Investigative Report of the Chinese Anti-Cult Association's Role in the Persecution of Falun Gong

March 23, 2004

I. Introduction

The Chinese Anti-Cult Association (CACA) was founded by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) or Chinese government officials who have religious or scientific backgrounds. Following the direction of the CCP and with the help of the state-controlled media, the members of the CACA have been using their religious and scientific backgrounds and social identities to justify and further the persecution of Falun Gong. Their functions include providing explanations to people in China and abroad to justify the persecution, providing suggestions to the Chinese government regarding the methods of persecution, providing theories to criticize Falun Gong's principles, and directly participating in the brainwashing and persecution of Falun Gong practitioners.

After its establishment on November 13, 2000 in Beijing, the CACA quickly developed many branches in different provinces, cities, work units, and even schools. It has been motivating people from all social levels to join its movement of criticizing Falun Gong and brainwashing Falun Gong practitioners.

According to Wang Yusheng, the Vice Director and the Secretary General of the CACA, by October 2003, twenty-four anti-cult associations (ACA) have been established in different provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities; seven provinces and autonomous regions were in the process of establishing ACAs. These ACAs are branches of the CACA. Since the CACA was founded in November 2000, it has held nearly one thousand exhibits and propaganda activities around the country, as well as more than a thousand conferences and forums. It has also established the “China anti-cult website" and produced more than 20 films and 400,000 books. In 2004, local ACAs are still being established.

II. Leaders of the Chinese Anti-Cult Association

The founders of the CACA are the CCP or Chinese government officials who have religious or scientific backgrounds. They claimed that they were from the community and established this organization voluntarily. The main leaders of the CACA are the following:

- **Director:** Zhuang Fenggan, a member of the Standing Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), the Vice President of Chinese Science Association, and a member of the Chinese Academy of Science
- **Vice Director and Secretary General:** Wang Yusheng, a member of the Standing Committee of the CPPCC, the Director of the Chinese Science and Technology Museum
- **Vice Director:** Fu Tieshan, the Vice Chairman of the National People's Congress, the Chairman of the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association and Vice-President of the Catholic Bishop's Conference of China
- **Vice Director:** Sheng Hui, a member of the Standing Committee of the CPPCC, the Vice President of the Chinese Buddhists Association
- **Vice Director:** Gong Yuzhi, a member of the Standing Committee of the CPPCC, a member of the Standing Committee of the CPPCC, the former Vice Principle of the Party School of CCP
- **Vice Director:** He Zuoxiu, a member of the Standing Committee of the CPPCC, a member of the Chinese Academy of Science
- **Vice Director:** Pan Jiazheng, a member of the Standing Committee of the CPPCC, a member of the Chinese Academy of Science, the Director of the Ethics Committee of the Chinese Academy of Engineering
- **Vice Director:** Wang Jiafu, a researcher at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), the Vice President of the Chinese Law Association, the former Director of the National Institute of Law of CASS
- **Vice Director:** Guo Zhongyi, a member of the Standing Committee of the CPPCC, a researcher in the Chinese Popular Science Research Institute
To investigate the criminal conduct of all institutions, organizations, and individuals involved in the persecution of Falun Gong; to bring such investigations, no matter how long it takes, no matter how far and deep we have to search, to full closure; to exercise fundamental principles of humanity; and to restore and uphold justice in society.


III. Governmental Nature of the Chinese Anti-Cult Association

The CACA is a governmental organization established using a non-governmental title. Its governmental nature can be confirmed by looking at its organizational structure, financial sources, and the nature and characteristics of its activities.

1. Organizational Structure

The CACA is a unit of the China Society and Technology Association, a governmental agency. The CACA’s office is located at the Chinese Science and Technology Museum, a governmental agency. The Secretary General and Vice Secretary General in charge of CACA’s daily operations are full-time government employees. The authorities in some local ACAs are actually local government officials. All CACA branches have their offices inside governmental agencies. Wang Yusheng, the Vice Director and the Secretary General of the CACA and the Director of the Chinese Science and Technology Museum, is the Legal Representative for both the CACA and the Chinese Love and Care Association, that are the same organizations with different names and are both registered under the Chinese Science and Technology Museum.

Li Anping, the former Director of the Chinese Society for the History of Science and Technology, works full-time for the CACA and was transferred in January 2001 to be the full-time Vice Secretary General of the CACA. [In China, a “transfer” only refers to job change within governmental agencies and is not related to non-governmental organizations.] His transfer was so urgent that the 2000 newsletter of the Chinese Society for the History of Science and Technology was not published as scheduled.

Cheng Ningning is also a full-time Vice Secretary General of the CACA. She was the Secretary General of the Federation of Chinese Women Scientists and the Vice Chairman of the International Department of the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST). According to an investigation on February 29, 2004, Cheng Ningning was still enlisted under and working in the International Department of the CAST, which means the government is paying her salary to work for the CACA.

The President of the Yingkou City ACA in Liaoning Province is a CCP official in charge of the oppression of Falun Gong. On January 12, 2004, a ceremony was held for the establishment of Yingkou City ACA. Wang Anlai, the Vice CCP Secretary of the Yingkou City Committee and the CCP Secretary of the Commission for Discipline Inspection, and Diao Shaochang, the Vice CCP Secretary of the Yingkou City Committee, were elected as Honorable Presidents of the Yingkou ACA. Wang Yousan, a member of the Standing Committee of the Yingkou City CCP Committee and the CCP Secretary of the Yingkou City Political and Judicial Committee, was elected to be the President of the Yingkou ACA. The Political and Judicial Committee is the main agency that directs the oppression of Falun Gong and is the department to which the "610 Office" is attached.

The Laiwu City Bureau of Science and Technology in Shandong Province is a governmental agency. Its Department of Academic Society has the sign of the office of the Laiwu ACA. The subordinate governmental agencies accept orders from the higher level ACA. The Beijing Chongwen District Science and Technology Commission and the District Association of Science and Technology (AST) once, following the request of the Beijing ACA, organized “An Open Letter to the United Nations Human Rights Organization” in order to show the international society the “public opinion” of suppressing Falun Gong in China. This is further proof that the CACA functions as a governmental agency.

In fact, the international society generally also regards the CACA as a governmental agency. The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) even refers to the CACA as the “official Chinese Anti-Cult Association”.

2. Financial Sources
It is known that the ACAs' administrative offices are all located in governmental agencies and their overhead, transportation, and salaries are all paid by the Chinese government.

The Beijing Science Committee once sponsored 1.1 million yuan to fund the Beijing ACA and its propaganda campaign.15 In their literature, the local ACAs normally write “sponsored by related units” for their operational financial sources. However, the Tianjin Hedi District ACA and the Zhangjiakou City ACA in Hebei Province writes “sponsored by the government” for their operational fund.16 The Laiwu City ACA in Shandong Province indicated its source of funding as "government financial allocation".17

In 2004, the Chongqing AST and the Chongqing ACA decided to award outstanding organizations in 2003 that served “Health and Life in the Family” [This activity had anti- Falun Gong content.] It used funds from the Chongqing AST and awarded organizations with 1,000 to 3,000 yuan.18

3. The Nature of the CACA Activities

All activities organized by the CACA and/or its local branches are directed by the Political and Judicial Committee of the CCP and "610 Office."

On its website, the CACA claims itself as “a special social community organization with important political functions and tasks. Only under the leadership of the CCP and developing activities closely related to the prevention and the handling of cults, could [the CACA] accomplish its mission".19 The Zhejiang Province CCP Committee emphasized that the Zhejiang AST leadership over the ACA needs to be strengthened.20 The officials of Chongqing Political and Judicial Committee of the CCP gave speeches at the first and third seminars held by the Chongqing ACA where they affirmed the association’s previous work and made specific requirements for its future tasks.21, 22 The sixth article of the second chapter of the regulation of the Laiwu ACA in Shandong Province clearly states its functions as carrying out the CCP’s and the government’s anti-cult policies and important orders, as well as performing all anti-cult tasks assigned by the pertinent departments.17

In October 2003, CACA sent a delegation to USA, clearly stating that the event is followed the arrangement and instruction from the Central CCP.23

The local CCP and governmental officials routinely attend and give speeches at the ACA’s meetings, which is impossible for any non-governmental organizations. For example, on March 29, 2003 when the Hubei Province ACA was established, the Vice Governor, Su Xiaoyun, attended the ceremony and gave a speech.24 When the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region ACA was established, Zhang Guomin, the member of regional Standing Committee and the Head of Propaganda Department of CCP attended the ceremony and gave a speech.25

In Shandong Province, all levels of the CCP committee’s "Leadership Team to Deal with Falun Gong Problem" accommodate the AST, to which the ACAs are subservient. As far as any significant activities are concerned, the provincial CCP committee would have concrete arrangements and instructions for the ACAs. The associations would earnestly complete these tasks and report to the CCP committee.19

The ACAs are actually units of the CCP committee’s "Leadership Team to Deal with Falun Gong Problem" agencies. Throughout the provinces and cities, its operation reflects the government controlled "special" and "important political functions and tasks". The CACA provides suggestions to the Chinese government regarding the theories and methods of the persecution and assists in the propaganda inside China. It also actively promotes the anti-Falun Gong propaganda and helps to explain the persecution of Falun Gong policy overseas.

IV. Goals and Characteristics of the Chinese Anti-Cult Association

The single goal of the CACA and its branches around the country is to oppress Falun Gong.

This directly violates the State Council’s regulation for the registration and administration of social groups.26 This regulation’s article 4 states that any social group should not harm the nation’s interests, social public interests, other
organizations, and citizen's legal rights and interests. It is clear from the statements of the CACA and its branches, that the main goal of its establishment is to damage the reputation of Falun Gong and Falun Gong practitioners. One of the CACA’s routine tasks is to positively advocate, implement, and directly participate in the brainwashing of Falun Gong practitioners. This violates the citizen's freedom of belief bestowed by the Chinese constitution. Differing from the centralized persecution of people in the past, the CACA persecutes people’s beliefs in the name of a civic organization. In China, many organizations have participated in the persecution of Falun Gong in various degrees. However, the CACA is the only one that takes the persecution as its single goal.

V. The Major Activities of the Chinese Anti-Cult Association

1. The Major Composition of China’s Anti-Falun Gong Propaganda

The major task of CACA is helping Jiang Zemin controlled propaganda machine to fan the hatred towards Falun Gong in the whole society throughout the nation and the world. When interviewed by the reporter of Guangming Daily, Wang Yusheng, the secretary general of CACA, explained that the “millions signature campaign” is to actively attack, and let the world know the hatred towards Falun Gong.

The “Tiananmen Square Self Immolation” on January 23, 2001 and the following wide range propaganda are the most important steps that indicates the escalation of Jiang Zemin’s persecution of Falun Gong and trying to have Chinese people to accept and agree on the persecution. The Chinese government has never permit any third party to direct an independent investigation. The “Self Immolation” is a purposely staged incident that have been verified from many sources:

The Washington Post’s reporter Philip Pan’s report at Zhenzhou City, Henan Province where the residency place of killed woman Liu Chunling on the site of “Self Immolation” the results of voice analysis and recognition performed on the main person Wang Jindong (“the main organizer” as called in CCTV Focused Topic program in the “Self Immolation” by The World Organization to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong (WOIPFG) and the award-winning program “False Fire” produced by New Tang Dynasty TV (NTDTV) with a detailed analysis of the CCTV broadcasted video clips. WOIPFG noticed that the “Self Immolation” was staged right at the moment when the persecution was under national and international condemnation and was at the awkward situation to continue. And it is the moment when the Jiang Zemin’s regime deeply need a “break through” to have the persecution keep going. There is only less two months before the UN human rights conference was going to discuss the China’s human rights violation in persecution Falun Gong. Jiang Zemin was desperate to find way to justify his persecution of Falun Gong in front of Chinese people and world communities so to escape the responsibility and condemnation. On January 11 which is 12 days before the date of “Self Immolation,” CACA launched the campaign of “Millions Signatures Signed” to against Falun Gong. Its purpose is mainly for paving the way for the purpose. Right at the critical time period, “Tiananmen Self Immolation” took place at the right time and right place by a most suitable way. Currently, there is no evidence to show the direct connection between the CACA’s “Millions Signature” and “Self Immolation,” but it is very obvious that the “Self Immolation” provided a mostly needed reason and fueled the “Millions Signature” Campaign.

On January 11, 2001, the “Millions Signature Drive Against Cults to Protect Human Rights” started its signature collection campaign at Beijing University and sent a proposal to the nation. On March 2001 the CACA delegation brought a one-ton bolt of fabric to the United Nations’ Human Rights Conference in Geneva onto which more than 1.5 million signatures had been signed. This nationwide signature collection campaign was fully driven by government agencies since the Chinese government has forbidden any social group activity from extending beyond its own province. For example, the Tianjin Youth League Committee of the CCP organized the signature collection; the location for the signature signing was inside the Jiangxi Province’s government courtyard. The signature in all the universities and colleges were arranged by the Ministry of Education and the local education committees.

From November 26 to December 5, 2003, sponsored by the CAST and the Central CCP 610 Office, the China Love and Care Association and the CACA held anti-Falun Gong picture exhibitions in Beijing for 10 days. This exhibition fomented hatred towards Falun Gong. This same exhibit has been held by the Chinese embassies in other countries, including Singapore, South Korea, Hague of Dutch, and Pairs of France etc., exporting the hate propaganda to oversea.
Zhao Zhizhen, one of the initiators of the CACA and the director of the Wuhan Broadcast and Television Bureau, produced a film slandering Falun Gong and its founder in June 1999. This film was frequently shown on CCTV starting on July 20, 1999, and signalled the start of the suppression of Falun Gong.45 Whenever there is a significant event, the CACA becomes central in the coordination around it, furthering the regime’s suppression of Falun Gong by issuing statements and organizing forums. For example, it made announcement regarding the case of Fu Yibin killing his father and wife,46 the “Tiananmen Square self-immolation”,47 the “Sinosat hijacking”,48 and the article published by the the CACA Director, Zhuang Fenggan, regarding the United States Congress' resolution H.Con. 188.49

In its persecution of Falun Gong, it is crucial that the CACA propaganda “blots out the sky and covers up the earth” The Washington Post quoted a Chinese official’s words on August 5, 2001 that [whether or not the suppression was effective] depends on three factors: violence, propaganda, and brainwashing. He said that, “a high-pressure propaganda has been critical. As the Chinese society turned against Falun Gong, pressure on practitioners to abandon their beliefs increased, and it became easier for the government to use violence against those who did not” The government used the “Tiananmen Square self-immolation” as the core of its anti-Falun Gong propaganda. The repeated broadcasting of the scene of the 12-year-old girl's burn finally made many Chinese people believe what the government said. “Pure violence doesn't work. Just studying doesn't work either. And none of it would be working if the propaganda hadn't started to change the way the general public thinks. You need all three.”30

The propaganda of the CACA has made such an effect.

2. Providing Ideological Theories for the Persecution of Falun Gong

Since its establishment in November 2000 through to the end of 2003, the CACA has held eight forums and two annual “Anti-Cults Theory and Practice” conferences discussing theories of brainwashing tactics.46, 51 In 2002, staff from the Beijing ACA, the Beijing Psychological Health Association, the Beijing Cult Prevention and Handling Office [610 Offices] including Bi Shu and Liu Fuyuan’s “A Research on the Psychological and Social Factors and the Intervention Measures of the Cult Members” won the 2002 Outstanding Investigation and Study award from the Beijing AST.52 The anti-Falun Gong research by the president of the Shandong Province Anti-Cults Association was listed as the “the Tenth Five-Year Plan” scientific research project by the Shandong Academy of Social Science.53

3. Providing Measures for the Persecution of Falun Gong

The CACA has directly participated on the front lines of the persecution of Falun Gong through the police and judicial system. Pan Jiazheng, a member of the Chinese Academy of Engineering and one of the initiators of the CACA, has proposed a systematic plan of suppression of Falun Gong at the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference. The plan includes the internet blockade (even suggesting to punish those who provide website resources for Falun Gong practitioners); mobilizing the public to monitor Falun Gong practitioners; punishing practitioners who persist in their belief by dismissing them from the CCP, the Youth League, and other government positions and not allowing them to be teachers, lawyers, reporters, or physicians.54

This policy directly resulted the extention of persecution of Falun Gong practitioners into wider areas of society including education and juridication. In education area alone, more than tens of teachers and students are persecuted to death including a more than 60-year-old professor Pu Shigao of Medical School of Yanbian University. He was arrested for exposing the human rights violation and illegalness of the persecution to the public. He was subjected to torture in the Yanji Detention Center but never gave up his belief of Falun Gong. Professor Pu was later tortured to death in Yanji Detention Center.55 On June 27, 2002, lecturer Ms. Li Xiaojin of Guangzhou University was abducted to the brainwashing center at Guangzhou City Huangpu area Drug Rehab Center. She was tortured to death in less than 24 hours.56 Just in Tsinghua University alone, there are more than thirty Falun Gong practitioners including Yao Yue being sentenced to forced labor camps and even 12 years of imprisonment.57 In the legal and law area, Judge Hu Qingyun from Jiangxi Province was tortured to death, and more than ten lawyers and judges are persecuted.58

4. Directly Planning and Participating in the Brainwashing of Falun Gong Practitioners

To investigate the criminal conduct of all institutions, organizations, and individuals involved in the persecution of Falun Gong; to bring such investigations, no matter how long it takes, no matter how far and deep we have to search, to full closure; to exercise fundamental principles of humanity; and to restore and uphold justice in society.
While the former Soviet Union and other communist countries only detain political dissidents in mental institutions, Jiang Zemin’s regime spread the unprecedented brainwashing to the national population. The methods of brainwashing include forced viewing of state-run media propaganda, forced-labor, pressure and continuous monitoring from work and residential units, sleep deprivation, and torture. The CACA has played a major role in this brainwashing.

Wang Zhigang, the board member of the Jilin Province ACA (JACA) and a member of the Air Force’s 610 Office, and Song Jianfeng, a member of the JACA, have been invited by departments including the Provincial Forced Labor Camp and the 610 Office to give a series of presentations. They worked with the Shenyang Air Force and the 610 Office of Jilin Province and Changchun City in various research projects and participated in the brainwashing of Falun Gong practitioners. They wrote two books that have been used extensively as brainwashing materials by hundreds of forced-labor camps, prisons, the Political and Judicial Committee, 610 offices, and brainwashing centers all across the country. According to Falun Gong practitioners who used to be detained at Yinmahe Forced Labor Camp in Jilin Province, Wang Zhigang used to personally brainwash Falun Gong practitioners in this camp, notorious for its torture and the killing of several practitioners.

The Henan Province ACA organized some "experts" to participate in "re-education and transformation work". In Shandong Province, the Jinan ACA organized some "experts" to give lectures in the forced-labor camps and brainwashing centers. The Shengli Oil Field ACA summarized 12 brainwashing methods and explained brainwashing standards. The Shandong Province ACA trained 800 cadres for the provincial CCP committee and provided books and videos for the labor camps and brainwashing centers. The Shanxi Province ACA went to the forced-labor camps to help with the brainwashing. The Harbin ACA in Heilongjiang Province sent a lecturers' group to Wanjia Forced Labor Camp to give speeches and present brainwashing books. The Zhangjiakou City ACA in Hebei Province established "re-education groups" that went to "law education schools"[brainwashing centers] to help with the "transformation" of Falun Gong practitioners.

Lin Cheng Tao is a typical example of such "transformation" Lin was an assistant researcher at the Basic Medicine Institute of the Chinese Union Medical University. In October 2001, he was kidnapped to the second team of the Tuanhe Forced Labor Camp in Beijing. In the end of 2001, his brainwashed wife from Xinan Forced Labor Camp wrote to the head of Lin’s team and suggested that he try to force Lin to give up his belief by using the measures used in the female labor camp, including electric shocks, physical punishments, mental tortures, and sleep deprivation. The police forced Lin to read the letter again and again until he had a mental breakdown.

5. Extending the Persecution of Falun Gong Overseas

The CACA held activities overseas, and then sent the "overseas news" back to China to show "international support" in order to increase and justify the persecution inside China. At the end of 2000, CACA launched the “Millions Signatures Drive" to against Falun Gong. On January 11, 2001, it started from Beijing University and pushed to the society from there. CACA distributed 100 bunches cloth with 100-meter-long each to different places. Then the local CCP, government and local ACA organized people to sign. Up till February 26, 2001, the organizers claimed that they had collected more than 1.5 millions signatures.

In March 2001, a CACA delegation brought a one-ton bolt of fabric that contained more than 1.5 million signatures to the United Nations' Human Rights Conference in Geneva, holding an exhibition of the fabric. In March 2002, a CACA delegation brought more than 10,000 anti-Falun Gong letters to the United Nations' Human Rights Conference in Geneva. However, evidence indicated that these "public opinion" letters were not written by the public voluntarily, but were actually organized by the CACA. For example, the letter titled “To the United Nations' Human Rights Organization" was written by "transformed Falun Gong practitioners" or brainwashing center staff in Beijing Chongwen District Science Association following instructions by the CACA.

In March 2003, the Director of the Chinese Science and Technology Museum, Vice Director and Secretary General of CACA Wang Yusheng led CACA delegation went to Geneva again. This time they used the title of China Care and Love Association. The WOIPFG investigator took the pictures of anti Falun Gong posters (left picture) and propaganda materials (right picture) prepared by Chinese delegation and put at the outside of UN Building.
To investigate the criminal conduct of all institutions, organizations, and individuals involved in the persecution of Falun Gong; to bring such investigations, no matter how long it takes, no matter how far and deep we have to search, to full closure; to exercise fundamental principles of humanity; and to restore and uphold justice in society.

The CACA has attended the United Nations' Human Rights Conference in Geneva for the past three years. During the conference, the CACA has held anti-Falun Gong forums for local Chinese residents and students in France71 and Switzerland.72

The overseas Chinese embassies’ websites publish the CACA’s anti-Falun Gong propaganda. The Chinese officials in religious fields and the leaders of the CACA including Fu Tieshan73 and Sheng Hui74 attacked Falun Gong and Falun Gong’s founder when they visited other countries.

All of the above overseas' activities of the CACA were publicized by the Central CCP-controlled media, including the People's Daily, Xinhua News Agency, and CCTV. The media around the country then widely reprinted these reports which become an important part of anti-Falun Gong propaganda.

VI. Conclusions

The CACA’s guiding principles, operations, and achievements all indicate that it is the main accomplice and executor of the Jiang Zemin regime’s genocide of Falun Gong practitioners. With sufficient evidence, may we suggest that the International Court indict the CACA’s leaders similarly to the case of the officials in the Propaganda Cultural Department among the Nazi war criminals and the three people in Rwanda who were convicted of inciting genocide through propaganda.

Appendix I. The members of the CACA delegations attending the United Nations Human Rights Conference

In 2001: Wang Yusheng (the leader of the delegation), Fu Tieshan, Sheng Hui, Sima Nan, Zhang Ning

In 2002: Wang Yusheng (the leader of the delegation), Ye Shuhua (the honorable leader of the delegation, a member of the Shanghai Astronomical Observatory), Li Anping (assistant deputy secretary-general), Cheng Ningning (assistant deputy secretary-general), Shi Hua (a professor from Beijing University of Chinese Medicine), Qiu Pixiang (a professor of Shanghai Physical Education Institute), Liu Tianjun (a professor from Beijing Chinese medicine University)

In 2003: Wang Yusheng (the leader of the delegation), Wang Jiafu, Xue Cheng, Shi Hua, You Xueyun (a member of the Chinese Human Rights Research Association), Wang Fan (Pastor, the head of Nanjing Union Theological Seminary in Jiangsu Province)