

Falun Dafa — A Time Line of Events

The beginning

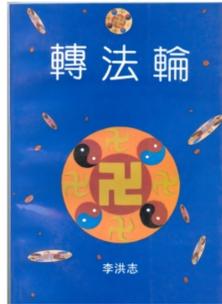
Mr. Li Hongzhi, the founder and teacher of Falun Dafa gave his first public lecture in Changchun, Jilin province, China in May 1992.



May 13, 1992

The book: Zhuan Falun

First published in China on January 4, 1995.
Available in more than 10 languages.
A national best seller in China, 1996.



The character in the center is the "wan" character, a symbol that has been used in many cultures for thousands of years to denote good fortune.

Jan. 4, 1995

10,000 practitioners appealed in Zhongnanhai, Beijing, China

On April 25, 1999, more than 10,000 Falun Gong practitioners held a peaceful gathering in Beijing, outside the Chinese leadership compound, Zhongnanhai. The assembly was apparently set off by an incident in Tianjin, where practitioners staged a protest after a local magazine ran an article maligning Falun Gong and the police used force to drive away the practitioners.



The entire event was peaceful and characterized by orderliness. "Unlike student protesters who noisily thronged the streets of Beijing with colorful banners and pungent slogans 10 years ago, Sunday's demonstrators drew no attention to themselves and attracted no notice until there were suddenly many thousand of them sitting quietly in one of the most politically sensitive locations in the nation," *New York Times*.



April 25, 1999

Nationwide persecution

The Chinese Government launched a far-reaching campaign of misinformation about Falun Gong. State-run media flooded the printing presses and airwaves with fabrications about Mr. Li Hongzhi and Falun Gong in attempts to sway and mislead their readers and audiences. Millions of legally published Falun Gong books, audio tapes, and video tapes were confiscated, burned, and destroyed across the country. Tens of thousands of practitioners were detained, thousands were tortured and sent to labor camps and imprisoned. "It's as though we are reliving a bad dream," said a Chinese businessman who expressed amazement at the old-fashioned nature of the anti-Falun Gong campaign to a *New York Times* reporter.



July, 1999 - Present

Government Action in the United States

On November 18, 1999, the United States House of Representatives unanimously passed 218 resolution criticizing the Chinese government's suppression of Falun Gong. The House resolution initiated by Republican Chris Smith of New Jersey said: "The Government of the People's Republic of China should stop persecuting Falun Gong practitioners and other religious believers."

President Clinton, in a human rights speech on December 6, 1999, criticized China's crackdown on Falun Gong: "...A troubling example, of course, is the detention by Chinese authorities, of adherents of the Falun Gong movement. Its targets are not political dissidents...But the principle still, surely, must be the same: freedom of conscience, and freedom of association."



Nov./Dec. 1999

First World Falun Dafa Day

May 13, 2000 was the first World Falun Dafa Day, marking the eighth anniversary of the introduction of Falun Dafa to the public. In over 64 cities around the world, practitioners held colorful celebrations and demonstrated the exercises in parks.



May 13, 2000

1992 - 1998

July 20-22, 1999

October, 1999

At Present

The China Qigong Association and its local offices, which are affiliated with China's Society of Science and Technology, organized all 53 Falun Gong work shops for Mr. Li Hongzhi between 1992 and 1994. About 20,000 people attended Mr. Li's lectures in person.

During this period of time Mr. Li received continual praise and recognition from various government organizations. Between 1996 and 1998, Mr. Li lectured in countries outside China, such as the United States, Switzerland, Australia, Germany, Canada, and France. His first lecture in the United States was given in Houston, Texas in Sept. 1995.

Falun Dafa develops in China and abroad



Over 10,000 people doing Falun Dafa movements during the Asian Sports Festival in northern China in 1998.



More than 3,000 people attended Mr. Li's lecture in Singapore in 1998.

On July 20, 1999, forceful suppression began, with more than a hundred arrests of so-called "key members" of Falun Gong being made across China in the middle of the night. A nationwide ban of Falun Gong was officially announced on July 22, making every sort of Falun Gong activity illegal. According to *New York Times*, "the authorities have detained tens of thousands of people and are spewing a deafening barrage of anti-Falun Gong publicity each day." Just one week later the Chinese Government issued an arrest warrant through Interpol for Mr. Li Hongzhi, then already a permanent resident of the United States. Interpol rejected Beijing's request, because the approach had political motives. Human rights groups accused Chinese authorities of blatantly violating the legal rights of Falun Gong practitioners. "This crackdown flies in the face of the Chinese government's commitments to increase social freedom and marks the beginning of yet another cycle of stifled dissent and repression," Amnesty International said in a statement.

Crackdown begins



Crackdown escalates and peaceful appeal



Hundreds of volunteer Falun Dafa contact persons have been sentenced to prison terms since October 1999.



The Chinese National Legislature rushed to pass an "anti-cult" law to retroactively criminalize Falun Gong. "China's communist leaders often insist that theirs is, in fact, a system of laws," *Washington Post* reported. "In the past week, events have proven the leaders absolutely right. When they found themselves without the laws they needed to vigorously persecute a peaceful meditation society [Falun Gong], the Party simply ordered up some new laws. Now these will be applied - retroactively, of course - in show trials that could lead to execution for the group's leaders. This is what the regime calls 'smashing them rigorously in accordance with the law.'"

Falun Gong practitioners worldwide made every effort to appeal for a peaceful dialogue with the Chinese government.

Falun Dafa practitioners held a press conference in Beijing on October 28, 1999. They were later arrested and sentenced to prison.

The courage continues



Detained in custody near Beijing, the practitioners still keep practicing the meditation.



At present, Falun Dafa is practiced in over 40 countries around the world. In the past year alone, Falun Dafa Experience Sharing Conferences have been held in the United States, Canada, Switzerland, Taiwan, Japan and China. This is the public face of Falun Gong...challenged, determined and unafraid.