. 11, at 646-50.
22 Tong, supra n. 11, at 640.
23 In addition to the Falun Gong, several other qigong groups fell under similar surveillance and suppression by the PRC including Guo Gong (Nation Gong), Cibei Gong (Compassion Gong), and Zhong Gong (China Gong). Amnesty International, The People’s Republic of China: The crackdown on Falun Gong and other so-called “heretical organizations.” 13-16 (Mar. 23, 2000)[hereinafter Crackdown]; The PRC levied fines of over 8 million yuan on a qigong organization in Suzhou and prohibited the use of qigong for healing. Tong, supra n. 11, at 640
24 Chang, supra n. 6, at 6.
November 1996, Falun Gong applied to reclassify itself as both a non-religious, academic organization and as a non-religious, cultural organization, but both applications were denied; leaving the Falun Gong without any official recognition by the PRC. By December 1997, the Falun Dafa Research Society had disbanded, abolishing its organizational structure, ceasing the acceptance of donations, and stopping the publication of official texts; Falun Gong now existed only through the practice of local groups and by electronic communication. Li Hongzhi left China in October 1996, ostensibly to teach a training seminar in Houston, Texas. However, he immediately applied for an immigration visa, which was granted in February 1998. He has since resided in New York City where he continues to teach.

The official government suppression against the Falun Gong originated on April 11, 1999. An article calling Falun Gong “bogus qigong” and a health hazard appeared in the magazine *Teenager Science and Technology Outlook*. The magazine refused to retract the article, so, on April 19, a demonstration of approximately 6,000 Falun Gong supporters was staged outside the magazine’s offices at Tianjin College of Education. The arrest of several supporters led to a mass appeal of more than 10,000 practitioners who gathered outside of Zhongnanhai, the seat of the Chinese Communist Party in Beijing, on April 25, 1999.

By all accounts, the April 25 demonstration was peaceful and orderly; however, it took the Chinese leadership completely by surprise. An emergency meeting was convened among top officials from the Ministry of Public Security, the Ministry of State Security, the People’s Armed Police, the Central Security Forces Bureau, the General Office of the Central Committee, and the General Office of the State Council. Afterwards, representatives from the Falun Gong were invited into Zhongnanhai for a dialogue. The Falun Gong presented their appeal, which included official recognition as a

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25 Tong, supra n. 11, at 640.
26 Id. at 641.
27 Id.
28 Id.
29 He Zuoxiu, *I Do Not Approve of Teenagers Practicing Qigong*, 32 Chinese L. & Govt. 95, 97 (1999).
30 Chang, supra n. 6, at 8.
32 Id. at 59.
33 Id. at 54.
legitimate organization, the release of the individuals arrested at Tianjin, and a promise that the government would refrain from prosecuting the demonstrators.34 Having communicated their appeal and believing that they would not be prosecuted, the Falun Gong departed.35 However, the Falun Gong continued to appeal to the government after the Zhongnanhai protest. By July 22, 1999, the PRC reported that the Falun Gong had organized over 300 protest rallies against the government and party agencies, as well as some news organizations.36

The PRC quickly began planning a strategy to eliminate the Falun Gong. Jiang Zemin denounced the April 25 demonstration as unprecedented and the boldest public challenge to regime authority since the founding of the People’s Republic.37 Jiang proposed the establishment of a leadership committee to deal with the Falun Gong by gathering intelligence, exposing Li Hongzhi’s political motives, systematically critiquing superstitious beliefs, and publicizing cases where the practice of Falun Dafa caused deaths, suicides, or schizophrenia.38 A new department, which became known as the “610 Office,” was created on June 10, 1999, to study, investigate, and develop a unified approach to resolve the Falun Gong problem.39 In all, more than 3,000 public security agents investigated Falun Gong activities in China and abroad prior to the official ban on July 22, 1999.40

Arrests of Falun Gong members began on July 20, 1999, two days before the official announcement banning the practice.41 Within the first few days, between 5,000 and 6,000 Falun Gong members were arrested.42 The proclamation banning Falun Gong was made on July 22, forbidding the practice of Falun Dafa, the distribution of Falun Gong materials, and the

34 Id. at 55.
35 Id. at 58.
37 Id. at 799.
38 Id.
39 Chang, supra n. 6, at 9.
40 Tong, supra n. 36, at 804.
41 Id. at 814.
42 Id. at 815.
organizing of demonstrations resisting the relevant government decisions.43 The police reportedly seized and destroyed more than 1.5 million books, videotapes, and compact discs containing Falun Gong teachings.44 Within a few days of the banning, all Falun Gong-related websites operating in mainland China were shut down;45 by August 1999, the government had an anti-Falun Gong website up and running.46 Falun Gong was declared an illegal, unregistered organization, conducting illegal activities, propagating superstitions, deluding people, creating disturbances, and jeopardizing social stability.47 Communist Party members and state functionaries were officially prohibited from practicing Falun Dafa.48 On July 29, the Ministry of Public Security issued an arrest warrant for Li Hongzhi49 and a $6,000 reward was offered for information leading to Li’s arrest.50

A broader arrest campaign was launched in October 1999, following the passage of new regulations criminalizing cults and investing law

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50 $6,000 equals about 50,000 yuan, equivalent to six years salary of the average Chinese urban worker. Chang, supra n. 6, at 10; Beijing Posts Reward for Arrest of Li Hongzhi, 32(5) Chinese L. & Govt. 37 (1999).
enforcement agencies with new powers to arrest and prosecute cultic organizations. At this time, the total number of detainees reached 20,000.

Most of those arrested were not criminally prosecuted. By November 1999, only 40 members of Falun Gong were known to have been tried in various places in China. Instead, thousands of practitioners were administratively detained, without trial, to "re-education through labor" camps (laojiao) for as long as three years. Distinctions were made between sect leaders, who were considered criminal elements and deserving harsh treatment, and common practitioners, who could be released upon renouncing the practice of Falun Dafa or be re-educated into society.

Shortly after the detentions began, reports of abuse and torture of Falun Gong practitioners started to emerge. Because of the difficulty involved in substantiating these allegations, due to both the secrecy of the PRC concerning the treatment of prisoners and the reliability of third-party reports, independent verification of the exact number of cases is lacking. By April 2002, the Falun Gong headquarters in New York claimed that more than 350 followers had died in custody or from official persecution. The U.S. State Department estimates that, since the crackdown began, between several hundred to a few thousand Falun Gong adherents have died in custody due to torture, abuse, and neglect. The PRC claims that any deaths of Falun Gong

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52 Tong, supra n. 36, at 815.


54 Re-education through labor (RETL) is a form of administrative detention conducted outside the formal criminal justice system and is designed to rehabilitate the behavior of societal “agitators” through moral and cultural education. Robert Bejesky, Falun Gong & Re-Education Through Labor: Traditional rehabilitation for the “misdirected” to protect societal stability within China’s evolving criminal justice system, 17 Colum. J. Asian L. 147, 148 (2004).

55 Chang, supra n. 6, at 13; See also Tong, supra n. 36, at 816.

56 Chang, supra n. 6, at 25.

57 U.S. Dept. State, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, & Labor, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2005: China (includes Tibet, Hong Kong, and
members that have occurred while in custody are the result of either suicide or natural causes.\textsuperscript{58} Reports issued by human rights organizations and independent investigators also include allegations of psychiatric abuse and forced commitments,\textsuperscript{59} and unlawful organ harvesting.\textsuperscript{60} The PRC claims the allegations of organ harvesting are groundless and that any organ transplants are conducted in compliance with World Health Organization principles.\textsuperscript{61}

The crackdown against Falun Gong also extended to those who do not practice, but, nevertheless, protest the PRC’s actions. One example is human rights lawyer Gao Zhisheng, director of the Shengzhi Law Office in Beijing, who has participated in several high-profile cases involving Chinese activists. On October 18, 2005, Gao published an open letter calling for religious freedom and an end to the brutal persecution of the Falun Gong.\textsuperscript{62} By December 2005, the operations of the Shengzhi Law Office were officially suspended and Gao Zhisheng’s license to practice law was revoked.\textsuperscript{63} In addition to issuing several more letters and reports, Gao launched a nationwide hunger strike on February 4, 2006, to protest government abuses.\textsuperscript{64} On August 15, 2006, Gao Zhisheng was detained while visiting relatives in Shandong Province.\textsuperscript{65} He was formally charged with “inciting subversion” on September 21, 2006.\textsuperscript{66}

\textsuperscript{58} Chang, supra n. 6, at 25.
\textsuperscript{64} Jonathan Watts, \textit{China activists vanish amid protests; Security police may be holding hunger strikers}, Guardian (London) § (International) 17 (Feb. 25, 2006).
The current number of Falun Gong practitioners remaining in China is difficult to determine. According to one source, there are approximately 60,000 practitioners in China; half of them are in labor camps and the other half are under strict surveillance and control. There are still reports of arrests of practitioners and large confiscations of Falun Gong materials. Police reportedly fill quotas for arrests of Falun Gong practitioners and the government uses mandatory anti-Falun Gong study sessions to force practitioners to renounce their practice. NGOs not affiliated with the Falun Gong documented 500 cases of Falun Gong members detained, prosecuted, or sent for re-education in 2005. Despite the change in PRC leadership from Jiang Zemin to Hu Jintao, little has been done to alter the hardline stance to eliminate Falun Gong in China.

Outside mainland China, however, the Falun Gong is thriving. The Falun Gong is a registered civic organization and allowed to practice freely in both Hong Kong and Taiwan. There are hundreds of Falun Gong groups operating throughout North America, Australia, and Europe.

As an international organization, the Falun Gong maintains an effective and significant Internet presence, using hundreds of websites for the

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72 Id. at http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2006/71338.htm.

distribution of publications and teachings by Li Hongzhi, news of the crackdown, practitioner testimonials, and general announcements.\(^7^4\) Two U.S. Internet companies founded by Chinese Falun Gong practitioners, Dynaweb Internet Technology Inc. and UltraReach Internet Corp., have been at the forefront of overseas Chinese and U.S. efforts to breach the PRC “Internet firewall” to allow Chinese Web users the ability to circumvent government censorship and access websites blocked by the PRC.\(^7^5\) Such circumvention has allowed Falun Gong groups outside of China to send and receive information with the Falun Gong remaining in China.

The Falun Gong has also been actively filing lawsuits against Jiang Zemin and other members of the PRC and CCP leadership, alleging violations of international law and human rights. Sixty-nine lawsuits have been filed in more than two dozen countries, including 17 lawsuits in the United States.\(^7^6\) A lawsuit filed against Jiang Zemin in the U.S. was dismissed in September 2003, recognizing Jiang Zemin’s head-of-state immunity.\(^7^7\) However, Falun Gong claims against the former mayor of Beijing and the former Deputy Mayor of Da Lian City were upheld, in part, granting declaratory relief for violations of the plaintiffs right to be free from torture; to be free from cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment; and to be free from arbitrary detention.\(^7^8\)

**Conclusion**

In the face of growing international pressure, the PRC shows no sign of relenting in its crackdown against a group that it continues to call a threat to social stability and the legitimacy of PRC authority. Ironically, while the PRC has largely succeeded in crushing the Falun Gong movement within China, the crackdown has, if anything, strengthened Falun Gong’s position abroad. Outside the control of the PRC, Falun Gong can now freely criticize and report on the crackdown, practice without restraint, and disseminate reports to the international community. In seeking to eliminate a threat to its authority, the PRC has ensured that the Falun Gong will continue to exist and

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\(^7^5\) Thomas Lum, *CRS Report for Congress: China and Falun Gong* 8, (May 25, 2006).


\(^7^8\) *Doe I v. Liu Qi*, 349 F. Supp 2d 1258 (N.D. Cal. 2004).
widely report on the crackdown in an effort to undermine its legitimacy, all
the while enjoying the protection of international law, human rights, and the
rule-of-law which has been denied in China.

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I. Books


In addition to discussing the history of Falun Gong and the crackdown by the PRC, Chang examines Chinese religious and millenarian movements and the persecution of contemporary religious sects.


An official publication of the Chinese government that justifies the suppression of Falun Gong based on physical and mental harm.


First published in 1993, this is an introductory book to Falun Dafa beliefs and practices. Two English translations are available on the Falun Dafa website.


The core text of Falun Dafa practice first published in 1995. Three English translations are available on the Falun Dafa website.


Pages 91-102 contain a case study of the Falun Gong demonstrating the strengths and limits of the rule of law in China.


A collection of essays, news reports, and government publications concerning the Falun Gong, especially as portrayed by the media (both Chinese and international).


II. Articles

Two issues of the journal *Chinese Law & Government* published in 1999 were devoted to the topic of the crackdown against Falun Gong. Volume 32(5) published translations of official PRC documents related to the crackdown; Volume 32(6) reprints materials issued by the Falun Gong.


III. NGOs and Other Reports

A. Amnesty International

Examines the legislation passed to legitimize the crackdown; unfair trials and sentences; detention in psychiatric hospitals; torture, ill-treatment and deaths in custody; and harassment of journalists.

Practitioner information includes: name, occupation, place of origin, detention date, trial/re-education date, sentencing body, charge or accusation, sentence, current status, and notes.

B. Human Rights Watch

Includes a chapter on the Falun Gong. Appendix III reprints two articles. The first discusses what is described as “Qigong deviation syndrome”; the second presents forensic psychiatric evaluations of cases involving the Falun Gong.

An overview of how the Chinese Government controls the practice of religion in theory, through its bureaucracy, and in practice. The appendices include translations of laws, regulations, and internal documents relating to the state control of religion.

Covers the basic beliefs and practices of Falun Gong; a chronology of events; accounts of Falun Gong practitioners held in custody; the
Falun Gong outside of mainland China; and an analysis of the government response. Appendix II reprints selected Chinese laws and regulations concerning religious groups, state security, and criminal conduct.

C. Other Reports


Two of the documents include discussion of the Falun Gong: a speech concerning political dissident groups and a digest of Public Security Bureau meetings on controlling and cracking down on unauthorized religious groups.


This report was prepared for use by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, on behalf of WriteNet, a network of researchers and writers on human rights, forced migration, and political conflict.


David Matas is a Canadian immigration and human rights lawyer and David Kilgour is a former member of the Canadian Parliament and former Secretary of State of the Government of Canada for the Asia Pacific Region.


Mo Wen (tr. Silently Writing), claims to be a high-ranking official in the Chinese Communist Party who wishes to reveal the truth concerning the Falun Gong persecution in China.
IV. United Nations – Commission on Human Rights

The U.N. Commission on Human Rights issues a number of reports on human rights violations through the work of its Special Rapporteurs and Working Groups. The reports of the Rapporteurs and Working Groups are available on their websites. The following Working Groups and Special Rapporteurs have addressed alleged human rights violations involving Falun Gong practitioners in their reports issued from 2000-2006. A collection of these reports from 2000-2003 is available at: http://www.specialtribunal.org/reports/un.


The following Position Paper was submitted by the Chinese Government to the U.N. Commission on Human Rights in 1999.

V. U.S. Congressional Materials

A. Congressional Record
The following references are a selection of remarks found in the Congressional Record.

106th Congress

107th Congress


108th Congress

109th Congress

B. Hearings


C. House and Senate Resolutions

H.R. Con. Res. 188, 107th Cong. (2002) (Whereas Falun Gong is a peaceful and nonviolent form of personal belief and practice with millions of adherents in the [PRC] …)


S.Res. 22, 107th Cong. (2001) (Whereas the Government of the People’s Republic of China has repressed unregistered religious congregations and spiritual movements, including Falun Gong…).

VI. Congressional-Executive Commission on China

The CECC was created by Congress in October 2000 to monitor human rights and the development of the rule of law in China. In addition to publishing annual reports, the CECC also publishes transcripts of its hearings and roundtables, issues papers on specific topics, and provides translations of selected PRC legal provisions. The CECC also maintains a public access Political Prisoner Database. All CECC publications are available on its website: http://www.cecc.gov.

Congressional-Executive Commission on China Annual Reports, 2002-2006. All of the annual reports of the CECC include some discussion of the Falun Gong, usually in the section on Freedom of Religion.

Congressional-Executive Commission on China, China’s National and Local Regulations on Religion: Recent Developments in Legislation and Implementation, 109th Cong. (Nov. 20, 2006).


VII. Congressional Human Rights Caucus


VIII. Congressional Research Service Reports


There have been several CRS Reports issued under this title and Order Code (RS20333). In addition to the Aug. 3, 2001 report, other reports include May 1, 2002; Nov. 1, 2002; Feb. 12, 2003; July 28, 2003; and Jan. 23, 2004.


Created under a different Order Code (RL33437) than the prior CRS Reports on Falun Gong.
IX. U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom

The CIRF is an independent, bipartisan government agency created by the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to monitor the status of freedom of thought, conscience, and religion or belief abroad. The annual reports address religious freedom in Countries of Particular Concern, as designated by the Dept. of State. The CIRF also publishes policy briefs and special reports on specific countries. All publications are available on the USCIRF website: http://www.uscirf.gov.

All of the annual reports of the CIRF include some discussion of the Falun Gong crackdown in China.

The Panel 4 discussion includes testimony by Erping Zhang, Falun Gong spokesman.

Policy Focus on China, (Nov. 2005).
This policy brief was produced after the Commission visited China from Aug. 14-28, 2005. The section on unregistered religious practices includes some discussion of the Falun Gong.

X. U.S. Department of State Reports


The Country Reports on China include discussion of the current situation of the Falun Gong under several headings including arbitrary detention or arrest, disappearance, prison conditions, freedom of religion, and freedom of expression.

Reports on China include discussion of the Falun Gong. Each report covers several topics including religious demography, status of
religious freedom, abuses of religious freedom, societal attitudes, and U.S. government policy.

XI. News and Media

For news concerning the Falun Gong crackdown the following websites may be useful:

Maintains an archive of Falun Gong news stories beginning in 1999. This archive covers the major wire sources, leading newspapers such as the New York Times, Washington Post, and the Wall Street Journal, and other worldwide print and electronic news sources.

English language Chinese news service provided by Xinhua News Agency, the state news agency of the People’s Republic of China.

An independent news company specializing in coverage of human rights in China, especially the Falun Gong crackdown.

The official newspaper of the Central Committee of the Communist Party in China.

In 2001, Ian Johnson won a Pulitzer Prize for his reporting in the Wall Street Journal on the crackdown against the Falun Gong. These stories can be found on the Pulitzer Prize website: http://www.pulitzer.org/year/2001/international-reporting/works/index3.html.


“China Tells U.N. It Did No Wrong in Death of Falun Gong Member,” WSJ, May 8, 2000.


**XII. Falun Gong Reports**

The following reports were issued by the Falun Gong Human Rights Working Group and are available on its website: http://www.falunhr.org.


A 472-page report was issued by the World Organization to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong in 2004.


**XIII. Falun Gong Related Websites**

This website presents an introductory analysis of the Falun Gong movement in Chinese society and culture. Includes an extensive bibliography of print and online publications.

**Coalition to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong in China,**

The Coalition was formed by the Falun Dafa Association and Clearwisdom.net to investigate the allegations of organ harvesting from detained Falun Gong practitioners.

**Committee for an International Special Tribunal on the Persecution of Falun Gong,**

Working to establish an international tribunal to investigate and prosecute those responsible for the persecution of Falun Gong. Collects reports from IGOs, NGOs, and the U.S. government concerning the Falun Gong.

**Falun Dafa Clearwisdom.net,** http://clearwisdom.net.

The official website for Falun Dafa in English. Updated daily with articles on practice, articles by Li Hongzhi, the persecution in China, and Falun Dafa news.

**Falun Dafa Information Center,** http://faluninfo.net.

Collects news and information from around the world on the persecution and Falun Gong activities.


Reports on human rights violations of Falun Gong practitioners and collects the relevant sections of the various U.N. Commission on Human Rights reports issued from 2000-2006.

**Global Mission to Rescue Persecuted Falun Gong Practitioners,**

Maintains a Persecution Database searchable by keyword, name, province, gender, and date.


Maintains a Legal Action webpage listing Falun Gong lawsuits filed around the world. Each entry includes a summary and links to available legal documents.
Collects and compiles reports on the persecution of the Falun Gong. These reports are arranged according to the Chinese province in which the action took place and by subject. Also includes reports of persecution taking place outside China.

XIV. Selected Chinese Laws, Regulations, and Documents

Those persons interested in performing in-depth research involving Chinese primary and secondary legal resources should consult the treatise:


English translations of the following laws, regulations, and documents are available on the Congressional-Executive Commission on China (CECC) website (http://www.cecc.gov) and/or the Religion and Law Research Consortium (RLRC) website (http://religlaw.org).

Constitution of the People’s Republic of China, art. 36 (freedom of religious belief) (CECC and RLRC).

Criminal Law of the People’s Republic of China, art. 300 (under the section addressing Crimes of Disturbing Public Order) (CECC).


Document No. 6 – Circular Issued by the Central Committee of the Communist Party and the State Council on Some Problems Concerning Further Improving Work on Religion (Feb. 5, 1991) (RLRC).


Registration Procedures for Venues for Religious Activities (May 1, 1994) (CECC and RLRC).


The following issues of the journal Chinese Law & Government include translations of Chinese laws, regulations, and government documents concerning religious freedom, cult activities, and the Falun Gong crackdown.

