



City of Richmond

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April 11th, 2002

File: 0105-01

Ms. Vera Sun Yin
#345 – 5888 Dover Crescent
Richmond, BC V7C 5R9

Dear Ms. Yin:

Re: Persecution against Falun Gong in China

In response to your letter dated April 2nd, 2002, this is to confirm your appearance as a delegation to Council on the above matter at the Council Meeting scheduled for Monday, April 22nd, 2002, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Richmond City Hall. Because this item is not on the agenda you will be heard at or near the end of the Council meeting.

As you are aware, Council procedures allow five minutes for you to make your presentation, not including any questions which Council members may ask. This five-minute limit is strictly enforced to ensure that all business for the meeting is dealt with.

Please conclude your presentation with a specific request on what you are seeking by appearing before Council as a delegation.

Yours truly,

J. Richard McKenna
City Clerk

April 11th.20002

Honourable Mayor and Council,

With our sincere appreciation, we would like to thank you for your support of Falun Gong in the past. Your time and consideration is kindly appreciated.

On behalf of Falun Dafa practitioners from Richmond, I am writing to request your proclamation of a "Falun Dafa Month Honouring Truth-Compassion-Forbearance" in Richmond, BC, for May 2002. It will be greatly appreciated that we could have the opportunity to make a 5 minutes presentation at your council meeting for more information about Falun Dafa and the recent situation.

Richmond has the history of embracing Falun Dafa for over three years with enthusiasm. Dec.8th, 2000 was proclaimed as Falun Daf Day and May 13-19, 2001 were proclaimed as Falun Dafa Week in Richmond, BC. Free classes offered in Thompson community Centre have been enjoined by numerous residents in Richmond, Delta, etc.since 1998,

This year we are celebrating the 10th anniversary of Falun Dafa's introduction to the public; with parades, festivals, concerts, dinner events, a Falun Dafa film festival, as well as public demonstrations in parks, tourist locations, recreation centers, and libraries, throughout the month, and in cities and towns across Canada. As always, all activities are offered free of charge to the public. Our national experience sharing conference, welcoming over a thousand practitioners and the public from across Canada and around the world will be held in Toronto on May 16- 21, 2002.

What is Falun Dafa?

In 1992 a powerful, ancient cultivation practice was introduced to the public in China. Falun Dafa (also called Falun Gong) consists of five sets of gentle exercises and the study of the universal principles of Truth-Compassion-Forbearance. Practitioners strive to incorporate these principles into their daily lives. In turn, remarkable health benefits arise. When the heart is pure and the mind balanced, health and happiness are natural results! The free teachings of Falun Gong transcend all cultural and racial boundaries and have touched the hearts and improved the lives of millions in over 50 countries around the world. Since 1995 Falun Dafa has been embraced in communities throughout Canada. Highly accessible, Falun Dafa's simple teachings and practice instruction can be found in bookstores, libraries, and Internet websites.

The Persecution of Falun Dafa in China

In China the practice of Falun Gong was supported and awarded by the government for many years. It won the frontier science award in 1992 and 1993. In 1996, the book *Zhuan Falun*, the complete teaching of Falun Gong, was China's national bestseller. Unfortunately, experts say this unprecedented popularity and the freedom of people's hearts and minds is what scared the totalitarian president of China. In 1999 he ordered a vicious crackdown and slander campaign against the practice and the over 70 million practitioners in China. In 2000, CNN quoted Jiang Zemin, "Use all means necessary to exterminate Falun Gong or it will be seen as a major weakness to the communist party."

Amnesty International has confirmed that China's regime is ordering the arrest, detention and torture of Falun Gong practitioners. As of today, at least **390** people have been killed as a result of brutality in prisons, labour camps and mental hospitals.

Ian Johnston from The Wall Street Journal won a Pulitzer Prize for his investigative report on the death of a 58-year-old grandmother in police custody and the extensive report on the top down government sanctioned persecution of Falun Gong practitioners in China. “[The central government] puts huge pressure on local officials to comply with central edicts -- but gives them absolute discretion over implementation... they were under strict orders to eliminate the huge number of Falun Dafa protesters in their district but faced no scrutiny of the methods they used.”

In order to extend the persecution overseas, Chinese consulates and embassies are used by the People’s Republic of China to spread lies and the incitement of hatred against Falun Dafa in the news media, in slander displays, and through the distribution of “anti-Falun Gong” propaganda literature. There have been documented cases where city officials responsible for renting facilities, issuing permits, and issuing proclamations or letters in support of Falun Dafa have faced coercion by Chinese consulate officials to discriminate. The vast majority of the officials involved have stood by their support of Falun Gong based on the facts; many have found this kind of tactic morally appalling. (Please refer to appendixes)

Falun Dafa’s Peaceful Appeals are Supported Around the World

After nearly three years of slander and propaganda from the Chinese president, the old saying that actions speak louder than words holds true. The appeals of Falun Dafa practitioners have won Nobel Peace Prize nominations the last two years, awards from human rights organizations, the support of millions in society, the praise of police and governments around the world, and 600 proclamations and letters from Mayors and government officials, with 250 in Canada alone. Falun Dafa practitioners have achieved this because our pursuit is not for political power or self-interest but rather it is to espouse and protect the very values that Falun Dafa has brought to us--- namely the principles of Truth-Compassion-Forbearance.

Currently Unfolding Crisis

On March 18th, 2002, Amnesty International issued an “Urgent Action Statement” calling on citizens to take action and appeal for an end to the recent escalation of persecution in Changchun China where recent orders from the Chinese President to, “Kill them [Falun Gong practitioners] without mercy,” has resulted in the disappearance of over 5000 people and the deaths of at least 100 in only two weeks. New orders nation wide have pressured all city officials to arrest thousands in a huge sweep.

Today, on behalf of the kind-hearted public, and Falun Gong practitioners all over the world, we are writing to ask you to take action to support Falun Gong, and to help stop the persecution and killing of Falun Gong practitioners in China. Please do whatever you can to rescue those Falun Gong practitioners.

What We Respectfully Request From You

Specific actions may include but are not limited to:


1. Pass a proclamation of “Falun Dafa Month Honouring Truth-Compassion-Forbearance” for May 2002. and/or
2. Pass a resolution that supports Falun Gong and condemns the massacre unfolding in Changchun and the persecution of Falun Gong practitioners, and send copies to the Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Mei Ping, Canadian Ambassador to China, Jiang Zemin the President of China and the Mayors of all sister city relations in China. And/or

3. Write a letter to Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister, Honourable Bill Graham, asking Canada to take a solid stance and condemn the unfolding massacre in Changchun. Ask the Canadian government to act immediately to protect and release all Falun Gong practitioners who have been illegally detained, tortured, raped and persecuted in prisons, detention centres, labour camps, mental hospitals, and brainwash centres in China.

We greatly appreciate your time and consideration to this very important matter. As we prepare to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Falun Dafa's introduction to the public we still cannot ignore the suffering we all feel due to this vicious, illegal, and insipid persecution to our fellow practitioners in China. With all our hearts we hope that a peaceful environment to Falun Dafa practitioners will soon be restored in China.

Thank you

With Respect,

Vera Yin 
#345 – 5888 Dover Crescent,
Richmond, BC
V7C 5R9
Tel.& Fax: 604-303-8658

Appendices

1. Sample proclamation for "Falun Dafa Month Honouring Truth-Compassion-Forbearance"
2. Sample Resolution supporting Falun Gong and condemning the escalated persecution against Falun Gong in China
3. Canadian Dignitaries Support Falun Dafa
4. Canadian Officials and Community Leaders Condemn China's Persecution of Falun Gong
5. Gordon Earle M.P's letter to Mei Ping, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China
6. Amnesty International London Office issues "Urgent Action" Order March 15, 2002 and Again on April 11th, 2002.
7. Relevant Addresses

Canadian Dignitaries Support Falun Dafa

“They wish to live in symbiosis with the universe and experience inner peace. The exercises and meditation they practice are more than just techniques they are learning to master: they are the means that allow them to progress and develop as people. They cultivate the will to live in peace with themselves and in harmony with the universe, thus learning compassion for others and helping to create a more open and tolerant society.”

--- **Adrienne Clarkson**

“I am pleased to send my greetings to all those celebrating Falun Dafa Week. An exercise system with an ancient Chinese heritage, Falun Dafa has as its aims the refinement of both the mind and the body, using the idea of Zhen-Shan-Ren, which means ‘Truthfulness, Compassion, and Forbearance.’ These are certainly principles that resonate with many Canadians.”

--- **The Hon. Herb Gray, M.P.**

“I commend you for your commitment to the principles of Falun Dafa and your goals of reaching a higher level of mental, physical, and spiritual health. Those who practice Falun Dafa are to be congratuated for advancing the universal dream of a peaceful, tolerant, and compassionate society.”

--- **Deborah Grey, M.P.**

“The members of your organization are to be commended for seeking to improve their minds and bodies through gentle exercise and meditation. Reflecting on ourselves and the world around us can further our understanding of each other and, in turn, strengthen our communities.”

--- **Hon. Ralph Klein**

“Falun Dafa/ Falun Gong is about refining one’s mind and moral quality, and enhancing health. With an estimated 70-100 million practitioners in about 40 countries, Falun Gong has become a global phenomenon – no small feat for an eight-year old movement! However, successful movements do not simply happen, but require precise coordination of people, efforts and dedication. Each of you did an outstanding job in imparting the intrinsic values and ideals of Falun Gong and I sincerely applaud your efforts, strength and dedication.”

--- **Libby Davis, M.P.**

“It is with pleasure that I wish a peaceful and joyful Falun Dafa Week to the enthusiasts of this gentle practice. May your continued dedication to Falun Dafa allow you to prosper and achieve greater enlightenment and wisdom, while helping you to contribute to a more harmonious and balanced society.”

--- **Stephane Dion**

Canadian Officials and Community Leaders Condemn China's Persecution of Falun Gong

"The situation in China has recently become more critical as President Jiang Zemin is reported to have ordered a "Kill Without Mercy" policy against Falun Gong practitioners. These acts must be condemned in the international community and it's time for the Canadian government to act decisively and immediately to pressure the Chinese government to halt these human rights violations. Canada must not silently allow the Chinese government to perpetrate such crimes against its own citizens and citizens of Canada."

--- Libby Davis, M.P.

"On behalf of the 450,000 members of the B.C. Federation of Labour, and the more than 2.3 million members of the Canadian labour Congress, I am here today to stand beside you to condemn the actions of the Chinese government. I want to assure you that BC Union Members will not stand silently by while the Chinese government detains members of the Falun Gong, subjecting them to imprisonment, torture, and even murder."

--- Jim Sinclair, President of B.C. Federation of Labour

"In light of the first ever court order being issued to stop the spread of lies, mistruth and misrepresentations regarding Falun Dafa, I would like to congratulate Falun Dafa Canada. Their misrepresentations regarding Falun Dafa, I would like to congratulate Falun Dafa Canada. Their work in stopping the incitement of hatred towards practitioners of Falun Gong makes Canada a better place. This initial victory sends a strong message that Canada, governed by the rule of law, will not tolerate such manipulation."

--- Mr. Rob Anders, M.P.

"The motto of Falun Gong, 'Truthfulness, Compassion, Tolerance,' also describes core Canadian values. We all have a responsibility to protect from persecution our fellows. By the court case launched by the Falun Gong practitioners, they have drawn a line in this end against those who perpetrate hatred and gross distortions and falsehood about Falun Gong or any other belief genuinely held."

--- Mr. Michael Bergman, legal council to practitioners.

"The cause you are supporting is truly an admiral one. Truthfulness-Compassion-Tolerance, the principles of Falun Gong, are needed now more than ever. The vicious persecution against Falun Gong by the government of China cannot be condoned."

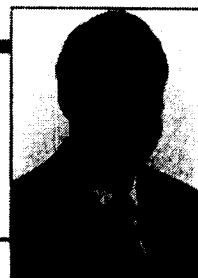
--- Mayor Ron Stevens, Orillia Ontario

"It is the duty of every citizen in every free and just society, to express their indignation towards oppression, torture and murder. I would like to commend all Canadians who've supported Falun Dafa."

--- Ms. Colleen Beaumier, M.P.



Gordon Earle



Mei Ping
Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary of the
People's Republic of China
515 St. Patrick Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1N 5H3

MP, Halifax-West

September 6, 2000

Dear Ambassador:

Thank you for your letter of August 24, 2000 concerning my greetings on behalf of the New Democratic Party of Canada to all celebrating Falun Dafa Week.

As Multiculturalism Spokesperson of the federal NDP I stand by my letter. I urge you to examine the riches brought to our society by our support of multiculturalism, and encourage your government to re-examine your policies concerning the freedom of varied cultural organizations to exist, organize, meet, hold activities and thrive.

As a black legislator in a strongly predominantly white national legislature, I am all too aware of the possibility that organizations can reach a point where they pose a serious threat to society. The Ku Klux Klan is one such example. Having said that, I strongly stand by my conviction and belief that multicultural organizations strengthen, not weaken, our nation. Further, organizations must *clearly* be proven to be a threat to our citizens before I would encourage any limits on their activities. This tenet of innocent until proven guilty is an important one.

Once again I am proud to extend greetings on behalf of the New Democratic Party of Canada to all who celebrate Falun Dafa Week.

Yours very truly,

Gordon S. Earle, MP Halifax West
NDP Multiculturalism Spokesperson

CC Svend Robinson, MP Burnaby-Douglas
Falun Dafa Organization of Canada
Federation of Ottawa-Carlton Chinese Organizations

Parliamentary Office: Room 202 Wellington Bldg., House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Tel: (613) 996-3085 Fax: (613) 996-6988

Community Office: 10 Kidston Road, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3R 2J7

Tel: (902) 477-6881 Fax: (902) 477-6952



**Amnesty International Calls for Urgent Action
Concerning the Recent Treatment of Falun Gong Practitioners in
Changchun, China, March 15, 2002.
--- AI Issues a Second Urgent Action Statement on April, 11, 2002.**

(Note: This is an urgent action statement issued by the International Secretariat of Amnesty International)

PUBLIC AI Index: ASA 17/011/2002
UA 81/02 15 March 2002
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
Fear for safety/Fear of torture or ill-treatment

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Chinese, English or your own language:

- urging the authorities to guarantee the safety of all those detained in connection with the takeover of the Changchun TV station and during the ensuing police operation, and to clarify their names and whereabouts;
- urging the authorities to ensure that all those detained have immediate access to lawyers, their families and medical attention;
- calling on the authorities to release immediately and unconditionally all Falun Gong members detained solely for the peaceful exercise of their fundamental human rights;
- expressing your concern at repeated reports that Falun Gong members have suffered torture and other serious human rights violations, and calling on the authorities to ensure that those responsible are brought to justice.

April 11, 2002
PUBLIC AI Index: ASA 17/020/2002
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
Further information on UA 81/02 (ASA 17/011/2002, 15 March 2002) -
fear for safety/fear of torture or ill-treatment

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Please continue sending appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Chinese, English or your own language:

- urging the authorities to clarify the names and whereabouts of all those detained during the ongoing police operation in Changchun and provide immediate guarantees for their safety;
- calling on the authorities to clarify the charges against those arrested and to release immediately and unconditionally all Falun Gong members detained solely for the peaceful exercise of their fundamental human rights;...

APPEAL TO

Premier of the People's Republic of China
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People's Republic of China
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Director of the Jilin Provincial Department of Public
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Relevant Addresses

Mr. Jiang Zemin, President of China
Office of the President
C/O State Council Secretariat
Zhong Nan Hai, Beijing
The People's Republic of China

Mei Ping
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the PROC
515 Patrick St.
Ottawa, Ontario
K1N 5H3

Falun Dafa

Truthfulness-Compassion-Forbearance



Falun Dafa (also known as Falun Gong) is an ancient form of Qigong and made public by Mr. Li Hongzhi in China in 1992. When people talk about Qigong, they usually refer to exercises like Tai-chi with the goal of harnessing the flow of energy in one's body in order to achieve health and fitness. However, Qigong has a spiritual aspect to it that goes far beyond healing and fitness. Unfortunately, this spiritual aspect has been lost over time.

Falun Dafa connects to and focuses on the spiritual root of Qigong practice. Practitioners improve their body, mind and spirit holistically by assimilating to the universal principles of "Truth- Compassion- Tolerance" (explained in book *Zhuan Falun*, which was translated into 15 languages) in terms of becoming a better person and seeking inside for self-improvement, as well as doing five sets of gentle exercises, including a sitting meditation, to balance and improve the well-being of their body and mind.

Since its introduction, more than 100 million people all over the world have chosen to make Falun Dafa a part of their daily lives. They find it a worthy and enjoyable investment of their time towards health, happiness, and meaningful living. Through the practice, practitioners aspire to become enlightened to the truth of human life, the universe and humanity.

Everyone is welcome, as Falun Dafa is apolitical, informal and free of charge, obligation, and membership.

Excerpts of Awards and Congratulation for Falun Dafa

"They wish to live in symbiosis with the universe and experience inner peace. The exercises and meditation they practice are more than just techniques they are learning to master: they are the means that allow them to progress and develop as people. They cultivate the will to live in peace with themselves and in harmony with the universe, thus learning compassion for others and helping to create a more open and tolerant society."

--Adrienne Clarkson, Governor General of Canada

"Falun Dafa transcends cultural and racial boundaries. It resonates the universal truth to every corner of the earth and bridges the gap between east and west. ... Li Hong Zhi has worked tirelessly to convey Falun Dafa from China to the rest of the world. Along the way, he has touched the lives of countless people in many countries, earning an acclaimed international reputation."

--"Honorary Citizen and Goodwill Ambassador", City of Houston, USA

"Enabling countless individuals to turn away from self-destructive thinking and behavior such as drug, alcohol and tobacco use, Falun Dafa has equipped people with the understanding necessary to endure the hardest and unjust of tribulations without resorting to violence. It is apolitical and is a popular exercise that improves people's health and spiritual well being. ..."

-- Proclamation of "Falun Dafa Day", City of Port Moody, British Columbia, Canada



Office of the Mayor
CITY OF RICHMOND
BRITISH COLUMBIA

Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** Falun Dafa, also known as Falun Gong is an advanced traditional Chinese Qigong practice for improving the mind and body through gentle exercises and meditation; and
- WHEREAS,** The practice of Falun Dafa is guided by Zhen-Shan-Ren (Truthfulness, Compassion and Forbearance) – the supreme characteristic of the universe; and
- WHEREAS,** The practice has a significant effect on stress relief, self-healing and overall mental and physical health; and
- WHEREAS,** It is a virtuous system of body and mind, which has helped many people turn away from bad habits and pursue more meaningful lives.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Greg Halsey-Brandt, as MAYOR of the City of Richmond, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM May 13 to 19, 2001, as:

“FALUN DAFA WEEK”
in the City of Richmond

Greg Halsey-Brandt
MAYOR



Office of the Mayor
CITY OF RICHMOND
BRITISH COLUMBIA

Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** Falun Dafa, an advanced qigong system with an ancient Chinese heritage, offers self-refinement of both mind and body; and
- WHEREAS,** Falun Dafa started in China in 1992, and its activities of exercises and practices are based on the universal quality of Zhe-Shan-Ren, which means Truthfulness-Compassion-Forbearance; and
- WHEREAS,** Falun Dafa is designed to help people improve their physical condition, cleanse their mind, uplift their moral standards, and rid bad habits; and
- WHEREAS,** Falun Dafa has helped to preserve precious human traditions such as honesty, courtesy, loyalty, and unselfishness; and
- WHEREAS,** Falun Dafa's remarkable contribution to human society has been recognized world wide,

NOW THEREFORE, I, Greg Halsey-Brandt, as MAYOR of the City of Richmond, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM Friday, December 8, 2000, as:

"FALUN DAFA DAY"

in the City of Richmond

Greg Halsey-Brandt
MAYOR