

**Refugee Review Tribunal  
AUSTRALIA**

**RRT RESEARCH RESPONSE**

**Research Response Number:** CHN35373  
**Country:** China  
**Date:** 1 September 2009

Keywords: China – Shandong Province – Shinan District – Falun Gong – Neighbourhood committees – Resident’s committees – Dashan 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 information on the treatment of Falun Gong practitioners in Qingdao \(Shinan district\), Shandong.](#)
2. [Please provide information on neighbourhood committees. What is their role? How are they appointed? What are their links to the Chinese authorities?](#)
3. [Please provide any available information on the Dashan First Detention House.](#)

**RESPONSE**

1. **Please provide information on the treatment of Falun Gong practitioners in Qingdao (Shinan district), Shandong.**

Falun Dafa sources report that Falun Gong practitioners in Shinan District and Qingdao City have been arrested, detained, tortured and killed by the Chinese Government. Falun Gong and other sources report that the Chinese Government intensified its crackdown against the Falun Gong in the led-up to the Beijing Olympics.

The information provided in response to this question has been organised into the following three sections:

- [Shinan District;](#)
- [Qingdao City;](#)
- [China.](#)

**Shinan District**

Shinan District is located in the south of Qingdao City, a seaport located at the southern tip of the Shandong Peninsula. Shinan District has a population of 505,800 and covers 30.1 square

kilometres. Qingdao is indicated on the attached map of Shandong ('Shinan district of Qingdao city, Shandong province' (undated), Korean-Chinese Cultural Center website <http://english.hanjung.go.kr/city/city01.asp> – Accessed 31 August 2009 – Attachment 1; and 'Shandong, China' 2000, *Microsoft Encarta Interactive Atlas* – Attachment 2).

A number of Falun Dafa websites including Clear Wisdom receive reports of human rights abuses, allegedly perpetrated by the Chinese Government against Falun Gong practitioners. A number of incidents involving Falun Gong practitioners in Shinan were found. A selection follows:

- On 22 September 2005, Ou Yunjie and her daughter Liu Zhirong were arrested by police from Shinan Police Department. They were prosecuted by the Shinan Procuratorate in December 2005. On 25 January 2006, the Shinan Court had a trial but did not make a decision. On 1 June 2006, Shinan Court sentenced Ou to eight years and Liu to three years in prison. Ou was reportedly tortured at the Dashan Detention Centre ('Qingdao City Practitioner Ms. Ou Yunjie is Near Death From Persecution' 2006, Falun Dafa Clearwisdom website, 27 May <http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2006/5/27/73795.html> – Accessed 31 August 2009 – Attachment 3; '14. [Shandong Province] The Shinan Court of Qingdao City About to Have an Illegal Trial Against Practitioners Ms. Ou Yunjie and Ms. Liu Zhirong' 2006, *Additional Persecution News from China – June 1, 2006 (32 Reports)*, Falun Dafa Clearwisdom website, 1 June <http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2006/6/17/74549.html> – Accessed 31 August 2009 – Attachment 4; and '2. [Qingdao City, Shandong Province] Practitioner Ms. Ou Yunjie and Her Mother Have Been Sentenced to Prison' 2006, *Additional Persecution News from China – June 2, 2006 (16 Reports)*, Falun Dafa Clearwisdom website, 2 June <http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2006/6/16/74520.html> – Accessed 31 August 2009 – Attachment 5);
- On 7 September 2004, Cui Ling, Li Zhenwen and his wife, Zhou Limei were arrested by police from the Shinan Public Security Sub-bureau of Qingdao. Ling was sentenced in 2005 and is rumoured to be at the Shandong Provincial Prison in Jinan City ('Authorities in the Qingdao Area, Shandong Province, Continue to Intensely Persecute Falun Gong Practitioners' 2005, Falun Dafa Clearwisdom website, 23 January <http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2005/1/23/56844.html> – Accessed 31 August 2009 – Attachment 6; and 'A Report on the Circumstances of Illegally-sentenced Practitioners from Qingdao City' 2005, Falun Dafa Clearwisdom website, 21 July <http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2005/7/21/63087.html> – Accessed 31 August 2009 – Attachment 7); and
- On 25 September 2003, Qian Dongcai was arrested by Shinan Sub-Bureau in Qingdao City and policemen. On 16 December 2003 Qian was arrested by staff from the Shinan City Procuratorate and detained again at Qingdao City No. Detention Centre. In early 2005, Qian was sentenced and taken to Jinan prison where 20 days later he died. The "Patient Diagnostic Certificate" stated "sudden death" ('Mr. Qian Dongcai, 48, from Shandong Province Dies as a Result of Persecution in 2005' 2006, Clear Harmony website, 9 November <http://www.clearharmony.net/articles/200611/36373.html> – Accessed 31 August 2009 – Attachment 8).

## **Qingdao City**

An article dated 2 April 2009 in *The Epoch Times*, which has links with the Falun Gong, reports on two “top-secret Chinese” documents recently obtained by the newspaper. One document was issued on 27 February 2009 by the Qingdao Municipal Committee of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), reportedly on the authority of a “unified directive from the Central, Provincial, and Municipal Party Committees.” The document requires Qingdao City to “strictly eliminate, investigate, guard against, and control the Falun Gong adherents; prevent Falun Gong adherents from watching and disseminating the New Tang Dynasty TV program; coordinate relevant departments to strengthen measures to control the Internet, radio, television, telephone, and fax; prioritize online publicity and strengthen foreign propaganda” (Haishan, Zhang 2009, ‘Confidential Documents Portray Persecution of Falun Gong’, *Epoch Times*, 2 April <http://www.theepochtimes.com/n2/content/view/14700/> – Accessed 31 August 2009 – Attachment 9).

The Falun Dafa Clearwisdom website also reports on the document issued by the CCP Director of Qingdao City “to all subordinate cities, districts, groups, local officers, and the party directory of Qingdao Armed Police, to request them to strengthen their persecution of Falun Gong”. The Falun Dafa Clearwisdom.net website provides the following information on the contents of the document:

In 2009, Qingdao City is required to “learn from the experiences of the security work leading up to the 2008 Olympics and do their best with preventive measures”, which includes:

1. Tightly controlling and monitoring Falun Gong practitioners. The document states, “On sensitive days, make sure that for critical people, there shall always be several people watching them and always keep them within sight,” and “strengthen the patrols in and around important areas and spots”.
2. The document calls for “strengthening the technical capabilities of prevention, continued improvement of the technical capability of infiltration prevention, coordination with responsible organizations to strictly enforce the regulations that prohibit the sale and installation of satellite TV”, and preventing Falun Gong practitioners from watching and spreading the programs of “New Tang Dynasty TV”.
3. The document calls for “maintaining a high pressure stance and rooting out the regional editors and coordinators of the Minghui website, enhancing the capabilities of information analysis and technical monitoring.” The document also called for continued investigation of Falun Gong practitioners who have been forced out of their homes.
4. The document calls for using the “closed campus” or “open campus” style of brainwashing methods to attack the steadfast Falun Gong practitioners, by jailing them and conducting forced brainwashing, followed by fake consolation to hide the crimes.
5. The document calls for persistence in closely monitoring practitioners and attacking them as soon as any sign of them emerges, keeping a high profile and not relaxing, intensifying the investigation of “the harmful qigong organization”, and closely monitoring their activities and eliminating them.
6. The document calls for “strengthening PR by focusing on web propaganda, improving the propaganda system of foreign Chinese websites, continued improvement of rapid response and planning capabilities, and further improvement of Chinese web PR outside of the country” in order to sway public opinion (‘Chinese Communist Party City Director in Qingdao City Encourages Crimes by Issuing Decree to Persecute Practitioners’ 2009, Falun Dafa Clearwisdom website, 9 April

<http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2009/4/9/106338.html> – Accessed 31 August 2009 – Attachment 10).

An article dated 12 March 2008 on the Falun Dafa Clearwisdom website reports that Qingdao will host the sailing competitions during the Olympics and that the “CCP intensified the persecution of Falun Gong in Qingdao, arresting several dozen practitioners” (“Mass Arrests – The CCP Intensifies the Persecution of Falun Gong in the Name of Protecting the Olympics’ 2008, Falun Dafa Clearwisdom website, 12 March <http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2008/3/12/95286.html> – Accessed 18 September 2008 – Attachment 11).

A number of recent incidents involving Falun Gong practitioners in Qingdao City were found on Falun Dafa websites. A selection follows:

- On 1 June 2009, Gong Yuping (55 year old farmer) was arrested for the third time. Several days later he was sentenced to one year forced labour and is now in Wangcun Forced Labour Camp (‘Mr. Gong Yuping from Shandong Province Sent to Wangcun Forced Labour Camp’ 2009, Clear Harmony website, 23 August <http://www.clearharmony.net/articles/200908/50187.html> – Accessed 31 August 2009 – Attachment 12);
- On 16 December 2008, Liu Hengping was arrested and taken to Dashan Prison. On 12 January 2009, Qingdao City 610 Office called Liu’s family saying she had been sentenced to two years in prison. They officers promised to release her if Liu’s family paid 40,000 yuan. Liu’s family complied and the prosecutors then demanded 50,000 yuan. The officials accepted 45,000 yuan and released Liu (‘24. [Qingdao City, Shandong Province] The Persecution of Ms. Liu Hengping’ 2009, *Additional Persecution News from China – January 21, 2009 (25 Reports)*, Falun Dafa Clearwisdom website, 21 January <http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2009/2/2/104475.html> – Accessed 31 August 2009 – Attachment 13);
- A week before the Beijing Olympics in August 2008, Wu Xiuxin (physician in the Laixi City People’s Hospital) was arrested and reportedly tortured. After being detained for six months, Wu’s case was brought before the Laixi Procurator and Court. Her case was thrown out due to insufficient evidence. Shen Tao of the Laixi City Police Department “resubmitted false evidence” and Wu was sentenced to three years in prison. Wu is currently in the Dashan Detention Centre (‘Kind hearted Physician Tortured with Drugs at Dashan Detention Centre in Qingdao City’ 2009, Clear Harmony website, 23 July <http://www.clearharmony.net/articles/200907/49791.html> – Accessed 31 August 2009 – Attachment 14);
- 2008: Attachment 15 provides details of thirteen practitioners “suffering persecution” in Qingdao City (‘Thirteen Falun Gong Practitioners from Qingdao City Suffer Persecution’ 2009, Falun Dafa Clearwisdom website, 18 January <http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2009/1/18/103991.html> – Accessed 31 August 2009 – Attachment 15).

### **China: Reports from 2008 and 2009**

According to Amnesty International’s *Report 2009 – China*, published on 28 May 2009, thousands of Falun Gong practitioners were reported to have been arrested in the run-up to the Beijing Olympics:

Falun Gong practitioners were among those most harshly persecuted by the government. In the run-up to the Beijing Olympics, thousands were reported to have been arrested, with hundreds imprisoned or assigned to Re-education through Labour camps and other forms of administrative detention where they were at risk of torture and other ill-treatment sometimes leading to death.

- On 25 January, Yu Zhou, a well-known folk singer, graduate of Beijing University, and reportedly a Falun Gong practitioner, was arrested in Tongzhou District, Beijing, along with his wife, Xu Na, a poet and painter. On 6 February, the authorities from the Qinghe District Emergency Centre told his family that Yu Zhou had died from either diabetes or from a hunger strike, although the family maintains he was healthy at the time of his arrest. The staff at the Emergency Centre refused the family's request to view the body and for an autopsy. On 25 November, Xu Na was sentenced to three years in prison for "using a heretical organization to undermine the implementation of the law". She appealed against the sentence and is at risk of torture and other ill-treatment in detention (Amnesty International 2009, *Report 2009 – China*, 28 May – Attachment 16).

The US Commission on International Religious Freedom's *Annual Report 2009*, published in May 2009, reports that the Chinese Government increased the number of arrests and detentions of Falun Gong practitioners in the lead up to the Beijing Olympics:

In the year leading up to the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, the Chinese government placed severe restrictions on the peaceful religious activity of Uighur Muslims and increased the number of arrests and detentions of unregistered Protestants, Catholics, Tibetan Buddhist, and Falun Gong adherents. These restrictions have not been lifted in the months following the Olympics.

...The Chinese government continues to maintain a harsh campaign against adherents of the Falun Gong spiritual movement, which it considers an evil cult and has banned since 1999. Police continued to detain current and former Falun Gong practitioners and to place them in re-education through labor camps (RTL) without trial or in mental health institutions. There is no credible information on just how many Falun Gong practitioners were imprisoned over the past decade, but some international observers claim that they may be as many as half of the total number of the 250,000 Chinese detained in RTL camps. Provincial officials reportedly offer sizable rewards to anyone who provides information leading to the arrest of a Falun Gong practitioner. In the year before the Olympic Games, police waged a concerted campaign to harass and detain known Falun Gong practitioners and brutally suppress their activity, an estimated 8,037 Falun Gong were detained between December 2007 and August 2008. In February 2008, Falun Gong practitioner Yu Zhou died in police custody. Police claimed that he died of complications related to diabetes, but his family claims he was healthy before his arrest and they were denied an autopsy. In November 2008, Xu Na, a member of Falun Gong, and her husband were detained for possessing Falun Gong materials, which is considered a criminal offense. Her husband died after 11 days in detention, and Xu Na was sentenced to three years in prison. In May, 2008 Yang Xiyao of Yanshan county, Hebei province, was detained after police raided his home and found Falun Gong publications. Most recently, in July 2008, Chen Zhenping was arrested and tried in secret without legal representation for being a Falun Gong practitioner. She was sentenced to eight years imprisonment.

The 6–10 Offices throughout China are tasked with surveillance, investigations, transformation, and detention of Falun Gong practitioners. The 6-10 office reportedly has extrajudicial detention facilities used exclusively to hold Falun Gong practitioners who have completed RTL terms, but who are still considered harmful. Imprisoned Falun Gong

reportedly are subject to mistreatment and torture. The UN Special Rapporteur on Torture reported that Falun Gong practitioners make up two-thirds of the alleged victims of torture. Numerous allegations of government-sanctioned organ harvesting from incarcerated practitioners have surfaced within the last several years as well. Independent investigation into the practices of a hospital in Sujiatun, Shenyang proved inconclusive. However, based upon a report from two prominent Canadian human rights activists, international human rights organizations have called for an independent investigation and for continued international attention to allegations of organ harvesting from prisoners. The UN Committee on Torture, during its 2008 review of China, also called on the government to conduct independent investigations to clarify discrepancies in statistics related to organ transplants and allegations of torture of Falun Gong practitioners (US Commission on International Religious Freedom 2009, 'China', *Annual Report 2009*, May, pp.79-80 – Attachment 17).

According to article in *The New York Times* dated 27 April 2009, “In the past year, as many as 8,000 practitioners have been detained, according to experts on human rights, and at least 100 have died in custody.” *The New York Times* continues:

The drive against the spiritual group has eliminated its leadership, decimated the ranks of faithful and convinced many Chinese that the group is an “evil cult,” as the government contends. But 10 years on, the war on Falun Gong remains unfinished.

...The continued crackdown highlights the difficulty of eradicating a movement whose adherents stubbornly cling to their beliefs, but it also provides a window into the psyche of an authoritarian government that, despite its far-reaching power, remains deeply insecure.

...Although the propaganda juggernaut has eased in recent years, Falun Gong remains a toxic subject in China. Few academics will speak about it on the record, and the Internet is scoured clean of information that might be construed as sympathetic to Falun Gong, an amalgam of Buddhism, mysticism and qigong, the traditional exercise regimen that remains broadly popular here.

For the Falun Gong devotees who practice in secret, the only glimmer of hope has come from a small but growing number of lawyers who have dared to take on their cases. Even if the legal efforts have mostly come to naught, until recently Falun Gong detainees were denied even the right to a lawyer.

Last week, Jiang Yu, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry, reiterated the government’s long-held stance that Falun Gong warrants suppression because it emphasizes meditation and the paranormal over modern medicine. “The Falun Gong cult violates human rights by controlling people’s minds,” he said in response to a reporter’s query (Jacobs, Andrew 2009, ‘China Still Presses Crusade Against Falun Gong’, *The New York Times*, 27 April [http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/28/world/asia/28china.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/28/world/asia/28china.html?_r=1) – Accessed 10 August 2009 – Attachment 18).

According to the US Congressional-Executive Commission on China’s *Annual Report 2008*, published on 31 October 2008, “The central government intensified its nine-year campaign of persecution against Falun Gong practitioners in the months leading up to the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympic Games.” The US Congressional-Executive Commission on China continues:

Chinese security forces continued to detain and imprison Falun Gong practitioners and subjected some who refused to disavow the practice to torture and other forms of abuse in reeducation through labor (RTL) camps and other detention facilities. In September 2007, Zhou Yongkang, then-Minister of Public Security and current member of the Politburo



Standing Committee, ordered that all police and public security forces “strike hard on overseas and domestic hostile forces, ethnic splittists, religious extremists, violent terrorists, and the Falun Gong cult” to safeguard “social stability” for the 17<sup>th</sup> Party Congress and the Olympics. Official accounts of the crackdown were publicly available on Web sites for all 31 of China’s provincial-level jurisdictions in 2007–2008.

Since the government outlawed Falun Gong in July 1999, it has detained thousands – most likely hundreds of thousands – of practitioners. Chinese government Web sites regularly report detentions of Falun Gong “criminal suspects” and some provincial and local authorities offer rewards as high as 5,000 yuan (US\$732) to informants who report Falun Gong “escaped criminals.” In July, Chinese state media reported the arrest of 25 Falun Gong practitioners and the destruction of 7 Falun Gong publishing operations in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. In 2007, Yingshang county government in Anhui province revealed that it had detained 13 “Falun Gong and other cult criminals,” held another in “public security detention,” and “reeducated and reprimanded” more than 1,600. During the same period, Miyi county in Sichuan province recorded detentions of 62 practitioners as part of its “strike hard” campaign and claimed to have “transformed” 14 of them. Relying on reports from practitioners and their families in China, sources outside of China, not all of whom are themselves Falun Gong practitioners, estimate that Chinese authorities detained “at least 8,037” practitioners between December 2007 and the end of June 2008 in a nationwide pre-Olympics crackdown. International observers believe that Falun Gong practitioners constitute a large percentage – some say as many as half – of the total number of Chinese imprisoned in RTL camps. Falun Gong sources report that at least 200,000 practitioners are being held in RTL and other forms of detention. As of April 2008, Falun Gong sources in the United States had documented over 3,000 deaths of practitioners as a result of government persecution as well as over 63,000 cases of torture since 1999. From 2000 to 2005, Falun Gong practitioners accounted for 66 percent of all cases of alleged torture by Chinese authorities reported to the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture.

...In April 2008, the central government 6–10 Office issued an internal directive to local governments nationwide mandating propaganda activities to prevent Falun Gong from “interfering with or harming” the Olympics. References to the directive appear on official Web sites in every province and at every level of government. Most official reports focus on demonstrating that local authorities have stepped up security and fulfilled the requirement to “educate” target audiences on the directive’s content. Local authorities distributed the directive widely in an effort to raise public awareness. References can be found on various Web sites ranging from public entities with indirect relations with the state (state-run enterprises, public schools, universities, parks, TV stations, meteorological bureaus, etc.) to commercial and social entities with no obvious ties to the state. Anti-cult associations also actively circulated and promoted the 6–10 Office’s Olympic directive. Olympic and municipal officials in Shanghai and Beijing also issued directives pertaining to Falun Gong in the lead-up to the 2008 Olympic Games. The Shanghai Public Security Bureau sent a warning to Falun Gong practitioners and other dissidents in April 2008 demanding that they remain in the city during the Olympics and report to the public security office at least once a week until the end of October. The notice threatened to detain or punish anyone who violates the order. In November 2007, Beijing Olympic organizers reminded visitors to the games that possession of Falun Gong writings is strictly forbidden and that no exceptions would be made for international visitors. The Beijing Public Security Bureau issued a public notice offering a reward of up to 500,000 yuan (US\$73,100) for informants who report Falun Gong plans to “sabotage” the Olympics. From January to June 2008, public security agents reportedly arrested at least 208 practitioners from all 18 districts and counties in Beijing municipality. Falun Gong sources have documented the names and other information for 141 of the 208 practitioners who were detained in Beijing, 30 of whom are now reportedly being held in reeducation through labor camps with sentences as long as two-and-a-half years.

Chinese security officials made statements prior to the Olympics that sought to link Falun Gong with terrorist threats, but produced no evidence to substantiate these claims. Tian Yixiang, the head of the Military Affairs Department of the Beijing Olympics Protection Group, listed Falun Gong among the groups that might “use various means, even extreme violence, to interfere with or harm the smooth execution of the Olympic Games.” Li Wei, Chairman of the Center for Counterterrorism Studies at the quasi-official China Institute of Contemporary International Relations, categorized Falun Gong as among the top five terrorist threats to the 2008 Olympic Games (US Congressional-Executive Commission on China 2008, *Annual Report 2008*, 31 October, pp.87-88 & 91-92 – Attachment 19).

The US Department of State’s *International Religious Freedom Report 2008 – China*, published on 19 September 2008, reports that the Chinese Government continued to “harshly repress” the Falun Gong during 2008:

According to Falun Gong practitioners abroad, since 1999 more than 100,000 practitioners have been detained for engaging in Falun Gong practices, admitting that they adhere to the teachings of Falun Gong, or refusing to criticize the organization or its founder. The organization reported that its members have been subject to excessive force, abuse, rape, detention, forcible psychiatric commitment and treatment (including involuntary medication and electric shock treatment), and torture, and that some members, including children, have died in custody. Practitioners who refused to recant their beliefs were sometimes subjected to extrajudicial “legal education” centers after the expiration of their criminal sentences.

Overseas Falun Gong organizations alleged a surge in arrests and deaths of Falun Gong practitioners carried out in order to prevent disturbance during the Olympic Games (US Department of State 2008, *International Religious Freedom Report 2008 – China*, 19 September, Section II ‘Abuses of Religious Freedom’ – Attachment 20).

An article dated 2 April 2008 in *The Epoch Times* reports that the Falun Dafa Information Center “claims to have received reports from inside China of over 1,878 arrests of Falun Gong” practitioners since January. The Falun Gong website, Minghui.org, has reported that 129 Falun Gong practitioners were tortured to death between 1 January and 20 March 2008:

The New York-based Falun Dafa Information Center claims to have received reports from inside China of over 1,878 arrests of Falun Gong adherents since January. The Centre says that authorities in at least 29 Chinese provinces have been conducting door-to-door sweeps in search of Falun Gong practitioners or anyone in possession of Falun Gong-related books or materials.

According to reports relayed by Falun Gong inside China, the Public Security Bureau has been offering cash rewards to citizens who turn in Falun Gong adherents. In one city in Shandong province, authorities have announced a reward of up to 3,000 Yuan for information leading to the arrest of a Falun Gong practitioner.

Once detained, the Falun Gong adherents are sent without trial to reeducation-through-labour camps, where reports indicate they face torture and other forms of abuse.

The Falun Gong website Minghui.org, which receives and compiles accounts of persecution from inside China, has reported that 129 Falun Gong adherents were tortured to death by authorities between January 1st and March 20th, 2008. The website provided a list and case details for each individual reported to have been killed (Ford, Caylan 2008, ‘Beijing Steps Up Falun Gong Persecution Ahead of Olympics’, *Epoch Times*, 2 April <http://en.epochtimes.com/news/8-4-2/68430.html> – Accessed 31 August 2009 – Attachment 21).



The Falun Dafa Clearwisdom website reports that from 1 January to 11 March 2008, “there were 1,878 arrests in 29 provinces, cities...and autonomous regions” including 221 in Shandong:

## **2. The Olympics Becomes the CCP’s Excuse to Persecute Practitioners**

### **a. The policy of persecuting Falun Gong because of the Olympics goes back to 2005**

In early 2005, Deputy Public Safety Minister Liu Jing (male) received orders to eliminate Falun Gong before the Olympics. He passed on this order/plan to public security personnel throughout the entire country. In March 2007, former CCP Public Safety Minister Zhou Yongkang (male) again issued an order to severely suppress Falun Gong. Soon, large scale arrests took place in many regions all over the country, and the persecution intensified. Many practitioners were detained, sentenced to prison, went missing, or were tortured to death. A large number of them detained in forced labor camps or prisons were treated even more brutally due to this order.

### **b. Beijing and Qingdao City in Shandong Province – The Terror of “Olympics Security”**

Multiple arrests have been taking place in Beijing since the beginning of 2008, and this phenomenon has spread widely to every district and county.

...An Olympic “Sister City,” Qingdao in Shandong Province, will host the sailing competitions. The CCP intensified the persecution of Falun Gong in Qingdao, arresting several dozen practitioners (‘Mass Arrests – The CCP Intensifies the Persecution of Falun Gong in the Name of Protecting the Olympics’ 2008, Falun Dafa Clearwisdom website, 12 March <http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2008/3/12/95286.html> – Accessed 18 September 2008 – Attachment 11).

In February 2008, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade confirmed that the “Chinese government has not loosened its restrictions on Falun Gong”, and that advice provided previously (Beijing refuels CX43498, CX64757, CX125116, CX161676, CX174138) on the treatment of Falun Gong practitioners remains current (DIAC Country Information Service 2008, *Country Information Report No. 08/8 – Review of Information on Falun Gong*, (sourced from DFAT advice of 11 February 2008), 12 February – Attachment 22).

## **2. Please provide information on neighbourhood committees. What is their role? How are they appointed? What are their links to the Chinese authorities?**

Please note that Neighbourhood Committees are also known as Residents or Residential Committees. Residents Committees are mass organisations at the grassroots level who have a long list of responsibilities to take care of, both on behalf of the neighbourhood and at the request of higher levels of government including mediating disputes, maintaining public order and developing public services. While Residents Committees are not a formal part of the government structure in China, they nonetheless function as appendages of the party-state. Residents Committees are one of three governing institutions in China which permit direct election of representatives by Chinese citizens; however, in August 2008 only 22% of representatives were directly elected. Numerous examples were found in Falun Gong sources of the involvement of Residents Committees in the arrest, detention, surveillance and harassment of Falun Gong practitioners.

The information provided in response to this question has been organised into the following four sections:

- [What are Neighbourhood Committees?](#)
- [Role of the Neighbourhood Committees;](#)
- [Elections;](#) and
- [Falun Gong.](#)

### **What are Neighbourhood Committees?**

According to Article 111 of the *Constitution of the People's Republic of China*, residents committees are mass organisations at the grass-roots level:

The residents committees and villagers committees established among urban and rural residents on the basis of their place of residence are mass organizations of self-management at the grass-roots level. The chairman, vice-chairmen and members of each residents or villagers committee are elected by the residents. The relationship between the residents and villagers committees and the grass-roots organs of state power is prescribed by law.

The residents and villagers committees establish sub-committees for people's mediation, public security, public health and other matters in order to manage public affairs and social services in their areas, mediate civil disputes, help maintain public order and convey residents' opinions and demands and make suggestions to the people's government (*Constitution of the People's Republic of China* (Full text after amendment on 14 March 2004), National People's Congress website – Attachment 23).

*The Law of the PRC Governing Organization of Residents Committees of Cities*, effective from 1 January 1990, is included as Attachment 24. According Article 2, "Residents Committees are autonomous mass organizations at the grassroots level wherein residents manage, educate, and serve themselves" (Choate, Allen C. 1998, *Local Governance in China, Part II – An Assessment of Urban Residents Committees and Municipal Community Development*, The Asia Foundation Working Paper Series #10, November, United Nations website, p.39 <http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/APCITY/UNPAN018198.pdf> – Accessed 28 August 2009 – Attachment 24).

According to a 1998 Asia Foundation report, "All of China's cities have the same three-tier administrative structure: a Municipal Government administration divided into Districts and Street Offices." Beneath Street Offices are Residents Committees. A diagram of this structure can be found on page 7 of Attachment 24:

All of China's cities have the same three-tier administrative structure: a Municipal Government administration divided into Districts and Street Offices. As of 1997, there were 667 cities including a grand total of 706 Districts. This indicates a large number of small cities where there are no Districts. To indicate the disparity, Shanghai, Tianjin, and Beijing have 14, 13, and 10 Districts, respectively, while hundreds of cities have no Districts. A District is the urban approximation of a rural County. All cities with populations over 100,000 are required to have Street Offices, covering 50,000 to 100,000 persons on average. There are approximately 10,000 urban Street Offices throughout China, which works out to an average of about 15 per urban District. Beneath these Street Offices, which are staffed by anywhere from 30 to 100 cadres, are a grand total of between 90,000 to 100,000 Residents Committees, or roughly 10 to 12 Residents Committees per Street Office. By terms of the Law on

Organization of Residents Committees in Cities, a Residents Committee is to be composed of between 100 to 700 households, with a total population of between 1,000 to 4,000 persons (see figure on Page 7). Some Committees, however, have considerably larger populations.

In all, approximately 200 to 300 million of China's population live within an urban Residents Committee area. It is estimated that such Residents Committees have been established in over 90 percent of China's urban areas. ... The Basic-Level Organizations Department of the Ministry of Civil Affairs, and the Civil Affairs Bureaus at lower levels of government are responsible for developing and overseeing overall policies that strengthen Residents Committees specifically, and enhance the delivery of social welfare services more generally (Choate, Allen C. 1998, *Local Governance in China, Part II – An Assessment of Urban Residents Committees and Municipal Community Development*, The Asia Foundation Working Paper Series #10, November, United Nations website, p.6 <http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/APCITY/UNPAN018198.pdf> – Accessed 28 August 2009 – Attachment 24).

According to an article dated 4 August 2009 in *The People's Daily*, “The latest statistics from the Ministry of Civil Affairs shows that there are 600,000 village committees and 84,000 neighborhood committees in China” (‘Grassroots become civil servants’ 2009, *People's Daily*, source: *China Daily*, 4 August <http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90882/6717754.html> – Accessed 28 August 2009 – Attachment 25).

PhD candidate Stephen Trott of the University of Toronto suggests that while Residents Committees are designated as mass organisations, they “have traditionally functioned as appendages of the party-state”. Trott explains:

Residents' Committees are at the very bottom of an extensive administrative hierarchy in Chinese cities. Sitting at the top of this administrative pyramid is the municipal government. One level down, most large cities are divided into several districts (Beijing has 16 districts, each with an average population of 3/4 million), each of which has a District People's Congress and District Government, with the legal power to pass laws. Each district government in turn has roughly eight administrative branch offices or sub-district offices (sometimes also called wards, or street offices – *jiedao banshi chu* in Chinese), with a population of roughly 80-100,000 each. Sub-district offices are charged with implementing policies enacted by the district government in particular, but also the municipal government, the provincial government, and even the central government. The sub-district offices are *formally* the lowest branch of the state in Chinese cities, at the bottom of [a] the hierarchy on the state's organization chart. However, below the subdistrict administrative office can be found the Residents' Committee. Encompassing only several hundred households each, these are formally non-state institutions, designated as “mass organizations of self-management at the grass-roots level” in the PRC Constitution. Nevertheless, these nominally autonomous residents' organizations are mandated by the state, and have traditionally functioned as appendages of the party-state, directly implementing its policies and following orders from above (Trott, Stephen 2006, ‘Political Reform in China's Cities: Introducing Community Elections’, Canadian Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 1-3 June, pp.4-5 <http://www.cpsa-acsp.ca/papers-2006/Trott.pdf> – Accessed 28 August 2009 – Attachment 26).

Hanlong Lu and Jun Li of the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences authored an article on Residents Committees in the 1 February 2008 edition of *The Social Sciences in China*. According to Lu and Li, “residents' committees should be regarded as non-government social

organizations, but China's political framework actually makes them the furthest point of government, an extension of state power rather than the basis upon which political power is built" (Lu, Hanlong & Li, Jun 2008, 'Comparison of residents' committees in two Chinese cities: Shanghai and Shenyang', *Social Sciences in China*, 1 February, pp.181-182 – Attachment 27).

### **Role of the Neighbourhood Committees**

Article 3 of *The Law of the PRC Governing Organization of Residents Committees of Cities* sets out the tasks of Residents Committees:

- (i) to propagandize the Constitution, laws, statutes, and state policies; to safeguard the lawful rights of residents; to educate residents on fulfillment of obligations and cherishing public properties; to initiate construction of socialist spiritual civilization;
- (ii) to manage public affairs and organize public benefit functions in respective residential districts;
- (iii) to arbitrate disputes among the people;
- (iv) to assist the maintenance of social order;
- (v) to assist in work of people's governments or their representative organizations concerning public sanitation, birth control, allowance to needy people, education for the youth, etc.; and
- (vi) to reflect opinions and demands of the people together with their suggestions to people's governments or their representative organizations (Choate, Allen C. 1998, *Local Governance in China, Part II – An Assessment of Urban Residents Committees and Municipal Community Development*, The Asia Foundation Working Paper Series #10, November, United Nations website, p.39  
<http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/APCITY/UNPAN018198.pdf> – Accessed 28 August 2009 – Attachment 24).

According to Trott, "Residents' Committees under the planned economy actually had quite a marginal role." This was because work units (*gonguo danwei*) provided "urban Chinese with lifelong jobs, housing, medical and a whole range of other social services, including pensions, daycare and so forth." According to Trott, "work units became essentially self-sufficient cells within the city, leaving little for municipal governments to do." Following the liberalisation of the economy, an increasing number of people entered the non-state sector economy. As a result, Residents Committees "took on a renewed importance, as they became responsible for the welfare of a rapidly increasing number of people, of which a greater proportion than ever before was unemployed and in need of some assistance" (Trott, Stephen 2006, 'Political Reform in China's Cities: Introducing Community Elections', Canadian Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 1-3 June, pp.5-6 <http://www.cpsa-acsp.ca/papers-2006/Trott.pdf> – Accessed 28 August 2009 – Attachment 26).

According to a 1998 report by the Asia Foundation, "A Residents Committee seems to have an impossibly long list of responsibilities to take care of, both on behalf of the neighbourhood and at the request of higher levels of government." The Asia Foundation reports that the functions of Residents Committees include any or all of the following:

- **Information and Record-Keeping:**

One of the most impressive images of a Residents Committee office is the wall poster listing all of the vital statistics and data for every household within that Committee's locality. Committee staff are responsible for keeping track of all births, deaths, and transfers in and out of the neighborhood, and do so on a regular basis. In addition, the wall poster shows the

number of persons, ages, occupations, educational levels, marital status, number of children, etc., of every resident household. That information is kept current (Choate, Allen C. 1998, *Local Governance in China, Part II – An Assessment of Urban Residents Committees and Municipal Community Development*, The Asia Foundation Working Paper Series #10, November, United Nations website, p.16  
<http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/APCITY/UNPAN018198.pdf> – Accessed 28 August 2009 – Attachment 24);

- Public Safety and Security:

In an earlier period, this function meant keeping an eye on suspicious characters and watching for political deviation. There is less evidence of that now, although Committees do still keep an eye on “suspicious” characters, and monitor juvenile delinquent and parolee behavior, much like a parole officer would. With the large numbers of “floating population” migrants and the general rise in street crime that has occurred in recent years, the emphasis is now on crime prevention.

...Residents Committees organize volunteer neighborhood watches and evening patrols to keep an eye on the area. They will also assist police in carrying out investigations of crimes committed in the neighborhood. While relations with the police vary from neighborhood to neighborhood, there are usually one to three officers who are assigned a neighborhood “beat” by the Street Office-level police station, and who are well-known to the Residents Committee staff and residents. Whether or not they are trusted or respected depends, of course, on the calibre of the officers themselves (Choate, Allen C. 1998, *Local Governance in China, Part II – An Assessment of Urban Residents Committees and Municipal Community Development*, The Asia Foundation Working Paper Series #10, November, United Nations website, pp.17-18 <http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/APCITY/UNPAN018198.pdf> – Accessed 28 August 2009 – Attachment 24);

- People’s Mediation:

One to three members of the elected Residents Committee cadres are designated as People’s Mediators, and are responsible for resolving civil and domestic disputes in the neighbourhood under the Committee’s jurisdiction. Those selected for this task are supposed to be (and often are) considered to be respected, usually elderly, and hopefully have some skill or experience in human relations. Those who carry out their responsibilities too zealously – by listening for domestic arguments or knocking on doors to inquire of the family or hallway’s relations – are the ones who have given Residents Committees in the past the bad image of “nosy aunties” or “bound foot police.” Most of the disputes are usually family arguments, which have become so out of hand that part of the neighborhood is disrupted, or arguments among neighbors over such things as the use of common facilities, like water taps. However, as the Chinese economy has re formed, more of the disputes are now economically based – for example, an alleged breach of contract over services and wages, or a dispute over the rental of land. An increasing number of these disputes are between a Committee collective enterprise and an individual, which puts the Committee mediator in a compromised position (Choate, Allen C. 1998, *Local Governance in China, Part II – An Assessment of Urban Residents Committees and Municipal Community Development*, The Asia Foundation Working Paper Series #10, November, United Nations website, pp.18-19  
<http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/APCITY/UNPAN018198.pdf> – Accessed 28 August 2009 – Attachment 24);

- Public Health/Family Planning:



A large number of the country's urban Residents Committees maintain a very small and modest one-room "clinic." If the Residents Committee's population includes those with medical training, their voluntary service will be sought for such limited tasks as routine checkups, blood pressure, temperature and pulse taking, and the administering of simple medicines, like aspirin. If no such volunteers reside within the neighborhood, many Residents Committees will solicit volunteer services from hospitals, either directly or through the Street Office. Perhaps the most important public health function the Residents Committee plays is an educational and preventive one. With materials provided by the city health bureau, and with a few hours of training through booklets and lectures, the Residents Committee staff will distribute information and hold discussions on disease control and prevention, first aid, and similar basic health education. The Residents Committees also will organize campaigns among the residents to clean up stagnant water in dengue fever and malaria areas, or use insecticide sprays or smokes to deinfest apartment buildings.

Family planning education and the distribution of contraceptives are also managed by Residents Committees, either as part of the public health function or through a separate family planning and women's issues committee. Residents Committees also issue certificates...that confirms to municipal agencies that the couple is eligible to have a child. However, Residents Committee cadres do not have the authority to fine or sanction violators of the one-child-per-family policy. Instead, their role is one of educating, monitoring, and reporting (Choate, Allen C. 1998, *Local Governance in China, Part II – An Assessment of Urban Residents Committees and Municipal Community Development*, The Asia Foundation Working Paper Series #10, November, United Nations website, pp.19-20  
<http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/APCITY/UNPAN018198.pdf> – Accessed 28 August 2009 – Attachment 24);

- **Environment and Sanitation:**

Residents Committees are the units responsible for keeping up the neighborhood's appearance, and for basic services such as garbage collection, which the Committee must arrange with the city. Residents Committees will also arrange for tree-plantings by residents and for physical improvements like clearing a green space for a garden and recreation. On many occasions, the Residents Committee will lobby the municipal urban planning department and/or the Street Office for helping with developing a small park, installing street lighting, or stopping a local polluting business from spoiling the environment. Residents Committees probably are most active on this subject as advocates and activists (Choate, Allen C. 1998, *Local Governance in China, Part II – An Assessment of Urban Residents Committees and Municipal Community Development*, The Asia Foundation Working Paper Series #10, November, United Nations website, p.20  
<http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/APCITY/UNPAN018198.pdf> – Accessed 28 August 2009 – Attachment 24);

- **Legal Education and Protection:**

The 1989 law mandates Residents Committees "to propagandize the constitution, laws, statutes, and state policies; to safeguard the lawful rights of residents..." In pre-reform China, this was political education, pure and simple. In contemporary China, it is very much changed and much more complicated. With help and materials from the Street and District offices and from the local Justice Bureaus and Civil Affairs bureaus, Residents Committees seem to be very busily engaged in popular legal education activities. These have two sides to them. First, there are political study sessions, open to all residents but usually consisting of a core group and local party members. These study sessions are means by which the latest policy lines and party/government positions on various issues are relayed to the general population in the cities.



...Legal education now includes not simply political education and reading about new laws, but discussing what those laws mean and what an individual or group's rights as well as obligations are under those laws and regulations (Choate, Allen C. 1998, *Local Governance in China, Part II – An Assessment of Urban Residents Committees and Municipal Community Development*, The Asia Foundation Working Paper Series #10, November, United Nations website, p.21

<http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/APCITY/UNPAN018198.pdf> – Accessed 28 August 2009 – Attachment 24);

- Daily Life Convenience Services:

Of all of the roles played by Residents Committees in contemporary China, none has become more deeply ingrained and more widely requested and required than the provision of facilities that make the life of the residents a little easier. These functions sometimes are referred to as “daily life services.” Included are the following Committee-operated services: a) neighborhood takeaway and delivery “fast food” restaurants; b) public telephone counter... temporary domestic help, such as daily apartment cleaners or cooks; d) various forms of shuttle transport, such as minivan rental, either to take residents to bus lines or to escort children to school; e) bicycle and auto parking areas; f) a range of neighbourhood shops such as hairdressers, bicycle repair, electrician and plumbing repair, grocery stores, and other specific retail services requested by residents.

These retail services are responses to changed living conditions in a more market-oriented Chinese economy. With married couples both working and with smaller nuclear families, these “convenience services” have become much more in demand and are central features of contemporary Residents Committees. In addition, these services are key income generators for the Residents Committees. The Committees either hire staff directly to manage and operate these services, or contract and rent out space to individuals to run those enterprises. The enterprises then remit a portion of earnings back to the Residents Committees according to an agreed-upon formula (Choate, Allen C. 1998, *Local Governance in China, Part II – An Assessment of Urban Residents Committees and Municipal Community Development*, The Asia Foundation Working Paper Series #10, November, United Nations website, pp.22-23 <http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/APCITY/UNPAN018198.pdf> – Accessed 28 August 2009 – Attachment 24);

- Social Welfare Services:

Residents Committees as basic social welfare providers are important to that marginalized and disadvantaged portion of the population that have neither work unit nor family to fall back on for social protection and security. There is a core cluster of social welfare services that all Residents Committees are expected to administer on a front-line, primary care basis for these persons who run the risk of falling between the cracks.

According to interviewed Committee cadres, the most pressing welfare need is improved and expanded care for the elderly, who represent a growing percentage of urban populations, especially in older neighborhoods. The services which a Residents Committee can provide are limited, but they do offer the following: a) annual, free health checkup at the local clinic; b) a resident volunteer system to make calls on and look in on housebound frail elderly; c) the installation of a buzzer or bell system that connects the apartments of the elderly to the Committee office, which the aged can use to summon assistance; d) food and other delivery services, provided by Committee cadres and volunteers; e) recreation services, such as outings, games, crafts, and the like; f) other special services as circumstances dictate and

resources allow. All of the elder care services are provided either free-of-charge or on a means-based sliding scale.

Services for the residents' school children include cadres or volunteers escorting the children to and from school, a small children's lunchroom (of growing importance with both parents out working), and a small facility for study and game-playing.

Residents Committees are also expected to provide care for the physically and mentally handicapped.

...The most rapidly growing social security task for Residents Committees today is reemployment and job placement. With the large-scale layoffs resulting from state enterprise restructuring and the growing number of former civil service employees now idle as a result of government agency downsizing, finding alternative employment for newly-unemployed residents has become the number one priority for a large number of Residents Committees, especially in the cities of northeast and central interior China. It appears that most Residents Committees are not in a position to conduct skills training programs, and that their exclusive focus is on finding other income-earning options for their unemployed residents. Finding jobs for the unemployed and unsupported has always been a role of the Residents Committees. But in the past, that was fairly limited to waiting-for-work youth (Choate, Allen C. 1998, *Local Governance in China, Part II – An Assessment of Urban Residents Committees and Municipal Community Development*, The Asia Foundation Working Paper Series #10, November, United Nations website, pp.24-25 <http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/APCITY/UNPAN018198.pdf> – Accessed 28 August 2009 – Attachment 24).

## **Elections**

According to the US Congressional-Executive Commission on China, “Chinese citizens are formally permitted to directly elect just three types of governing institutions, all of which are at the local level: villagers committees in rural areas, residents committees in urban areas, and local legislatures, called People's Congresses, at the township and county levels” (US Congressional-Executive Commission on China 2007, *Annual Report 2007*, 10 October, p. 144 – Attachment 28). Articles 7 and 8 of *The Law of the PRC Governing Organization of Residents Committees of Cities* provide for elections:

**Article 7** A Residents Committee shall be formed by a team of five to nine persons which includes a chairman, a vice-chairman and committee members. Residents Committee of regions inhabited by different national groups shall be represented by members from small minority groups.

**Article 8** The chairman, vice-chairman, and committee members of a Residents Committee shall be either elected by residents or household representatives of the locality concerned or, in accordance with the wishes of the people, from two to three nominated members of residents' teams. The terms of office of each Residents Committee shall be three years; the members of a Residents

Committee may serve consecutive terms. Residents of a certain locality who have reached the age of 18, except those being ripped of political rights in accordance with the law, shall be endowed with the right to vote and the right to be voted. With regard to the aforesaid matters, no discrimination shall be made against residents on the grounds of racial identity, sex, occupation, family background, religion, educational level, state of wealth, and period of residence (Choate, Allen C. 1998, *Local Governance in China, Part II – An Assessment of Urban Residents Committees and Municipal Community Development*, The Asia Foundation

Working Paper Series #10, November, United Nations website, p.40  
<http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/APCITY/UNPAN018198.pdf> –  
Accessed 28 August 2009 – Attachment 24).

Trott reports that direct elections for Residents Committees first appeared in Qingdao in 1998 although only a handful of cities used direct elections:

In the summer of 1998, residents of two neighbourhoods in the Chinese coastal city of Qingdao went to the polls to directly cast votes for candidates for their local Residents' Committees. For the first time in China, urban Residents' Committees were directly elected by the people themselves, rather than indirectly through a system of representatives voting for a single government or party-nominated candidate. In 1999, similar events occurred in Shanghai, followed soon after by the cities of Shenyang, Nanjing, Beijing, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, and Ningbo. In Guangxi province, direct elections for urban Residents' Committees were held simultaneously in cities across the province. The sudden spread of these innovative reforms appears to suggest a concerted push by the central government to start democratizing urban governance, ten years after the introduction of similar grassroots elections in the countryside.

Surprisingly, the emergence of these urban elections was not the result of a sustained policy push from Beijing. Instead, they arose spontaneously as the product of decisions by small numbers of local officials in various cities, as they responded simultaneously to local conditions and policy signals from Beijing. For it must be noted that compared to the handful of cities introducing direct community elections between 1998 and 2005, there were over 600 Chinese cities which were doing no such thing.

...In China, individual citizens did not exercise the right to vote for their leaders at any level. Rather, this right was delegated to elected Residents' Representatives, each one representing a certain number of households in the neighbourhood. These representatives were generally elected by the heads of all the households they represented, but in practice only representatives acceptable to the party and government were chosen. Candidates for Residents' Committee positions were "nominated" by higher authorities, and subsequently "confirmed" by residents in formalistic mandatory one-candidate elections. In more recent times, higher authorities have held competitive examinations to staff Residents' Committees, selecting the best candidates who meet professional and other qualifications set by the government, giving urban residents no say at all in who their local community leaders are.

Direct elections in China's urban communities made their first appearance in the summer of 1998 in Qingdao... Over the next five years, urban community elections spread to another dozen cities, all concentrated along the coast and areas immediately contiguous (Trott, Stephen 2006, 'Political Reform in China's Cities: Introducing Community Elections', Canadian Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 1-3 June, pp.1 & 8-9  
<http://www.cpsa-acsp.ca/papers-2006/Trott.pdf> – Accessed 28 August 2009 – Attachment 26).

An article dated 4 August 2008 in *The People's Daily* reports that "only 22 percent of urban communities were elected by residents" with the remaining "elected by representatives of households and resident groups." Wang Jinhua, a senior official from the Ministry of Civil Affairs "said direct election might cover half of all urban communities by 2010 as Chinese urban dwellers are no longer attached to their working place...and are having closer ties with the communities they live in." The article also reports that China's State Council is considering amending the *Urban Resident Committee Organization Law* to allow migrant workers to run for election if they have lived in the urban community for more than six

months ('China considers giving migrant workers election rights in cities' 2008, *People's Daily*, source: *Xinhua*, 4 August <http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90785/6465487.html> – Accessed 28 August 2009 – Attachment 29).

## **Falun Gong**

According to an article in *The China Quarterly* dated September 2000, “Even though RCs have long since dropped their most intrusive behaviour, they remain responsible for assisting government and the police in carrying out a number of monitoring and enforcement functions.” Resident Committees “help the police keep an eye on known criminals and dissidents” (Read, Benjamin L. 2000, ‘Revitalizing the State’s Urban “Nerve Tips”’, *The China Quarterly*, No. 163, September, p.815 – Attachment 30).

The US Congressional-Executive Commission on China’s *Annual Report 2008* reports that Falun Gong practitioners are “closely monitored” by Neighbourhood Committees, amongst others, in Wuling:

Aggressive surveillance is a key aspect of the 6–10 Office’s work. The Wuling Party Political-Legal Committee describes having implemented a set of three “responsibility measures” to ensure that “more than 600 Falun Gong practitioners” are closely monitored by the district police, neighborhood committee, and their own relatives (US Congressional-Executive Commission on China 2008, *Annual Report 2008*, 31 October, p.89 – Attachment 19).

The US Department of State’s *China Profile of Asylum Claims and Country Conditions*, published in May 2007, reports that the Chinese Government launched a “massive” anti-Falun Gong propaganda campaign in 2001. Neighbourhood Committees, amongst others, “were ordered to send all known practitioners to intensive anti-Falun Gong study sessions.” Falun Gong practitioners who had not protested were also reportedly forced to attend these classes (US Department of State 2007, *China Profile of Asylum Claims and Country Conditions*, May – Attachment 31).

According to an article dated 6 August 2009 on Clear Harmony, “Since the onset of the Chinese Communist Party’s (CCP) persecution of Falun Fong on July 20<sup>th</sup>, 1999, the residential committees in China have received “assignments” and have assisted in carrying out the persecution.” The article reports that the Committees assist in the arrest, detention, surveillance and harassment of Falun Gong practitioners. For more information please refer directly to the article which is included as Attachment 32 (‘For the Past Decade, the Residential Committees in China Have Actively Carried Out the Chinese Communist Party’s (CCP) Persecution Policies at the Grassroots Level’ 2009, Clear Harmony website, 6 August <http://www.clearharmony.net/articles/200908/49989.html> – Accessed 28 August 2009 – Attachment 32).

Numerous examples of the Committees involvement with Falun Gong practitioners were found on Falun Gong websites. A selection of recent examples follows:

- This example documents the harassment of two elderly practitioners from Guangzhou City by their local neighbourhood committee amongst others in July 2009:

On the morning of July 23, 2009, two elderly practitioners, Ms. Li Yi and Ms. Hu Jinxiu from the Yuexiu District, Guangzhou City, visited Ms. He, a practitioner who is nearly blind. While the three were visiting at Ms. He's home, officials from the Xicun Street Police Station, the Xicun Street Community, and the local neighborhood committee broke in and arrested Ms. Li Yi and Ms. Hu Jinxiu and took them to the Xiancun Street Police Station. The police then forced them to make a deposition, sign it, and have their photos taken.

At noon on the same day, when the police left work, they ordered the security men to keep the two elderly ladies detained, but didn't provide any food for them. In the afternoon, the police had to release the practitioners because they couldn't find any evidence. However, in the late afternoon and evening, officials from the local street community and the local neighborhood committee went to the ladies' home to harass them. Since then, Ms. Hu Jinxiu has been receiving harassing calls from the neighborhood committee. On July 27 and July 28, 2009, officials from the Yuexiu District Police Department and the Huayue Street Police Station twice went to Ms. Li Yi's home to harass her, and forced her to submit letters that guarantee she has quit practicing Falun Gong ('3. [Guangzhou City, Guangdong Province] Ms. Li Yi and Ms. Hu Jinxiu Harassed' 2009, *Additional Persecution News from China – August 10, 2009 (30 Reports) Part II*, Falun Dafa Clearwisdom website, 10 August <http://www.clearwisdom.net/html/articles/2009/8/22/110239p.html> – Accessed 31 August 2009 – Attachment 33);

- This example reports on the death of Xie Deqing in Chengdu City after being detained at Xinjin Brainwashing Facility in May 2009 and the involvement of the Residential Committee in his case:

On April 29th, 2009, Mr. Xie and his wife, Yu Qinfang, went to the Chengdu City Gaoxin District Court to watch practitioner Mr. Chen Changyuan's hearing. However, Fang Guofu was waiting and watching nearby. At about 11:00 a.m., when Mr. Xie passed by a quiet area, Fang and two others went to arrest him. When Ms. Yu tried to argue with them, she was arrested, too. Both of them shouted, "Falun Gong is good!" They were put into two separate cars and taken to the Funan Police Station.

When they arrived at the station, Yin Yun and Wang Cong from the local residential committee offices were there. Liu Chuan, director of the Funan Police Station, started yelling at Mr. Xie and his wife right after he saw them. Ms. Yu was pushed down the five-stair stairway twice and her hand was injured. Mr. Xie was beaten and slapped.

Both continued to shout, "Falun Gong is good" when they were at the police station. Later, officials from the Chengdu Survey Design Research Institute, the Chengdu City 610 Office, and the local residential committee offices plotted to send them to the Xinjin Brainwashing Facility.

Two days after Mr. Xie arrived, there was blood in his urine and he could barely eat anything.

...After Mr. Xie died at about 1:00 a.m. on the night of May 29th, over a dozen officials from the Chengdu Survey Design Research Institute, the Chengdu City 610 Office, and the local residential committee offices went to Mr. Xie's mourning hall at his home, and tried to take his body. Mr. Xie's two brothers, Mr. Xie Weidong, Mr. Xie Weiming, and other family members prevented them from taking Mr. Xie's body, so the officials left.

However, at around 3:00 a.m. that same night, about 100 people, including police officers, suddenly surrounded the mourning hall again and forcibly took Mr. Xie's body. His two sons tried to stop them, but they were pushed to the ground and beaten. His elder son was bleeding in a few places, and his lips were swollen. His younger son had bruises all over his body.



Many female family members had their heads forcibly covered with clothes during the riot. Afterwards, his elder son could not walk normally. His younger son was so frightened that he dared not return home. At noon on May 30th, 2009, one of Mr. Xie's sons was forced to sign the paperwork, and Mr. Xie's body was cremated ('More Information on Mr. Xie Deqing's Death in Chengdu City' 2009, 'More Information on Mr. Xie Deqing's Death in Chengdu City', Clear Harmony website, 30 June <http://clearharmony.net/articles/200906/49530.html> – Accessed 28 August 2009 – Attachment 34);

- On 20 March 2009, Dou Guirong from Tianjin City was followed and arrested by members of the Fuyuanli Neighbourhood Committee. She was detained in the Banyanglu Police Station for more than four hours while police “ransacked her home and took Falun Dafa books and Teacher's picture” ('Elderly Falun Dafa Practitioners Persecuted in Dagang District, Tianjin City' 2009, Falun Dafa Clearwisdom website, 18 April <http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2009/4/18/106606.html> – Accessed 28 August 2009 – Attachment 35).

### **3. Please provide any available information on the Dashan First Detention House.**

No information on the Dashan First Detention House was found amongst the English language sources consulted.

Writer, Mu Chuanheng was sentenced to three years imprisonment on 10 September 2002 for “incitement to subvert state power” and is serving his sentence at Qingdao Dashan No.1 Detention Center. Falun Gong practitioner, Liu Xitong was taken to Qingdao Dashan No. 1 Detention Center on 13 November 2007 where he “was forced to do hard labor by producing 1,000 paper bags a day” (Jiquan, Cai & Wei, Lin 2004, 'Prisoner Profile: Mu Chuanheng', Human Rights in China, 20 September <http://hrichina.org/public/PDFs/CRF.1.2003/prisonerprofile1.2003.pdf> – Accessed 12 June 2009 – Attachment 36; and '10. [Qingdao City, Shandong Province] Mr. Liu Xitong Being Tortured' 2008, *Additional Persecution News from China – March 28, 2008 (59 Reports)*, Falun Dafa Clearwisdom website, 28 March <http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2008/5/1/96929.html> – Accessed 31 August 2009 – Attachment 37).

See Question 1 for reports of Falun Gong practitioners being detained at the Dashan Detention Center in Qingdao City. Pro-democracy activist, Lantao Chen was initially detained at Dashan Detention Center in 1989. The Coalition to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong in China reports that the “Crematory of Qingdao City is very close to the city's Dashan Detention Center” (Human Rights Watch 1994, *Detained in China and Tibet: A Directory of Political and Religious Prisoners*, February – Attachment 38; and 'Investigation Lead: Liver transplant accomplished in only 3 days in the Affiliated Qingdao Medical University Hospital, Qingdao City, Shandong Province' 2009, The Coalition to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong in China website, 24 January <http://cipfg.org/en/index.php?news=852> – Accessed 31 August 2009 – Attachment 39).

### **List of Sources Consulted**

#### Internet Sources:

#### **Government Information & Reports**

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada <http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/>

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



US Commission on International Freedom <http://www.uscirf.gov/>  
US Congressional-Executive Commission on China <http://www.cecc.gov/>  
US Department of State <http://www.state.gov/>

#### **United Nations (UN)**

UNHCR Refworld <http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/rsd>

#### **Non-Government Organisations**

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

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

#### **International News & Politics**

*BBC News* <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

*The New York Times* <http://www.nytimes.com/>

#### **Topic Specific Links**

Clearharmony <http://www.clearharmony.net/>

The Coalition to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong in China <http://cipfg.org/>

*Epoch Times* <http://www.theepochtimes.com/>

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

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

#### **Search Engines**

Google <http://www.google.com.au/>

Google News <http://news.google.com/>

#### 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)

RRT Library Catalogue

#### **List of Attachments**

1. 'Shinan district of Qingdao city, Shandong province' (undated), Korean-Chinese Cultural Center website <http://english.hanjung.go.kr/city/city01.asp> – Accessed 31 August 2009.
2. 'Shandong, China' 2000, *Microsoft Encarta Interactive Atlas*.
3. 'Qingdao City Practitioner Ms. Ou Yunjie is Near Death From Persecution' 2006, Falun Dafa Clearwisdom website, 27 May <http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2006/5/27/73795.html> – Accessed 31 August 2009.
4. '14. [Shandong Province] The Shinan Court of Qingdao City About to Have an Illegal Trial Against Practitioners Ms. Ou Yunjie and Ms. Liu Zhirong' 2006, *Additional Persecution News from China – June 1, 2006 (32 Reports)*, Falun Dafa Clearwisdom website, 1 June <http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2006/6/17/74549.html> – Accessed 31 August 2009.
5. '2. [Qingdao City, Shandong Province] Practitioner Ms. Ou Yunjie and Her Mother Have Been Sentenced to Prison' 2006, *Additional Persecution News from China – June 2, 2006 (16 Reports)*, Falun Dafa Clearwisdom website, 2 June

- <http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2006/6/16/74520.html> – Accessed 31 August 2009.
6. ‘Authorities in the Qingdao Area, Shandong Province, Continue to Intensely Persecute Falun Gong Practitioners’ 2005, Falun Dafa Clearwisdom website, 23 January  
<http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2005/1/23/56844.html> – Accessed 31 August 2009.
  7. ‘A Report on the Circumstances of Illegally-sentenced Practitioners from Qingdao City’ 2005, Falun Dafa Clearwisdom website, 21 July  
<http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2005/7/21/63087.html> – Accessed 31 August 2009.
  8. ‘Mr. Qian Dongcai, 48, from Shandong Province Dies as a Result of Persecution in 2005’ 2006, Clear Harmony website, 9 November  
<http://www.clearharmony.net/articles/200611/36373.html> – Accessed 31 August 2009.
  9. Haishan, Zhang 2009, ‘Confidential Documents Portray Persecution of Falun Gong’, *Epoch Times*, 2 April <http://www.theepochtimes.com/n2/content/view/14700/> – Accessed 31 August 2009.
  10. ‘Chinese Communist Party City Director in Qingdao City Encourages Crimes by Issuing Decree to Persecute Practitioners’ 2009, Falun Dafa Clearwisdom website, 9 April  
<http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2009/4/9/106338.html> – Accessed 31 August 2009.
  11. ‘Mass Arrests – The CCP Intensifies the Persecution of Falun Gong in the Name of Protecting the Olympics’ 2008, Falun Dafa Clearwisdom website, 12 March  
<http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2008/3/12/95286.html> – Accessed 18 September 2008.
  12. ‘Mr. Gong Yuping from Shandong Province Sent to Wangcun Forced Labour Camp’ 2009, Clear Harmony website, 23 August  
<http://www.clearharmony.net/articles/200908/50187.html> – Accessed 31 August 2009.
  13. ‘24. [Qingdao City, Shandong Province] The Persecution of Ms. Liu Hengping’ 2009, *Additional Persecution News from China – January 21, 2009 (25 Reports)*, Falun Dafa Clearwisdom website, 21 January  
<http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2009/2/2/104475.html> – Accessed 31 August 2009.
  14. ‘Kind hearted Physician Tortured with Drugs at Dashan Detention Centre in Qingdao City’ 2009, Clear Harmony website, 23 July  
<http://www.clearharmony.net/articles/200907/49791.html> – Accessed 31 August 2009.
  15. ‘Thirteen Falun Gong Practitioners from Qingdao City Suffer Persecution’ 2009, Falun Dafa Clearwisdom website, 18 January  
<http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2009/1/18/103991.html> – Accessed 31 August 2009.

16. Amnesty International 2009, *Report 2009 – China*, 28 May.
17. US Commission on International Religious Freedom 2009, 'China', *Annual Report 2009*, May.
18. Jacobs, Andrew 2009, 'China Still Presses Crusade Against Falun Gong', *The New York Times*, 27 April [http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/28/world/asia/28china.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/28/world/asia/28china.html?_r=1) – Accessed 10 August 2009.
19. US Congressional-Executive Commission on China 2008, *Annual Report 2008*, 31 October.
20. US Department of State 2008, *International Religious Freedom Report 2008 – China*, 19 September.
21. Ford, Caylan 2008, 'Beijing Steps Up Falun Gong Persecution Ahead of Olympics', *Epoch Times*, 2 April <http://en.epochtimes.com/news/8-4-2/68430.html> – Accessed 31 August 2009.
22. DIAC Country Information Service 2008, *Country Information Report No. 08/8 – Review of Information on Falun Gong*, (sourced from DFAT advice of 11 February 2008), 12 February. (CISNET China CX193304)
23. *Constitution of the People's Republic of China* (Full text after amendment on 14 March 2004), National People's Congress website.
24. Choate, Allen C. 1998, *Local Governance in China, Part II – An Assessment of Urban Residents Committees and Municipal Community Development*, The Asia Foundation Working Paper Series #10, November, United Nations website <http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/APCITY/UNPAN018198.pdf> – Accessed 28 August 2009.
25. 'Grassroots become civil servants' 2009, *People's Daily*, source: *China Daily*, 4 August <http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90882/6717754.html> – Accessed 28 August 2009.
26. Trott, Stephen 2006, 'Political Reform in China's Cities: Introducing Community Elections', Canadian Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 1-3 June <http://www.cpsa-acsp.ca/papers-2006/Trott.pdf> – Accessed 28 August 2009.
27. Lu, Hanlong & Li, Jun 2008, 'Comparison of residents' committees in two Chinese cities: Shanghai and Shenyang', *Social Sciences in China*, 1 February, pp.181-192.
28. US Congressional-Executive Commission on China 2007, *Annual Report 2007*, 10 October.
29. 'China considers giving migrant workers election rights in cities' 2008, *People's Daily*, source: *Xinhua*, 4 August <http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90785/6465487.html> – Accessed 28 August 2009.

30. Read, Benjamin L. 2000, 'Revitalizing the State's Urban "Nerve Tips"', *The China Quarterly*, No. 163, September, pp.806-820.
31. US Department of State 2007, *China Profile of Asylum Claims and Country Conditions*, May.
32. 'For the Past Decade, the Residential Committees in China Have Actively Carried Out the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) Persecution Policies at the Grassroots Level' 2009, Clear Harmony website, 6 August  
<http://www.clearharmony.net/articles/200908/49989.html> – Accessed 28 August 2009.
33. '3. [Guangzhou City, Guangdong Province] Ms. Li Yi and Ms. Hu Jinxiu Harassed' 2009, *Additional Persecution News from China – August 10, 2009 (30 Reports) Part II*, Falun Dafa Clearwisdom website, 10 August  
<http://www.clearwisdom.net/html/articles/2009/8/22/110239p.html> – Accessed 31 August 2009.
34. 'More Information on Mr. Xie Deqing's Death in Chengdu City' 2009, 'More Information on Mr. Xie Deqing's Death in Chengdu City', Clear Harmony website, 30 June  
<http://clearharmony.net/articles/200906/49530.html> – Accessed 28 August 2009.
35. 'Elderly Falun Dafa Practitioners Persecuted in Dagang District, Tianjin City' 2009, Falun Dafa Clearwisdom website, 18 April  
<http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2009/4/18/106606.html> – Accessed 28 August 2009.
36. Jiquan, Cai & Wei, Lin 2004, 'Prisoner Profile: Mu Chuanheng', Human Rights in China, 20 September  
<http://hrichina.org/public/PDFs/CRF.1.2003/prisonerprofile1.2003.pdf> – Accessed 12 June 2009.
37. '10. [Qingdao City, Shandong Province] Mr. Liu Xitong Being Tortured' 2008, *Additional Persecution News from China – March 28, 2008 (59 Reports)*, Falun Dafa Clearwisdom website, 28 March  
<http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2008/5/1/96929.html> – Accessed 31 August 2009.
38. Human Rights Watch 1994, *Detained in China and Tibet: A Directory of Political and Religious Prisoners*, February.
39. 'Investigation Lead: Liver transplant accomplished in only 3 days in the Affiliated Qingdao Medical University Hospital, Qingdao City, Shandong Province' 2009, The Coalition to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong in China website, 24 January  
<http://cipfg.org/en/index.php?news=852> – Accessed 31 August 2009.