

**Refugee Review Tribunal
AUSTRALIA**

RRT RESEARCH RESPONSE

Research Response Number: CHN33720
Country: China
Date: 1 September 2008

Keywords: China – Shenyang City – Longshan – Reform through Labour – “Brainwashing centres” – Detention centres – Sujiatun Detention Centre

This response was prepared by the Research & Information Services Section of the Refugee Review Tribunal (RRT) after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the RRT within time constraints. This response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. This research response may not, under any circumstance, be cited in a decision or any other document. Anyone wishing to use this information may only cite the primary source material contained herein.

Questions

- 1. Please provide any information regarding a “brain washing” facility in or near Loang Shan.**
- 2. Please provide any information regarding a detention centre called Wen Chan Chu, at Suijatin near Shen Yang.**

RESPONSE

- 1. Please provide any information regarding a brain washing facility in or near Loang Shan.**

A search of the sources consulted found no reference to a place named Loang Shan or Loangshan, nor any reference to a brainwashing facility, detention centre or prison of that name.

References were found, however, to the locality of Longshan in Shenyang city and to a facility or facilities variously referred to as the Longshan Brainwashing Center, Longshan Reeducation Center, Longshan Reeducation Through Labor Camp and Longshan Forced Labor Camp in Shenyang. Information regarding these follows.

The *Laogai Handbook* refers to the Longshan Reeducation Through Labor Camp (RTL) as one of four camps – the others being the Yijia, Zhangshi and Wangjiazhuang RTLs – which are part of the Shenyang RTL in Shenyang City (Laogai Research Foundation 2006, *Laogai Handbook: 2005-2006*, p.428 <http://www.laogai.org/news2/book/handbook05-06.pdf> – Accessed 29 August 2008 – Attachment 1).

An undated report on the Uphold Justice website refers to practitioner Li Xiaoyuan having been “sent to Longshan Brainwashing Center (previously Longshan Forced Labor Camp) in Shenyang City” in 1999 (‘Practitioners Were Tortured to Death in Shenyang City’ (undated), Uphold Justice website <http://www.zhuichaguoji.org/en/upload/docs/torturecases/ShenyangCity.doc> – Accessed 29 August 2008 – Attachment 2).

The Falun Dafa Clearwisdom website mentions Longshan in a number of reports relating to the treatment of Falun Gong practitioners in detention in Shenyang, including the following which are arranged in date order according to the matters reported:

- A report from April 2007 mentions the deputy director of the Shenyang City Judicial Bureau who had been “mainly in charge of forced labor camps, jails and related departments at different levels that were involved in persecuting Falun Gong” since 1999 and had “arranged all the brainwashing classes at Longshan Labor Camp, Zhangshi Labor Camp and Dongling Jail”. The article reports that the Longshan Labor Camp was “dissolved” in October 2004 (‘Exposing Three Vicious Guards Who Persecute Falun Gong Practitioners in Shenyang City, Liaoning Province (Photos)’ 2007, Falun Dafa Clearwisdom website, 30 April <http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2007/4/30/85077.html> – Accessed 28 August 2008 – Attachment 3).
- A report from April 2003 mentions Falun Gong practitioner Sun Fengxin having been arrested in October 1999 and “sent to the Longshan Brainwashing Center” (‘Longshan Forced Labor Camp in Shenyang City Tortures Female Dafa Practitioner Sun Fengxin’ 2003, Falun Dafa Clearwisdom website, 28 April <http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2003/4/28/34999.html> – Accessed 28 August 2008 – Attachment 4).
- A report from January 2004 refers to practitioner Li Xiaoyuan (mentioned also in the Uphold Justice report at Attachment 2) having been arrested in November 1999 and “sent to Longshan Brainwashing Center (previously Longshan Forced Labor Camp) in Shenyang City” (‘Latest News From China – 01/09/2004’ 2004, Falun Dafa Clearwisdom website, 9 January <http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2004/1/31/44594.html>) – Accessed 28 August 2008 – Attachment 5).
- A report from March 2004 mentions Falun Gong practitioners at the Longshan Prison having been transferred, in June 2002, to a new cellblock “specifically built to detain and persecute Falun Gong practitioners”. The report mentions that “[i]n 2001, Shenxin Prison was designated as one of the Falun Gong practitioner brainwashing centers” (‘Depraved and Immoral Places Seen in Broad Daylight: Exposing Prisons in Shenyang City that Persecute Falun Gong Practitioners’ 2004, Falun Dafa Clearwisdom website, 11 March <http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2004/3/11/45948.html> – Accessed 28 August 2008 – Attachment 6).

An undated article on the website of the Falun Gong Human Rights Working Group also reports on the case of Sun Fengxin (mentioned in the Falun Dafa Clearwisdom report at Attachment 4). The article refers to both the Longshan Brainwashing Center and the Longshan Labor Camp, and reports that “Longshan Labor Camp has directed an intensive brainwashing program at Ms. Sun”. According to the article:

In October 1999, Ms. Sun Fengxin, female, 32, resident of Zhenxi Village, Kangping Town, Kangping County, Shenyang City, Liaoning Province, went to Beijing to appeal for Falun Gong. She was arrested and sent to Longshan Brainwashing Center. Police shocked her face, mouth and body with electric baton. As a result of torture, her face and body was covered with bruises. Later, she was escorted back to Kangping County, and detained at the Kangping County Police Station for more than ten days.

On December 29, 2000, Ms. Sun was arrested again. At the police station, she was tied to a bed, with undisclosed items shoved in her mouth, beaten and shocked with electric batons for over eight hours. Again, her body was covered black and blue bruises. Early in January 2001, Ms. Sun was sent to the Fangjialan Detention Center, where she was detained for 55 days. Then, she was sent to Longshan Labor Camp in Shenyang City, to serve three years of forced labor.

During the detention, because Ms. Sun refused to read out materials cursing Falun Gong, she was beaten up by guards, and forced to squat without moving for hours. As a result, her body was again black and blue.

Since March 18, 2001, Longshan Labor Camp has directed an intensive brainwashing program at Ms. Sun ('Sun Fengxin Beaten, Tortured, and Disabled' (undated), Falun Gong Human Rights Working Group website, <http://falunhr.org/index.php?option=content&task=view&id=123&Itemid=0> – Accessed 28 August 2008 – Attachment 7).

In the appendices to a 2007 report into allegations of organ harvesting is the testimony of Falun Gong practitioner which mentions having been “continuously detained at Longshan Reeducation Center Brainwashing class in Shenyang city”, although the year of this detention is not stated (Matas, D. & Kilgour, D. 2007, 'Bloody Harvest: Revised Report into Allegations of Organ Harvesting of Falun Gong Practitioners in China' – Appendices, 31 January <http://www.organharvestinvestigation.net/report200701/Appendices-200701.pdf> – Accessed 13 February 2007 – Attachment 8).

2. Please provide any information regarding a detention centre called Wen Chan Chu, at Suijatin near Shen Yang.

A search of the sources consulted found no reference to Wen Chan Chu, also searched as Wenchanchu, Wenchan Chu and Wen Chanchu. (The researcher notes, however, that the name “Wen Chan Chu” would appear to have been transcribed from the Chinese using the Wade-Giles system rather than the more widely used Pinyin system.)

A search of the sources consulted found no reference to Suijatin, but found references to Sujiatun which appear to be relevant.

An article on the Human Rights In China website refers variously to the Sujiatun District Detention Center and the Sujiatun Detention Center ('Environmental Activist Sun Xiaodi Detained Again' 2006, Human Rights In China website, 7 April <http://www.hrichina.org/public/contents/press?revision%5fid=27547&item%5fid=27545> – Accessed 29 August 2008 – Attachment 9).

The *Laogai Handbook* mentions Sujiatun District, Shenyang City as the location of the Kangjiashan Prison (Laogai Research Foundation 2006, *Laogai Handbook: 2005-2006*, p.417

<http://www.laogai.org/news2/book/handbook05-06.pdf> – Accessed 29 August 2008 – Attachment 1).

Most of the references found to Sujiatun relate to an alleged “concentration camp”. The US Department of State’s 2007 report on religious freedom in China notes that:

In April 2006 and thereafter, overseas Falun Gong groups claimed that a hospital in Sujiatun, Shenyang, was the site of a “concentration camp” and of mass organ harvesting, including from live prisoners. In response to the allegations, the Government opened the facility in question to diplomatic observers and foreign journalists. Observers found nothing inconsistent with the operation of a normal hospital (US Department of State 2007, *International Religious Freedom Report for 2007 – China*, September – Attachment 10).

A March 2006 article entitled ‘The Secret Sujiatun Concentration Camp’ on the Falun Dafa Clearwisdom website states in part that:

A former CCP intelligence worker has revealed that in Shenyang City, Liaoning Province, near the Masanjia Labor Camp, Dabei Second Prison, and a brainwashing center located in the Huanggu District Police Department, there is another facility located in the Sujiatun District especially used to persecute Falun Dafa practitioners.

According to this source, most prisons and labor camps are big enough that detainees going in and coming out will eventually bring information out. But this Sujiatun concentration camp has not had anyone come out yet; therefore, it’s very hard for people outside to find out what’s happening inside. Currently, there are very few Falun Dafa practitioners detained in the Masanjia Labor Camp or in Dabei Prison, because they have been concentrated in Sujiatun (‘The Secret Sujiatun Concentration Camp’ 2006, Falun Dafa Clearwisdom website, 8 March <http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2006/3/8/70630.html> – Accessed 29 August 2008 – Attachment 11).

An RRT Research Response dated 17 January 2007 cites this article and others which mention Sujiatun in relation to reports of organ harvesting (RRT Country research 2007, *Research Response CHN31249*, 17 January – Attachment 12).

List of Sources Consulted

Internet Sources:

Government Information & Reports

UK Home Office website <http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk>

US Department of State website <http://www.state.gov>

Non-Government Organisations

Amnesty International website <http://www.amnesty.org>

Human Rights in China website <http://www.hrichina.org>

Human Rights Watch website <http://www.hrw.org>

Topic Specific Links

China Human Rights website <http://www.chinahumanrights.org/>

Falun Dafa Clearwisdom website <http://www.clearwisdom.net>

Falun Dafa Information Center website <http://www.faluninfo.net>

Human Rights Without Frontiers website <http://www.hrwf.net>

Laogai Research Foundation website <http://www.laogai.org/news/index.php>

Search Engines

Copernic search engine

Databases:

FACTIVA (news database)

BACIS (DIAC Country Information database)

REFINFO (IRBDC (Canada) Country Information database)

ISYS (RRT Research & Information database, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, US Department of State Reports)

MRT-RRT Library Catalogue

List of Attachments

1. Laogai Research Foundation 2006, *Laogai Handbook: 2005-2006*, <http://www.laogai.org/news2/book/handbook05-06.pdf> – Accessed 29 August 2008.
2. ‘Practitioners Were Tortured to Death in Shenyang City’ (undated), Uphold Justice website <http://www.zhuichaguoji.org/en/upload/docs/torturecases/ShenyangCity.doc> – Accessed 29 August 2008.
3. ‘Exposing Three Vicious Guards Who Persecute Falun Gong Practitioners in Shenyang City, Liaoning Province (Photos)’ 2007, Falun Dafa Clearwisdom website, 30 April <http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2007/4/30/85077.html> – Accessed 28 August 2008.
4. ‘Longshan Forced Labor Camp in Shenyang City Tortures Female Dafa Practitioner Sun Fengxin’ 2003, Falun Dafa Clearwisdom website, 28 April <http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2003/4/28/34999.html> – Accessed 28 August 2008.
5. ‘Latest News From China – 01/09/2004’ 2004, Falun Dafa Clearwisdom website, 9 January <http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2004/1/31/44594.html> – Accessed 28 August 2008.
6. ‘Depraved and Immoral Places Seen in Broad Daylight: Exposing Prisons in Shenyang City that Persecute Falun Gong Practitioners’ 2004, Falun Dafa Clearwisdom website, 11 March <http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2004/3/11/45948.html> – Accessed 28 August 2008.
7. ‘Sun Fengxin Beaten, Tortured, and Disabled’ (undated), Falun Gong Human Rights Working Group website, <http://falunhr.org/index.php?option=content&task=view&id=123&Itemid=0> – Accessed 28 August 2008.
8. Matas, D. & Kilgour, D. 2007, ‘Bloody Harvest: Revised Report into Allegations of Organ Harvesting of Falun Gong Practitioners in China’ – Appendices, 31 January <http://www.organharvestinvestigation.net/report200701/Appendices-200701.pdf> – Accessed 13 February 2007.

9. 'Environmental Activist Sun Xiaodi Detained Again' 2006, Human Rights In China website, 7 April
<http://www.hrichina.org/public/contents/press?revision%5fid=27547&item%5fid=27545> – Accessed 29 August 2008.
10. US Department of State 2007, *International Religious Freedom Report for 2007 – China*, September.
11. 'The Secret Sujiatun Concentration Camp' 2006, Falun Dafa Clearwisdom website, 8 March <http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2006/3/8/70630.html> – Accessed 17 January 2007.
12. RRT Country research 2007, *Research Response CHN31249*, 17 January.