

The Abuse of Psychiatry

Media Report:

New York Times:

Jailed in China: Confront the Abuse (03/27/01)

To the Editor:

Re "Contortions of Psychiatry in China"
(Editorial, March 25):

During the last year, the American Psychiatric Association (APA) has made multiple inquiries to the leadership of the World Psychiatric Association (WPA) about psychiatric abuse of political prisoners in China.

The WPA Committee on the Use and Abuse of Psychiatry has moved too slowly in the face of serious accusations about psychiatric imprisonment of Falun Gong members, union and student leaders, and others who are diagnosed as "political maniacs" and subjected to shock therapy and psycho-tropic medications.

The WPA must move with alacrity as it did at American, British and Australian insistence when psychiatry was used in the intimidation and torture of Soviet dissidents.

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March 25, 2001

New York Times: Contortions of Psychiatry in China

<http://www.nytimes.com/2001/03/25/opinion/25SUN2.html?searchpv=nytToday>

The abuse of psychiatry to intimidate and torture dissidents in the Soviet Union was well documented and loudly deplored by the West. The practice in China has received less comment, but Beijing, too, imprisons nonconformists as mentally ill — a policy that deserves worldwide attention and forceful condemnation from foreign governments, including the United States.

During the Cultural Revolution, the genuinely mentally ill were routinely "treated" with political re-education, and healthy people who did not hew to the prevailing political line were often imprisoned in psychiatric hospitals. ...Today, however, the abuse of psychiatry once again appears to be increasing in China. The government has forcibly imprisoned members of Falun Gong in psychiatric hospitals. ...Movement leaders claim that some 600 members have been forcibly detained in mental hospitals. This number is impossible to verify, but journalists and human rights researchers have documented numerous cases of Falun Gong members being taken to psychiatric institutions and drugged, physically restrained, isolated or given electric shocks.

Robin Munro, a senior researcher at the University of London, explores some of these cases in an article published last month in *The Columbia Journal of Asian Law*. Mr. Munro, who has also worked for Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch investigating abuses in China, estimates that at least 3,000 people have been sent to mental hospitals for expressing political views in the past two decades, not including Falun Gong members.

Chinese mental hospitals use various inhuman "treatments" on Falun Dafa practitioners, including physical torture, relentless psychological abuse and the illegal administration of sedatives and antipsychotic drugs. The police usually place the practitioners into the hospitals by force, although sometimes trickery is used, and do not notify the family members of these incarcerations. The length of detention has so far ranged from seven days to a year and one-half. The brutal torture that has taken place there has severely disabled many practitioners both physically and mentally.

— Sunny Lu, MD "Detention and Abuse of Falun Gong Practitioners in Psychiatric Facilities in China," -Report at 2001 Geneva "Mental Health And Human Rights" Discussion.

Another alarming development is the network of new police psychiatric hospitals — called Ankangs, which means "peace and happiness" — built since 1987. Chinese law includes "political harm to society" as legally dangerous mentally ill behavior. Police are instructed to take into psychiatric custody "political maniacs," defined as people who make anti-government speeches, write reactionary letters or "express opinions on important domestic and international affairs." Erik Eckholm of *The Times* has reported that at least one labor leader was detained and given shock therapy in a psychiatric hospital. There are currently 20 Ankangs, and the government plans to build many more.

... Psychiatric imprisonment is not a widespread phenomenon compared with the Chinese government's use of prisons and labor camps for dissidents. But it is a particularly noxious practice, and one that deserves more attention and criticism than it has so far received.

Falun Gong, also known as Falun Dafa, is an ancient spiritual practice that benefits body-mind-spirit and is guided by the universal principles of Truthfulness-Compassion-Forbearance. It has five sets of gentle movements that are good for all ages. Since Master Li Hongzhi introduced it to the public in May 1992 in China, Falun Gong has benefited over 100 million people in 40 countries worldwide.

Tortured to Death

Yang Weidong

A 54 year-old medical inspector
Weifang City Medical Inspection Center.

Mr. Yang was admitted to the Psychiatric Department of Kangfu Hospital in Weifang, Shandong Province on December 8, 1999. At the time of admission he was already in critical condition because of the severe torture he had suffered at a detention center. He was denied medical care and was monitored as a "psychiatric patient" and kept guard. When doctors in the hospital realized that he was dying, they asked his family to take him home. Yang passed away on the evening of December 25th, 2000 - 5 or 6 days after his release.

Su Gang

A 32-year-old computer engineer
QiLu Oil Chemical Company, Zibo, Shandong Province

Mr. Su's family stated that he was in good health and had no mental illness. He had been repeatedly detained by the security department of his workplace for refusing to renounce Falun Gong.

The *Washington Post* reported: "After traveling to Beijing on April 25th to protest the ban on Falun Gong, he was arrested again; on May 23rd, his employer, a state-run petrochemical company, approved commitment papers that authorized the police to admit him to a mental hospital. According to Mr. Su's father, the doctors injected Mr. Su twice a day with an unknown substance. When Mr. Su emerged a week later, he could not eat or move his limbs normally." He could not remember what had happened to him in the hospital, and he stopped speaking. On June 10th, the previously healthy young man died.



Shi Bei

49 year-old practitioner

According to her daughter, Ms. Shi had no mental illness. She was nevertheless involuntarily admitted to the Seventh Hospital of Hangzhou City (a psychiatric hospital) in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province. According to her daughter, Ms. Shi had no mental

illness. She was nevertheless involuntarily admitted to Seventh Hospital of Hangzhou City (a psychiatric hospital) in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province.

In May of 2000, the Police Department of Fuyang forcefully sent Ms. Shi to the Seventh Hospital because she did not want to give up practicing Falun Gong. Under pressure from the police, the staff members at the hospital were forced to give her large doses of sedatives. They stopped giving Shi any food for a whole week in order to prevent her from talking. In the end, she starved to death. Officials from the hospital refused to comment on her case.

Torture in Mental Hospitals

Electric shock treatment

Because Sun Weidong, Li Shanbin, and Zhang Ping continued to practice Falun Gong after they were released from a detention center, they were placed in Linyi Psychiatric Hospital in Shandong Province without consent. For a month, they were administered drug injections and electric shock treatment. If they didn't cooperate, they would be shocked with electricity so they could be injected while they were unconscious. Yet all of them were perfectly normal people, exemplary employees at their companies. Both Sun Weidong and Li Shanbin hold bachelor's degrees.

Three practitioners, teachers from Xinjiang, were arrested in Beijing last July when they went to appeal for Falun Gong. Local policemen escorted them home. After arriving back in Xinjiang, the three practitioners were sent to a mental hospital where they were mistreated in various ways. They were tied to beds, forced to take medicine, and injected with very harmful medications. In order to stop the practitioners from struggling when they were tied up, **the doctors put electrodes in their ears and shocked them with electricity.** These three practitioners were **tortured until they were all half-dead and in agony from the extreme pain.** Because one practitioner refused to take medicine, the doctors used an iron bar to pry her mouth open. When the practitioner bent the iron bar with her teeth, the doctors tried to force a tube into her nostril to force-feed her. Her nostril bled heavily. The doctors injected powerful sedatives into her body, which would make the average person sleep for days.

Nerve-damaging drugs mixed in food

Cheng Shuping, politics and security section chief, and Zhang Yuanting (Doctor Zhang), vice director of the Detention Center of Anqiu City's Public Security Bureau, subjected Dafa practitioners to daily persecution. They forcibly fed practitioners a **mixture of three teaspoons of milk powder, a handful of salt and a handful of drug tablets.** After mixing this concoction, the milk powder turns green. Having this mishmash administered causes one to have stomach contractions, numbness of the hands and feet, cramps and even vomiting. When some

practitioners did vomit, the persecutors would cram the vomit down their throats again. Sometimes, one force-feeding and cramming session would last five hours.

The guards mix nerve-damaging drugs into a practitioner's food. After the practitioner eats the food and demonstrate unusual behavior, the guards declare that the practitioner has mental problems and then detain him/her as a patient at the mental hospital.

Forced drugs and injections

After he was released, **Sun Minghao** went to Beijing again to appeal. As a result, he was arrested and escorted back again. After 15 days of detention, his work unit forcefully sent him to the 6th Ward of Yantai Psychiatric Rehabilitation Center.

In the hospital, they were forcefully given large doses of injection and force-fed medicines for mental patients. The daily dosage increased from 3 pills to 5, then to 7. After being given 7 pills a day, the pain throughout Sun Minghao's body became unbearable. Meanwhile, no family members were allowed to visit him.

On the third day, Sun Minghao fell into a coma for a whole day and night. He was released only after his family and work unit personnel came for him two days later. The hospital forced both him and his family to promise that he would not go to Beijing again.

Physical torture of practitioners in mental health facilities is also commonplace. Various brutal tortures are applied to the practitioners. Just as the practitioners are treated in Chinese jails and prisons, they are tortured by being bound tightly with ropes in very painful positions, beaten and shocked with electric batons, deprived of food, not allowed to sleep, force fed through gastric tubing, and shocked with high voltage through acupuncture needles

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Ye Hongfang

female, 31
from Heyuan City of Guangdong Province

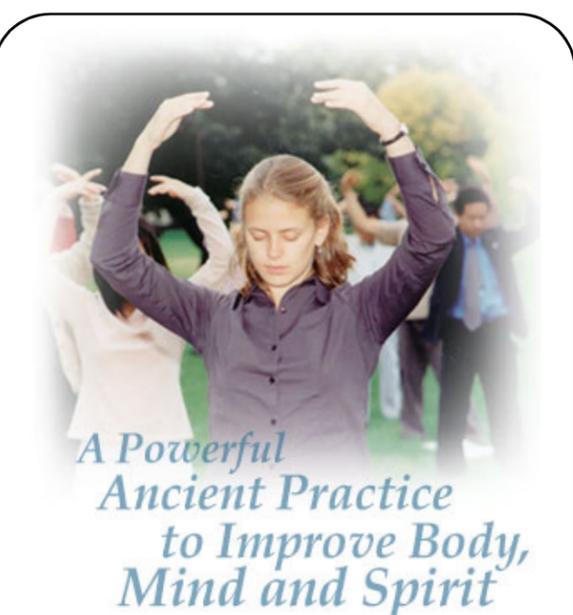
Ye Hongfang was sent to the Huizhou Mental Hospital by the Heyuan Police Department and her work unit, Heyuan Electric Power Bureau, for appealing for Falun Gong. She was tied with ropes and forcefully given injections of medication for mental patients. The doctors in the mental hospital told her that, **if she persisted in practicing Falun Gong, they would give her injections every day.** The daily forced injections and other medication made her feel very tired and weak. After about one month, Ye Hongfang's husband bailed her. During her detention in the mental hospital, **she had been injected with 26 bottles of narcotics.**

In late January 2000, because Ye Hongfang went to a neighboring county to visit a fellow practitioner, the Heyuan Police decided to send her to the mental hospital again. She refused to go with them, so the police pushed her onto a bed and injected her with a drug. After a short while, she felt weak, muddle-headed, sleepy and itchy all over. Then, they forced her into the vehicle and took her to the mental hospital again. **Doctor Luo gave her injections of narcotics, and forced her to take pills. If she refused, she was shocked with electric batons.** This time, the side effects from the medication were even worse. **She suffered cramps all over her body, loss of feeling in her arms and legs, blurred vision, lack of strength, stuffiness and her menstrual periods were disrupted.** By sometime around March 10th, she felt disabled and nearly collapsed mentally.

Cao Jing

Female from Beijing

Arrested for distributing Falun Dafa flyers, Cao Jin was later sent to Qinglongqiao Mental Hospital, Haidian District, Beijing. She was forcibly injected and fed overdoses of drugs damaging her central nervous system on a daily basis. After 49 days of persecution, Cao Jing had almost lost her eyesight. Her bowel and her bladder activity became abnormal. Her limbs were stiff and weak, and her whole body was exhausted.



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Why China suppresses Falun Gong

- Falun Gong teaches Truthfulness-Compassion-Forbearance which the Chinese government thinks is not consistent with Communism.
- Because the number of practitioners is more than that of the Communist Party, the Chinese government feels "threatened."

Central Nervous System Damaged

Wang Xingying

Female, employee of Sanhuan Lock Manufactory Corp, Shandong Province.

My name is Wang Xingying. Because I went to Beijing to appeal, and refused to renounce Dafa, my company sent me to the Laiyang Psychiatric Recovery Hospital on March 2, 2000. However, previously, on February 20, 2000, my company took me from the South Street Police Station to that mental hospital for a check-up. The results showed that I had no abnormalities.

The hospital had many sections, which detained several dozen Dafa practitioners from places like Yantai and Laiyang City. I was put in No. 2 ward. Starting from the second day, the staff tied me to the bed and forced **one IV injection and two needle injections upon me daily. I received a total of 20 bottles of IV injection and 40 needle injections. Everyday I have to take twelve pills**, ten of which I suspect were sleeping pills; I did not know what the other two were. The doctor would not tell me either. Two nurses would watch me taking the pills; they told me to show my tongue to verify that the pills were in my mouth, and to show my tongue again afterwards to make sure I had swallowed the pills. At that time, there were six Dafa practitioners like me held captive in ward No. 2.

At one time the **practitioners were restrained and shocked on the head with electric needles**. If we practiced the exercises, we would be tied to our beds. Practitioners were kept in separate rooms to be watched and real mental patients in those rooms were instructed to report on them to the doctors. When I recited Falun Gong articles, my roommates came forward and hit me. When we hid in the bathroom to practice, they beat us when they found out. After the mistreatment in the hospital, I **could not eat, my whole body was fatigued, both legs were bent crookedly and could not be straightened, my eyelids drooped so much that my eyes only opened halfway, my jaw**

Due to the heavy dose given of medications like Perphenazine, Chlorpromazine, Fluphenazine, Fluorohydroxypiperidine and other unknown substances, many practitioners suffer tremendously from toxic effects such as: loss of memory, severe headache, fainting, extreme weakness, muscle stiffness and rigidity, protrusion of the tongue and other dystonic reactions, uncontrollable tremors, nausea, vomiting, seizures, loss of consciousness, etc. Some of the severe cases resemble Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome.

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lost muscle strength so I could only close my mouth halfway; and I became *constipated*. The worst part was I couldn't sleep because my **feet jerked uncontrollably**; sitting and standing were very hard, and **my legs would always shake me off my feet**.

On March 30, when my husband came to pick me up, the director would not release me. Seeing my tortured and badly emaciated body, my husband insisted on taking me home. Despite my condition, the director still **required my husband to buy 5 bottles of sleeping pills to force me to take at home**. Four days after I got home, my whole body turned yellow, my eyes became yellowish green, and I vomited. The emergency examination at a hospital showed **my liver to be seriously poisoned by the drugs forced upon me. My ammonium transferase level was 40 times higher** than normal after my imprisonment in the mental hospital. When my fellow practitioners finally saw me, they were all shocked. The staff of the mental hospital caused me severe damage: **my eyes stared blankly, my eyelids could not open fully, my chin sagged, and I had lost much hair**.

I was forced to stay at the mental hospital from March 2 - 30, 2000. My husband and I had to pay for all the expenses of my stay there.

Tan Guihua

Female, 42 years old

On September 12, 1999, Tan went back home after appealing for Falun Gong in Beijing. Before she could even sit down, some officers from her work unit and the Politics and Law Commission broke into her home and dragged her to the mental hospital.

When they arrived at the hospital, a large dose of injection was waiting for her. Tan refused to take the injection. Then a tall nurse went out and brought back eight mental patients. They held her down and gave her an injection. Within a few seconds, she **felt faint and sick** and her **heart was beating extremely fast**. She had to press her head against the wall and hold the ground firmly with both hands. While in great pain, she tightly bit the corner of the comforter in her mouth and tried not to make any noise. Her mouth bled from the biting. Then she **lost consciousness**.

Each day a female doctor would ask her whether she continued to practice Falun Gong or not. To an answer of 'yes', the **doctor would shock her with electrical needles**. She was **shocked for a total of seven times**. For two months, Ms. Tan was **forced with medicines and given injections three times a day**.

Later, that lady doctor asked a nurse to give her another kind of injection. It was said to be a kind of imported medicine, and the drug effect would last for over one month. After the injection, Tan's period stopped coming. Her **eyeballs could not move and her reflexes slowed down**. A few days later, they added another drug to the injection. After that shot, Tan's body **shook violently all over and could not even hold a bowl**. The **torture continued for 20 days**. By the time her family picked her up, Tan was so muddleheaded she could not see things clearly. Her head was totally blank and she could not recall much at all. Her whole body was puffy, her **eyes looked dull**, and her reflexes were slow. It took a long time for her to say a word.

Qiu Liying, Duan Jingjing, He Jing & Zhao Shuying

Forcibly sent to Tangshan City Mental Hospital, Hebei Province, they were diagnosed with "Crankiness Psychosis". The reason for the punishment is simply that they did not give up practicing Falun Gong. The four went on a hunger strike to protest the illegal detention.

In the mental hospital, they were tied to beds, pricked with electric needles, and force-fed medications that destroy the central nervous system. **After 12 hours, Duan Jingjing**, a young lady, **was not able to put her tongue back in her mouth** after she had been force-fed drugs. Her **face turned purple** and she tossed back and forth in her bed. The people in the hospital were scared. They asked a director of the labor camp for instruction, but the director said, "It's nothing. Continue to give her the medicine." It was discovered that the hospital did this to her to make money. Afterwards the staff feared that the practitioners might die from this and therefore quietly stopped the medicine.

Recently, the abuse of medications has been expanded to the prisons or labor camps, where even more powerful medications are used to control the practitioners' minds.

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He Xianggu & Zhang Xiaomei

Nurses at the Health Center for Women and Children in Hunan Province

Ms He and Ms Zhang were detained for 15 days after they came back from appealing in Beijing. Led by Wu Shifan, secretary of the Party Committee of the health center, several officials tied up the two nurses and sent them to the Hunan Mental Hospital (the brain hospital of Hunan province) at the beginning of this year. In the mental hospital, the practitioners were injected with **fluorohydroxypiperidine, a long-term retardant to the nervous system**. This is the most potent drug used to treat schizophrenia and it is usually for very severe cases. While injecting the drug, the doctor claimed that it was for protecting the brain. The long-lasting toxic injections caused the practitioners physical and psychological disorders to various degrees.

Forced into Mental Institutions

Zhao Xinli

has been detained in the 261 Mental Hospital of Liberation Army since the end of February of 2000. According to information sources, he has already been tortured to the point of disfiguration. The doctor would either beat up him or abuse him verbally. He was shocked with electrical probe and given injections that made him become extremely weak. A guard even said things such as, "Now he can not run away!"



According to an AFP news report on June 28, "He (Zhao Xinli) was placed in a PLA mental hospital in Beijing and injected daily with a drug which harmed his nervous system, leaving him physically weak and muddled, the center said."

"Five other PLA members and Falungong believers are also incarcerated at the hospital, the center quoted sources saying."

After the case of Zhao Xinli was reported by western medias, in order to avoid criticisms, the authorities have secretly transferred Zhao Xinli. Zhao's whereabouts is unknown now.

All the practitioners were mentally normal and stable when they were first taken to the psychiatric facilities. The 1,000 cases that we know about include physicians, nurses, an associate professor, a judge, military personnel, police officers, teachers, a computer engineer, etc., all of whom were known to have functioned at a high level in society prior to their incarceration.

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Zhang Bangrun was detained for going to Beijing to appeal. Zuo Jin (the deputy general secretary of the towns local Communist Party, and the person in charge of dealing with the Falun Gong problem) and his subordinates sent her to the Chongqing No. 1 Mental Hospital against her will. She was injected with drugs and locked into a dark, windowless room with no food or water. Her family was not allowed to see her. The head doctor told her relatives: She does not have any mental problems. She is simply being persecuted for being a Falun Gong practitioner. She is suffering so much and I feel so sorry for her. Five witnesses can testify the mistreatments. When they were finally allowed to see her, she was in such bad condition that they could hardly recognize her.

Learn More about Falun Dafa

All Falun Dafa activities are open to the public and free of charge. To find a practice location near you, call the number or visit the website below:

1 (877) FALUN99 (toll free)
www.faluninfo.net
www.falundafa.org

The history of medicine in the 20th century is darkened by the downfall of the German medical profession. Fifty years ago in Nuremberg, twenty-three German doctors guilty of appalling human rights abuses were prosecuted for their crimes against humanity. Most received sentences that ranged from short imprisonment to death. There is no reason to believe that the events that took place under Hitler were unique and will never happen again. Those atrocities could happen again. And they are happening now in China.

Psychiatric facilities involved in the detention and abuse of Falun Gong practitioners

1. Anhui Province Female Labor Camp and Anhui Province Mental Hospital, Anhui Province
2. Hefei Mental Hospital, Anhui Province
3. Anding Hospital (a mental hospital), Beijing
4. 261 Mental Hospital of People's Liberation Army, Beijing.
5. Zhoukoudian Psychiatric Hospital, Fangshan District, Beijing
6. Huilongguan Mental Hospital, Beijing
7. Beijing Northern Suburban Rehabilitation Center, Beijing
8. Chongqing No. 1 Mental Hospital, Chongqing.
9. Mental Hospital of Guangxi Army, Guilin, Guangxi Province
10. Longqianshan Mental Hospital, Liuzhou, Guangxi Province
11. Shalingzi Mental Hospital in Zhangjiakou, Tangshan, Hebei Province
12. Mental Hospital of Tangshan City, Hebei Province
13. Shijiazhuang Mental hospital, Hebei Province
14. The Mental Section of the Fifth Hospital attached to the Medical School of Hebei Province
15. Second Mental Hospital, Xinxiang, Henan Province
16. Mental Hospital in Wuhan, Hubei Province
17. Changsha Mental Hospital, Changsha, Hunan Province
18. Shenyang Mental Hospital, Liaoning Province
19. Dalian Drug Rehabilitation Center, Liaoning Province
20. A Mental Hospital in Dalian, Liaoning Province
21. Tangjiafang Mental Hospital, Anshan, Liaoning Province
22. Chengbei mental hospital, Kunshan, Jiangsu Province
23. Longgang Mental Hospital, Yancheng City, Jiangsu Province.
24. Nanjing Mental Hospital, Nanjing, Jiangsu Province
25. Nanjing Psychiatric Hospital (section 6), Nanjing, Jiangsu Province
26. Mental Section of No. 3 People's Hospital in Wujin County, Jiangsu province
27. Treatment Center for Mental Diseases in No. 102 Hospital, Changzhou, Jiangsu Province
28. Nanchang and Jinxian County, Jiangxi Province
29. Beiluo Town Mental Hospital, Shouguang, Shandong province
30. Linyi mental hospital, Shandong Province
31. Psychiatric Department of Kangfu Hospital, Weifang, Shandong Province
32. Shandong Provincial Mental Hospital, Jinan, Shandong Province,
33. The Mental Illness Section of Kunlun Hospital of Zibo Mineral Bureau, Shandong Province
34. The third section of the Third People's Hospital of Weifang for mental illness, Shandong Province
35. Mental Hospital of Jiaozhou (also called Jiaozhou Psychological Recovery Center), Jiaozhou, Shandong Province.
36. Changle Mental Hospital, Shandong Province
37. Jining Mental Hospital, Jining, Shandong Province
38. Yantai Mental Recovering Center, Laiyang, Shandong Province
39. Mental Hospital in Shanghai
40. Linyi Mental Hospital, Linshu county
41. Seventh Hospital of Hangzhou City (a psychiatric hospital) in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province
42. Mental Hospital in Xinjiang