

July 2022
Prime Minister Justin Trudeau
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

The Hon. Mélanie Joly
Minister of Foreign Affairs
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A9

On 23rd anniversary of persecution, Falun Gong deserves to be part of Canada's China policy.

Dear Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs,

July 20 marks 23 years since the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) launched a systematic and brutal campaign to eradicate Falun Gong, a spiritual practice guided by the principles of Truthfulness, Compassion, and Tolerance.

We, the undersigned parliamentarians, urge the government to include Falun Gong explicitly in Global Affairs Canada's China Policy Framework (while other persecuted groups are mentioned), condemn the CCP's continued attack on this peaceful faith, and call for an end to the persecution in China.

It has been brought to our attention that the evidence is overwhelming, corroborated, and voluminous proving that the persecution of Falun Gong remains the largest and most violent campaign targeting Chinese people, not just regionally, but nationally in mainland China today. It includes a devastating propaganda campaign to demonize Falun Gong with hatred and bigotry inside China as well as within the international community.

For 23 years, the CCP has carried out massive arbitrary arrests, torture, killing, and large-scale forced organ harvesting of Falun Gong prisoners of conscience across China, destroying the lives of tens of millions of innocent people and their families.

The atrocities are well-documented by human rights organizations/experts, such as Amnesty International, governmental bodies, and the United Nations.

For example, in June 2021, a statement by 12 United Nations special rapporteurs said they were "extremely alarmed" by credible information that forced organ harvesting is targeting Falun Gong practitioners in detention. This follows U.S. House Resolution 343, unanimously passed in 2016, "expressing concern regarding persistent and credible reports of systematic, state-sanctioned organ harvesting" from Falun Gong practitioners in "large numbers."

In 2015, Freedom House stated, "Hundreds of thousands of adherents were sentenced to labour camps and prison terms, making them the largest contingent of prisoners of conscience in the country." Almost a decade earlier, U.N. Special Rapporteur Manfred Nowak reported that "Falun Gong practitioners accounted for 66 percent of victims of alleged torture while in government custody."

In June 2019, an international, independent tribunal in the U.K. concluded that "crimes against humanity" targeting Falun Gong nationwide is occurring. It listed evidence of murder, torture, rape, and organ harvesting. It said "forced organ harvesting has been committed for years throughout China on a significant scale and that Falun Gong practitioners have been one—and probably the main—source of organ supply."

Academics have concluded that the eradication of Falun Gong by the CCP is a genocide. In 2018, the journal article “Cold Genocide: Falun Gong in China” stated that this killing is a “concealed genocide” that is “invisible, ignored, or forgotten”. A 2022 article affirms that the CCP is waging a genocide against Falun Gong that “is long overdue for recognition.”

Among those suffering in China is Canadian citizen Ms. Qian Sun, who is serving an 8-year prison term, and 12 Canadians’ family members who continue to languish in jail in China because of their belief in Falun Gong.

Sadly, there has never been such a disparity between a humanitarian crisis and silence from the international community as that observed in the persecution of Falun Gong over the past two decades, where human rights and legal experts affirm that crimes against humanity are occurring.

We count on the government to champion the international human rights of all persecuted groups. In particular, the Falun Gong faith community deserves explicit mention in the current Global Affairs China Policy Framework, in which it has been excluded, as horrific acts and hatred continue to target them in China as well as here in Canada.

It is time we speak out for them.

Sincerely,

Ziad Aboultaif, M.P., Mel Arnold, M.P., Yvan Baker, M.P., Bob Benzen, M.P., James Bezan, M.P., Colin Carrie, M.P., Michael Cooper M.P., Marc Dalton, M.P., Raquel Dancho, M.P., Ted Falk, M.P., Garnett Genuis, M.P., Angelo Iacono, M.P., Tom Kmiec, M.P., Robert Kitchen, M.P., Damien Kurek, M.P., Stephanie Kusie M.P., Mike Lake, M.P., Melissa Lantsman, M.P., Ron Liepert, M.P., Elizabeth May, M.P., Larry Maguire, M.P., John McKay, M.P., Richard Martel, M.P., Kelly McCauley, M.P., Dan Muys, M.P., Rick Perkins M.P., Anna Roberts, M.P., Scott Reid, M.P., Kyle Seeback, M.P., Judy Sgro, M.P., Warren Steinley, M.P., Shannon Stubbs, M.P., Rachael Thomas, M.P., Ryan Turnbull, M.P., Arnold Viersen, M.P., Brad Vis, M.P., Cathay Wagantall, M.P., Michael L. MacDonald, Senator, Kim Pate, Senator, Don Plett, Senator

Press Release

For Immediate release

July 19, 2022

Dozens of Lawmakers Urge Prime Minister To Champion Human Rights of Falun Gong Ahead of Anniversary

Ottawa - Today, in a joint letter, 40 parliamentarians urge Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mélanie Joly to call for an end to the persecution of the Falun Gong in China. (Letter and names are attached). The letter was sent before July 20th, the day marking 23 year of the violent campaign to eradicate Falun Gong by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). .

The letter was initiated by Liberal MP Judy Sgro and Conservative MP Garnett Genuis, two co-chairs of the Parliamentary Friends of Falun Gong. It was signed by parliamentarians from both side of the House

“We, the undersigned parliamentarians, urge the government to include Falun Gong explicitly in Global Affairs Canada’s China Policy Framework (while other persecuted groups are mentioned), condemn the CCP’s continued attack on this peaceful faith, and call for an end to the persecution in China,” wrote the letter.

“It has been brought to our attention that the evidence is overwhelming, corroborated, and voluminous proving that the persecution of Falun Gong remains the largest and most violent campaign targeting Chinese people, not just regionally, but nationally in mainland China today“, said the letter,

“For 23 years, the CCP has carried out massive arbitrary arrests, torture, killing, and large-scale forced organ harvesting of Falun Gong prisoners of conscience across China, destroying the lives of tens of millions of innocent people and their families,” said the letter.

“It includes a devastating propaganda campaign to demonize Falun Gong with hatred and bigotry inside China as well as within the international community,” said the letter.

The letter also provided evidence by third party reports from United Nations special rapporteurs, Freedom House, Amnesty International, The US House of Representatives and scholars that crimes against humanity and genocide is occurring.

The lawmakers note that: “Sadly, there has never been such a disparity between a humanitarian crisis and silence from the international community as that observed in the persecution of Falun Gong over the past two decades.” And “It is time we speak out for them.”

Copy of the letter and signed names are attached.

Contact:

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Persecution Intensified Amid Pandemic and Canadian Ties

Since the pandemic started, the number of reported harassment cases of Falun Gong practitioners have skyrocketed. Harassment cases include impositions of fines, home ransacking, physical abuse, forced evictions, dismissals from employment, or expulsion from school. 3,582 cases of were reported in 2019. In 2020, this number nearly tripled to 9,159 cases and remained about this high in 2021 with 9,332 cases reported.

The number of practitioners sentenced dramatically increased as well. In 2019, 775 cases of sentencings were reported, and 83 were killed. This doubled by 2021, with 1,372 sentencing and 180 deaths confirmed.

Due to limitations such as the strict censorship inside China, these reports are only a small portion of the larger persecution at hand. The Falun Dafa Information Center suggests that at least several million adherents have been detained since 1999.

In 2020, Canadian citizen Ms. Qian Sun was sentenced to eight years in prison in Beijing. At present 12 family members of Canadians are illegally detained in China because of their belief in Falun Gong.

For more information, please visit Faluninfo.net

