



World Organization to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong

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CCP Central Committee's Propaganda Department Is the Media Control Center in the Persecution of Falun Gong

Since the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) was established, it has used media propaganda as a major weapon in seizing and consolidating power. Media propaganda is at least as important as the military campaign. In CCP's history, the former has been referred to as the "literature weapon" and the latter the "military weapon." Media propaganda under the CCP control is exactly the opposite of what it is commonly understood as media in the international arena. Mainland Chinese media has never been the real news media. Instead, it is a totalitarian propaganda tool controlled by CCP, and it is the party's mouthpiece¹. Other than the *People's Daily*, which is the official paper of the Central Committee of CCP (CCCCP) and is directly under its control, all other media in mainland China operate under the supervision and control of the Propaganda Department—a body directly under CCCCCP. [It will be called the Central Propaganda Department (CPD) in this report.]

In 1999, after CCP, headed by the then General Secretary Jiang Zemin, had decided to crackdown on Falun Gong, Jiang appointed Ding Guangen, Head of the Central Propaganda Department, to hold a concurrent post as the deputy director of the "Leadership Team for Handling the Falun Gong Issues," so as to directly manipulate the Propaganda Department to control the public opinion in the persecution of Falun Gong. In the ensuing five-plus years, the Central Propaganda Department played an active role and launched a nationwide media campaign to systematically demonize Falun Gong, a grassroots meditation group. By continuously fabricating false evidences to support the persecution, it has misled the entire country and incited hatred of Falun Gong practitioners among the Chinese people, making it possible for Jiang's regime to inflict the policy of genocide upon the Falun Gong populace.

According to incomplete statistics, within the past five years beginning July 20, 1999 and ending April 26, 2005, 1,926 practitioners have been verified as being tortured to death. However, according to the Chinese government's official internal statistics, the actual number of practitioners who died after being arrested had reached 1,600 by the end of 2001. In addition, there are at least 6,000 Falun Gong practitioners who have been illegally sentenced to prison. Over 100,000 practitioners have been sentenced to forced labor camps. Thousands of practitioners have been forcefully sent to psychiatric hospitals to be tortured with injections that are damaging to the central nervous system. Large groups of Falun Gong practitioners have been forcefully sent to local brainwashing classes, where they have been subjected to mental torture. Many more practitioners have been tortured and had large sums of money extorted from them by so-called "law-enforcement officials." the Central Propaganda Department and all those in the Department and its reporting units who have participated in the persecution of Falun Gong have inescapable responsibilities.

1. Central Propaganda Department is CCP's Highest Power House to Control the Chinese Media and Its People's Minds

(1) CCP Monitors and Controls Propaganda Apparatus Through Central Propaganda Department



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The Central Propaganda Department is directly under CCCCPC and is CCP's supreme powerhouse to control the Chinese media and its people's minds.² Major national media, such as *Guangming Daily*, *China Daily*, *People's Liberation Army Daily*, *China Youth Daily*, *China Women Daily*, *Workers' Daily*, *Farmers' Daily*, *Economic Daily*, *Science Daily*, *Legal Daily* and other central level newspapers are directly under the Central Propaganda Department.³ The Central Propaganda Department also establishes "media rules" and "propaganda disciplines," which are implemented by the General Administration of Press and Publication, which is directly under the State Council.^{4, 5}

Local Party Committee's Propaganda Department at the provincial, autonomous regions and municipal levels are responsible for local print media's news propaganda work as well as the administration of the local branches of the State and the Central Committee's media. It disseminates the Central Propaganda Department's media policies, which are then implemented by local media publisher's administrative departments.⁴

Xinhua News Agency (Xinhua Net), which is directly under the State Council, and China News Services (Chinanews.com) sponsored by the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the State Council, are also under the operational guidance of the Central Propaganda Department and are subject to the "propaganda disciplines." Although the "propaganda disciplines" do not appear in legal forms, in reality they stipulate media's screening and reporting of news.⁶

China Group of Radio, Film and Television (CGRFT), whose membership includes China Central TV (CCTV), China Central People's Radio, China Radio International, China Film Group Corporation, China Television Transmission Net and China Radio and Television Internet, is administered by the Party group of the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television (ARFT), which is directly under the State Council.⁷ The Group is subject to the "propaganda disciplines" established by the Central Propaganda Department.⁶ The managing director of ARFT, who usually serves as the general secretary of the Party group, concurrently holds the position of Director of the Managing Committee, China Group of Radio, Film and Television. (Formerly the position was held by then Deputy Head of the Central Propaganda Department, Xu Guangchun. Since December 2004, it has been held by the newly appointed Deputy Head of the Central Propaganda Department, who is also the managing director and general secretary of the Party group of ARFT, Wang Taihua—formerly the provincial party committee secretary of Anhui Province.)

People's Daily is official newspaper of the Party Central Committee. Like the Central Propaganda Department, it is directly under CCCCPC.²

According to data published on *China Press and Publishing Newspaper* in May 2003, in the year 2002, 2,137 types of newspapers with a total amount of 36.8 billions copies and 9,029 types of magazines with a total amount of 2.951 billions copies were printed in mainland China. Across the country, there were 306 radio stations, 360 TV stations, and 1,300 Radio and TV stations. Over ninety-three percent of the population was covered by 1,933 radio channels; more than ninety-four percent of the population was covered by 2,058 TV channels; and the number of cable TV users reached 100 millions. By the end of year 2002, 20.8 million computers went on-line in mainland China and the number of websites reached as high as 370 thousand. The overall bandwidth going outside of the country was 9380M; number of Internet users in China reached 59.1



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million—9% of the global total, second only to USA. All these media outlets in China operate under the Central Propaganda Department's supervision.⁸

(2) CCP Controls and Guides Public Opinions through Central Propaganda Department

Since CCP came to power over 50 years ago, it has always treated the complete control of ideology a life-threatening top priority. Through the Central Propaganda Department, nation-wide trend of public opinion is controlled and the CCP's intention is reinforced. State propaganda machines are used to repeatedly brainwash peoples, in an attempt to align people's mind with the intentions of CCP in order to achieve its full function as the CCP's "mouthpiece".

In 1996, Jiang Zemin, then General Secretary of CCP's Central Committee pointed out while inspecting work of *People's Daily*: "The news cause of CCP thrives and falls with the party itself. It's part of the life of CCP. Thus we can say that media work equates to political ideology work and is related to the fate of our party and our nation."⁹

On January 21, 1999, Jiang made a speech to the officials attending the National Conference for Propaganda Department Directors and emphasized the importance of tight control on news trend. "We must strictly follow the political and propaganda disciplines of CCP and solidly implement the orders. We must control those that we have to manage and guard the important media battlefields and broadcast methods well without a single incident."¹⁰

On January 10, 2001, Jiang held a forum with the officials attending the National Conference for Heads of Propaganda Departments. He emphasized that "the Propaganda Departments are very important departments and their work is that of the whole party," "we should try hard to promote CCP's policy and guidelines," "more importantly, we should best use our time to unify our understandings" and "help general public and all levels of officials get a clear understanding of the situation."¹¹

On October 26, 2001, the Head of the Central Propaganda Department gave a talk at the opening ceremony of the 1st Session of the 6th Council Meeting of the Chinese Journalist Association, "At present, the first priority of our media work is ... to be actively aligned with the Central Committee with Comrade Jiang Zemin as its core; unify our thoughts and actions around the spirit of the Central Committee... disseminate the voices of CCP and our government to every household, broadcast the voice of China around the world ... We must uphold Marxism as our news guiding principle and hold on to the Party principles in our media work ... firmly control the correct directions."¹²

On September 20, 2003, Xu Guangchun, then deputy Head of the Central Propaganda Department, Managing Director and general secretary of the Party group of the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television, talked about the "core content of Jiang Zemin's news idea" at a training class held for news editor-in-chief and director of the Central Committee Party School. He said that "Jiang's 'Mouthpiece Theory' has always focused on the political nature of our media, highlighted our media work as an important part of CCP's cause; Jiang's 'Mouthpiece Theory' has strongly supported and extended the 'mouthpiece theory' from Marxism's News Theory, revealed in depth the fundamental nature of the Chinese characteristic socialism news cause." [9] Li



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Changchun, standing committee member of the CCP Central Committee Politburo demanded “trainings for all levels of official involving media work at CCP Central Party School and each CCP Provincial Party Schools.”¹³

On December 5, 2003, at the National Political Propaganda Work Conference, Hu Jintao emphasized in his speech, “The Party controls propaganda; the Party controls the ideology. This is the important principle and rules established in the course of our Party’s long-term practice. It is a vital part to ensure our Party’s leadership role, so we must hold on to it tightly all the time without any slacks-off.”¹⁴

2. Fabricating Deceiving Stories Under Jiang’s Order and Brainwashing the Entire Nation

CCP claimed from the very beginning that its battle with Falun Gong is of ideology nature. On April 25, 1999, Jiang Zemin stated his reason to initiate crackdown on Falun Gong in a letter to the standing committee members of Politburo and other related officials of the central leadership, “How could it be possible that the Marxism theory, the materialism and atheism believed by our Communists were not able to defeat Falun Gong’s teachings? If indeed that was the case, wouldn’t it be a big joke?”¹⁵

On June 7, 1999, Jiang gave a speech, entitled “On Hurrying up to Handle the Falun Gong Issue,” at a Politburo Meeting and decided to establish a leadership team to specifically deal with the Falun Gong issue. Vice premier Li Lanqing was appointed as director of the team, Ding Guangen, then Head of the Central Propaganda Department, Luo Gan, Secretary of Political and Judiciary Commission, were appointed as the team’s deputy directors.¹⁵ The assignment fully displayed CCP’s framework of “literature weapon plus military weapon”—lies plus violence.

In the same speech, without any facts, Jiang set up the tone for propaganda. He demanded that a report with “ample evidence” on Falun Gong and its founder be prepared as soon as possible. The evidence should include “prominent stories such as mental disorder, suicide by jumping off building, refusal of medication that lead to health deterioration and even death, etc.”¹⁵ These fabricated “evidence” based on Jiang’s personal needs became the major media contents for a long period of time after the suppression on Falun Gong began.

In late June 1999, Zhao Zhizhen, then managing director of Wuhan City Radio and Television Bureau and Wuhan TV Station, took the lead to follow Jiang’s order. Wuhan TV Station’s “*The Light of Science and Technology*” program production team “dispatched three staff to fly to Changchun and filmed a special called ‘About Li Hongzhi’, as well as six hours of footage. It has provided valuable reference to the Central Committee to handle the Falun Gong issue, as well as to CCTV for its anti Falun Gong programs.”¹⁶

On July 22, 1999, Ministry of Public Security and Ministry of Civil Affairs made an announcement on *People’s Daily* the decision to crackdown on Falun Gong.

On July 23, 1999, the Head of the Central Propaganda Department told the reporter from *People’s Daily*: “We must earnestly study General Secretary Jiang Zemin’s important speech regarding Falun Gong and the instructions from the Central Committee on how to handle the Falun Gong issues. We must unify our thoughts



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around the Central Committee's decision and deployment; firmly and conscientiously conduct ourselves in accordance with the Central Committee led by Comrade Jiang Zemin... The battle we are fighting against Falun Gong is a serious struggle in political ideology. The frontline of the ideology propaganda must be aligned with the spirit of the Central Committee. We must solidly take on our political responsibilities and firmly guide public opinions to the right direction. We must further propagate the Materialism and atheism of the Marxism."¹⁷

On the same day, all major newspapers printed this speech. The Central Propaganda Department manipulated all TV stations, radio stations, newspapers, and magazines in the entire country and launched a slanderous media campaign, which lasted for several months, against Falun Gong and its founder.

Within 30 days after the public crackdown started, *People's Daily* alone published 347 articles to demonize Falun Gong.¹⁸ At the same time, TV stations, radio stations, newspapers, magazines and all other media outlets throughout China were flooded with slanderous articles defaming Falun Gong and its founder. The overwhelming hate propaganda forced all schools, government offices, factories, communities and local government at all levels to participate in the persecution of Falun Gong.

Jiang Zemin was eager to get involved himself. He personally defamed and slandered Falun Gong in front of the international community. In September 1999, at the APEC forum held in New Zealand, Jiang personally presented an anti-Falun Gong booklet to President Clinton as a gift.¹⁹

On October 25, 1999, CCTV's news program telecast the talk Jiang Zemin gave when being interviewed by the chief editor of a French newspaper, *Le Figaro*. In the interview, Jiang claimed that Falun Gong was an evil cult.²⁰ On the very next day, all major state-run media in China published Jiang's talk with the headline "Falun Gong is Indeed an Evil Cult" on their front pages. It was regarded by international community that it signaled the Chinese government's official stance on Falun Gong.²¹

Since then, many news professionals have become CCP's rumor mongering tools to persecute Falun Gong. According to the investigation of WOIPFG, the so-called "self-immolation," "mental patient Fu Yibin's murder case" and "poison murder case of beggars in Zhejiang Province" were all framed-up incidents to defame Falun Gong. Between January 2000 and October 2003, *Xinhua News Net* alone published 522 such articles. The Central Propaganda Department manipulated all media inside China to instill deceiving propaganda into every Chinese citizen's mind. The slanderous hate propaganda has served to add fuel to the flames in persecuting Falun Gong.

3. Framed the so-called "Self-Immolation" False Incident to instigate Anti-Falun Gong Campaign Nationwide

Less than two weeks before the so-called "Self-Immolation in Tiananmen Square," the National Conference of the Heads of Propaganda Departments was held in Beijing from January 8, to January 11, 2001. Ding Guangen spoke at the conference, emphasizing, "We must strengthen the construction and the management of the battlefield of propaganda and public opinions... We shall always keep in mind that the news media is the Party's



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mouthpiece... We must guarantee that the battlefield of public opinion is in the firm grip of the Party... We must take the task of exposing and criticizing Falun Gong as an important work and relentlessly continue the effort... We shall dedicate everything of ours to the Party.”²² In his speech, Ding also requested that the “ideology education” of the Falun Gong practitioners be strengthened.²³

At 2:41 p.m. on January 23, 2001, five people in Tiananmen Square set themselves on fire. Two hours and fifty minutes later, *Xinhua News Agency* reported the incident. According to Ruo Si, a reporter from the Voice of America (VOA), the VOA reporter quickly made a phone call to the Beijing Police Department and Ministry of Public Security for verification and comments. Staff members on duty at both places told the reporter that they knew nothing about the incident. Before the Public Security personnel were briefed on the incident, *Xinhua News Agency* acted swiftly and snatched the news. It was an odd move and violated the “propaganda discipline”—layers upon layers of tedious censorship and approval commonly practiced by CCP.²⁴

According to the “Regulations on News Reporting” issued by the Central Propaganda Department on February 6, 1988, it is required that “when reporting a breaking news and/or sensitive social issue, ... verification must be done and approval from the concerned supervising department must be obtained before it is published.”²⁵ Accordingly, the Central Propaganda Department did not grant the news media authority to directly broadcast breaking news. Then, who authorized *Xinhua News Agency*?

On May 30, 2001, when talking about the “propaganda and reporting” of the so-called “Self-immolation in Tiananmen Square,” Gao Tingxian, managing deputy Head of the Propaganda Department of Shandong Province, accidentally revealed the secret. Gao said, “Everything was carried out in a planned, systemic way strictly based on the Central Committee’s unified deployment and statement.” At the same time, he also stressed that, “When it comes to reporting the major breaking news, the timing, statement, scope and scale of the report must be based on the Central Committee’s unified deployment. It is requested that *Xinhua News Agency* issues the unified news report and all other media must promptly re-print. Media cannot conduct independent interview nor issue manuscript. Reports that media are allowed to write and publish independently must strictly follow the Central Committee’s statement.”²⁶

One week after the so-called “Self-immolation incident,” on January 31, 2001, *Xinhua News Agency* published a comprehensive report detailing the incident: “The complete story of the self-immolation incident in Tiananmen Square.”²⁷ Among the detailed descriptions of the self-immolation, there was no first hand evidence witnessed by the reporter, nor interviews of any eyewitness on the scene. One cannot find the name of the reporter either. As specified in CCP’s news and publication administration, an unsigned article means it is not a report personally interviewed and written by the editing reporter.²⁸ However, this article, full of questionable points and loopholes, was reprinted on the same day in its entirety by CCP’s national mouthpiece such as *People’s Daily*, *People’s Liberation Army Daily*,²⁹ *Guangming Daily*,³⁰ *Women of China* and other official publications at the Central Committee level,³¹ and they made further speculation on the incident.

From February 5 to February 19, 2001, *People’s Liberation Army Daily (PLA Daily)*, *China’s Defense Daily* simultaneously dedicated a full page to run a series of four slandering articles with distorted facts to defame Falun Gong. *PLA Daily* reporter Tang Shuifu revealed the background of the series to *News and Talent Magazine*: “Before the ‘self-immolation’ incident in Tiananmen Square occurred, the Party Committee at PLA



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Daily relayed the instructions from the officials in the Central Propaganda Department and the General Political Department of PLA on further exposing and denouncing Falun Gong... On January 30, after CCTV broadcast the 'self-immolation,' this series of articles were completed as a result of the direct involvement of the Party Committee of *PLA Daily*, with tremendous support from the Central Propaganda Department and *PLA Daily* leadership team."³²

According to *Northeast Net*, media in Heilongjiang Province grasped this opportune time to expose and denounce Falun Gong. Propaganda departments at all levels and all media in Heilongjiang Province launched a propaganda campaign against Falun Gong. "According to statistics, between January 30 to the end of May, the major media in the capital city alone had published more than 1,280 propaganda reports."³³

Media and propaganda departments at all levels around the country followed closely. Under the Central Propaganda Department's unified deployment, a new round of slanderous hate propaganda campaign against Falun Gong was launched in a "planned, systematic" way. The propaganda had turned Chinese people from being sympathetic of Falun Gong practitioners to accepting the crackdown, triggering a nationwide anti-Falun Gong campaign.

Since the broadcast of the so-called "self-immolation" incident, hostility towards Falun Gong practitioners among the Chinese people had risen tremendously; death tolls of Falun Gong practitioners increased sharply in places such as prisons, labor camps, mental hospitals and brainwashing classes where practitioners were held.

On January 23, 2005, the fourth anniversary of the false "self-immolation" incident, *Xinhua Net* and CCTV served their mouthpiece function again by re-broadcasting and running sequels of the incident, in an effort to continuously defame Falun Gong. The Information Office of the State Council even invited two major Western media, Associated Press (AP) and CNN for interview. Yet, back in 2001 after the "self-immolation" incident was staged, sources from Ministry of Public Security revealed that: "On the Chinese New Year's Eve, the same day when the 'self-immolation' incident occurred, the public security personnel on the scene detained seven Western reporters stationed in Beijing. These reporters were from CNN, AP and AFP. Their videotapes and film negatives were confiscated, and they were asked to sign a statement to admit that they had conducted illegal interviews and to guarantee that they would not do this again. They were released afterwards."³⁴

In China, all press releases have to be reviewed by various departments inside the Central Propaganda Department. Commercial websites cannot post news from the western media without permission. Phillip Pan, a reporter for *Washington Post*, made a personal trip right after the so-called "self-immolation" incident to Kaifeng, hometown of Liu Chunling, one of the five people who the Chinese authority said alleged to have burned themselves during incident, to investigate her background and published a first-hand investigation report.³⁵ However, not a single newspaper inside China has printed or quoted his article. Now the Overseas Propaganda Office of CCCC (It's also called the Information Office of the State Council.)³⁶ made a special effort to invite reporters from AP and CNN for interviews. This unusual move apparently was an effort to use these media to spread lies and incite hatred of Falun Gong in the West.



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4. Various Methods Used to Demonize Falun Gong In Order To Sustain the Suppression

(1) Co-sponsored Large-Scale Exhibition that Demonizes Falun Gong.

On January 10, 2001, Jiang Zemin spoke at the National Conference of Directors of Propaganda Departments. He emphasized that, “Media are the mouthpiece of CCP and the people. Media should accurately, unambiguously and vividly propagate the Central Committee’s spirit. Media should make full use of all propaganda channels as well as all educational channels and continuously explore more effective ways and approaches.”¹¹

Six months after Jiang’s speech, a large-scale anti Falun Gong exhibition, jointly organized by the Central Propaganda Department, Office of Civilization of the Central Committee, Office of Preventing and Handling Cult Issues of the State Council, Ministry of Public Security, Ministry of Justice and the Chinese Association for Science and Technology, was opened in the People’s Revolutionary Military Museum in the morning of July 15, 2001. More than 350,000 people from over 20 provinces and cities, including Beijing, Hebei Province, Heilongjiang Province, Hubei Province and Shandong Province were organized to see the exhibit. Viewers included government officials and employees from over 100 departments and professions, staff members from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, armed police, officers and soldiers from the People’s Liberation Army.

Wang Maolin, Director of the “Office of Preventing and Handling Cult Issues of the State Council” (a.k.a. 610 Office) hosted the opening ceremony. Liu Yunshan, managing deputy Head of the Central Propaganda Department and director of the Office of Civilization of the Central Committee, gave a speech at the opening ceremony.³⁷ The exhibition used false photos and videos to slander Falun Gong, showcasing the brainwashing of Falun Gong practitioners as a significant achievement.

After the exhibit in Beijing concluded on July 15, duplicates of the exhibit and portable posters were shipped across the country for more exhibits.³⁸

In Wuhan, a 15-day anti-Falun Gong exhibit held at the Wuhan Science and Technology Hall concluded on September 11, 2001. Nearly 100,000 people from government organs, community services, enterprises, armies, universities and colleges, middle schools and elementary schools were organized to see the exhibit.³⁹

In Shaanxi province, the provincial Department of Propaganda and Xinhua News Agency Shaanxi Branch organized a large-scale anti-Falun Gong exhibition in the East Exhibition Hall of the Provincial Museum. Within two hours after the opening, more than 2,000 people, including armed policemen, military officers and soldiers and others, were organized to watch the exhibition.⁴⁰

(2) Instigate Hatred In the Form of Literature and Art

Shanghai Film Corporation produced the first anti-Falun Gong movie, “Out of the Death Trap,” (Screenwriter and Director of the movie was Wang Guoxian.) and a 16-serie TV program with the same theme, “A life-and-



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death Beckon.” (With Ye Xin being the playwright and Xu Weijie being the director). The movie and the TV series aired in Shanghai on August 22 and August 28, 2002, respectively. The Head of the Propaganda Department of Shanghai, Wang Zhongwei, attended the premiere and met with the crews. The two productions were directly under the supervision of the Propaganda Department of Shanghai, Office of Preventing and Handling Cult Issues in Shanghai (“610 Office” in Shanghai) and Shanghai Bureau of Radio, Film and TV. The Central Propaganda Department, Office of Preventing and Handling Cult Issues of the State Council and the State Administration of Radio, Film and TV of China recognized the productions, which used fabricated stories and exaggerations to defame Falun Gong.⁴¹

A joint notice was issued by the Propaganda Department in Shanghai, Office of Civilization in Shanghai, Office of Preventing and Handling Cult Issues in Shanghai, Bureau of Education in Shanghai, Bureau of Justice in Shanghai, Shanghai Bureau of Radio, Film and TV, General Labor Union of Shanghai, Youth League Committee of Shanghai and Shanghai Women’s Union to urge each region, each function and each department to watch the movie and the TV program and to hold Party and Youth League meetings, various forums and discussions after the viewings.⁴²

(3) Tighter Control Over Publications Market to Promote Hate Propaganda against Falun Gong in a Broader Scope

On April 9, 2002, the CCP Central Committee and the State Council approved the founding of China Publishing Group, which was to be under direct leadership of the Central Propaganda Department and managed by the General Administration of Press and Publication.⁴³ This giant national publishing group, according to Liu Yunshan, deputy Head of the Central Propaganda Department emphasized, “is an important battlefield of propaganda and ideological work; it is a key production base for premium publications in our country; it is a critical window for cultural exchange with foreign countries.”⁴⁴ The main task of China Publishing Group is to “regulate the direction of publication and ensure the ability to control.”⁴⁵

Members of China Publishing Group include The People’s Publishing House, The People’s Literature Press, The Commercial Press, The Chinese Publishing House, China Encyclopedia Publishing House, China Fine Arts Publishing Group, People’s Music Publishing House, Joint Publishing, Orient Publishing Center, China Translation and Publishing Corporation, Xinhua Bookshop, China National Publishing Industry Trading Corporation, and China National Publications Import & Export (Group) Corporation. Among them, Xinhua Bookshop, China National Publishing Industry Trading Corporation, and China National Publications Import & Export (Group) Corporation formed Xinhua Publishing (Group) Corporation along with China Post Logistics Ltd. Co and China Post Mail-Order Ltd. Co run by China Post Corporation Ltd, which acts as the shareholder corporation for China Publishing Group.⁴⁵ Putting these publishing powerhouses that monopolize the markets in China directly under the Central Propaganda Department, it greatly enhanced CCP’s control over the opinion of the publication market, fully making it a useful tool in the persecution of Falun Gong.

Take textbooks as an example, anti-Falun Gong content has been added to the elementary school textbooks in China.



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There are 565 publishers in China currently. Many of them depend on publishing textbooks. There are more than 100 million students in China, and they require more than 6 billion textbooks.⁴⁶

In 2001, People's Education Press published a book called "School Campuses Refuse Evil Cult," to collaborate with the anti cult activities organized by Ministry of Education to demonized Falun Gong in schools on various levels. In the 3rd edition of *Thoughts and Moral Education* (10th volume) of the "6-year Primary School Textbooks under the 9 Year-Compulsory Education System" printed in November 2003, the so-called "Self-Immolation in Tiananmen Square" was printed in Lesson 12 as teaching material. It made use of false words of the twelve-year-old Liu Siying (who was burned in the incident and later died under mysterious circumstances) to incite children's hatred and fear of Falun Gong.⁴⁷ This textbook has been used to poison the minds of elementary school students in China since 2002.

Putting groundless material into elementary school textbooks to brainwash school children, who do not have the capability of independent thinking, and make them take the slandering of Falun Gong as natural, positive actions; inciting hatred of Falun Gong among young and innocent students, who then further spread the hatred to families and society. These are evidence of CCP's systematic persecution of Falun Gong through China's Propaganda Department and Ministry of Education.

Persecution evidence: The 3rd edition of *Thoughts and Moral Education* (tenth volume) of the "6-year Primary School Textbooks under the 9 Year-Compulsory Education System" printed in November 2003. This textbook has been used to poison the minds of elementary school students in China since 2002 with reference to the staged self-immolation incident.

5. Reward Anti Falun Gong Media and Instigate Persecution

In the morning of December 24, 1999, China Journalists Association held the No. 9 session of China News Award and its 1st Column Prize ceremony in Beijing. Xu Guangchun, deputy Minister Propaganda attended the ceremony to congratulate the award winners. He claimed, "1999 is an unusual year for our press sector." Considering the anti-Falun Gong propaganda as one of "the four major propaganda battles," Xu concluded, "Numerous journalists conducted pioneer propaganda reports...based on Central Committee's deployment. It has created a good public opinion environment to cement people's minds..."⁴⁸

On February 26, 2001, seven Ministries and Committees, including the Organization Department, the Propaganda Department, the Political & Judicial Committee of CCP, Ministry of Public Security, Ministry of Civil Affairs, Ministry of Personnel, Office for the Prevention and Handling of Evil Cults of the State Council (the "610 Office"), held a proclamation ceremony at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing to jointly announced the commendation of "advanced groups and individuals" in the persecution of Falun Gong. Ding Guangen hosted the ceremony.⁴⁹ At the ceremony, Liu Yunshan, managing deputy Head of the Central Propaganda Department, claimed that the persecution of Falun Gong was a "political struggle to fight for ideological battlefield and to win over people. We must fully understand...earnestly study, promote and implement government's guidelines and policies regarding the handling of the Falun Gong issue." Liu Yunshan also urged people to follow the role models of the groups and individuals who actively participated in the persecution of Falun Gong and to "eradicate Falun Gong from the root."⁵⁰



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Below is a partial list of the individuals and newspapers that received awards for writing articles to demonize Falun Gong:

On June 21, 1999, *People's Daily's* commentator's series titled "Respect Science, Do Away with Superstition" received second prize of the tenth China Journalism Prize. Author Wang Jinhai said, "Respect Science, Do Away With Superstition' was the first commentary published by *People's Daily* after the central government decided to denounce Falun Gong...At that time, the government had not yet decided to label Falun Gong as an evil cult, also because this was the first commentary on this issue, there were not many reference materials...I eventually decided to use this title 'Respect Science, Do Away With Superstition'...On the same day the commentary was published, Li Lanqing and other central government officials and officials from the Central Propaganda Department acknowledged the article and asked us to publish [a series of] ten commentaries in line with this title."⁵¹

On October 20, 2000, CCTV's *Focal Point Interview* program, "Set Oneself Against People Is Doomed," was commended by the "610 Office" and Wang Chen, deputy Head of the Central Propaganda Department.⁵²

In 2000, Lei Shoumai, editor and reporter *China Woman* newspaper won the 11th China News Prize for his news reports.

In 2001, Li Yuqiang, Yu Weili and Zhang Xuefeng, script writers from CCTV won the second prize of the 12th China News Prize for their TV commentary on the so-called "Self Immolation."

In 2001, journalists Liu Siyang, Wang Leiming, Zhai Wei, Niu Aimin, and editors Nan Zhenzhong and Wu Jin from *Xinhua News Agency* won the second prize of the 12th China News Prize for the news reporting category.

In 2001, journalist Gao Xueyu and editor Zhang Weige from *Xinhua News Agency* won the second prize of the 12th China News Prize for the photography category.

In 2001, journalists Zeng Rui, Xiao Lei, He Shangjin and editor Ou Xianting from *Yongzhou Daily* won the third prize of the 12th China News Prize for the news-reporting category.

In 2001, journalist Chen Jie and editor Li Xing from *China Daily* won the third place of the 12th China News Prize for the news-reporting category.⁵³

In 2002, journalist Zhao Huanxin and editor Zhu Baoxia from *China Daily* won the third place of the 13th China News Prize for the news-reporting category.

In 2002, reporters Fu Xueqin, Pan Deng, Paerhati and editor An Siguo from Xinjiang People's Broadcast Station won the third place of the 13th China News Prize for the radio commentary category.⁵⁴

Weng Wenqing: deputy Director of Qingdao City Press and Publication Bureau. In mid February 1999, before the official persecution of Falun Gong began, Weng Wenqing led officials from the police department and



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commerce department to search and confiscate Falun Gong books. Because of the outstanding performance by both Weng Wenqing and the Bureau, seven Ministries and Central Commissions, including the Central Propaganda Department, the Political and Judiciary Committee of CCP, the Anti-Pornography and Illegal Publication Work Group, Ministry of Public Security, Ministry of Culture, China Broadcast and Television Bureau, and the General Administration of Press and Publication awarded Weng Wenqing “advanced individual” and the Qingdao City Press and Publication Bureau “advanced individual group.”⁵⁵

Liang Kaicheng: night shift editor of *Tianjin Daily*, director of the publishing center, responsible for all the news sections of *Tianjin Daily*. The layout of the anti Falun Gong news page won the silver medal in China News Prize for the layout category. *Tianjin Daily* publishing division was commended many times by officials from the Central Propaganda Department and the city government. Liang Kaicheng’s slanderous report, “Self-chosen Movement,” on Falun Gong won the first prize of the Tianjin City Good News competition.⁵⁶

People’s Liberation Army Daily and China Defense News: after the so-called “Self-Immolation” took place, these two military newspapers published five reports, including one titled “An Innocent Young Girl’s Miserable Ordeal,” for which they received acknowledgement from the General Political Department of People’s Liberation Army and the Central Propaganda Department.⁵⁷

6. Destroyed and Banned Falun Gong Publications, Stifled Voices to Prepare for Further Slandering

(1) Stifle Voices

In order to carry out the persecution of Falun Gong, the Central Propaganda Department monopolized the transmission of information, blocked the outside news and different opinions, and imposed isolated brainwashing upon all the people in mainland China.

On May 29, 2000, in regards to the administration of media and propaganda work, the Central Propaganda Department and the National Press and Publishing Bureau issued opinions and implementation details of a “Seven Restricted Zones” warning system to local propaganda departments. One of the items stated, “Any ‘serious mistakes’ determined by the Party propaganda department and the press and publishing administration department will receive administrative punishment.”⁵⁴ In China, reporting on Falun Gong is the No.1 “Restricted Zone.”

(2) Confiscated, Destroyed, and Banned Falun Gong Publications

Before the persecution went public, on July 24, 1996, the National Press and Publishing Bureau, which was controlled by the Central Propaganda Department, sent out a “Notice on Immediately Confiscating and Sealing up Five Types of Books, including *China Falun Gong*.” On July 22, 1999, after the persecution became official, the National Press and Publishing Bureau sent out the “Notice of Reaffirming the Suggestion on Handling Falun Gong Publications.”⁵⁸ On the same day, the National Press and Publishing Bureau, Ministry of Public Security, State Administration for Industry and Commerce, General Administration of Customs, and the State Anti-



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pornography Office sent out a joint notice: “Urgent Notice on Immediately Focusing on Cleaning Up Falun Gong Related Publications.”⁵⁹ The local governments immediately deployed actions to search and confiscate Falun Gong related publications.

According to incomplete official statistics in mainland China, over two million copies of Falun Gong related publications were confiscated within a week. In Beijing, 187,000 copies of Falun Gong related publications, over 6,000 cassette tapes, and over 1,000 videotapes were confiscated.⁶⁰ The Tianjin publication administration departments confiscated 22 kinds of Falun Gong books, with a total number of 73,000 copies. In Wuhan, over 130,000 copies of Falun Gong books and audio and video records were destroyed, including 100,000 copies of books, 27,000 audio and video tapes, and 3,400 exercise costumes, banners, and pictures of Mr. Li Hongzhi. In Urumqi, over 3,200 copies of *Zhuan Falun, Hongyin* and other books, over 1200 copies of exercise videotapes and VCDs, and over 10,000 copies of *Mr. Li Hongzhi's Lecture in Dalian* were confiscated. In Qingdao, 10,801 copies of different Falun Gong books, pictures, and audio and videotapes were confiscated.⁶¹ In Shanghai, there were 45,000 copies of different Falun Gong related books and materials destroyed. In Yunnan Province, 3,367 copies Falun Gong related books, VCDs and cassette tapes were destroyed. In Guiyang City, Guizhou Province, 14,324 copies of books and 3,658 audiotapes and 11,750 pictures were destroyed. In Liaoning Province, close to 180,000 copies of Falun Gong publications were confiscated and destroyed. In Shandong Province, over 80,000 copies were destroyed.⁶²

By the end of October 1999, in mainland China, 489,651,000 audiotapes and videotapes, over 10,576,000 copies of books, and 10,700,000 copies of Falun Gong related books were confiscated. Eight VCD production lines (total 86) were confiscated, 3,723 printing factories were banned and 29,425 printing factories were downsized.⁶³

In Qingdao City, from mid February to December 1999, 119,959 copies of Falun Gong related publications, including 35,249 copies of books, 23,881 audio and videotapes or CDs, and 60,833 other promotional items were confiscated. Three large-scale citywide destruction activities were held on May 21, July 30, and August 12, during which 193,000 Falun Gong audio and video tapes or CDs were crushed and 53,000 Falun Gong publications were melted, and 54,000 other Falun Gong promotional items were destroyed.⁵⁸

On August 5, 1999, the National Press and Publishing Bureau issued a notice on searching and banning Falun Gong related publications and tightening the administration on publication printing.⁶⁴

On January 29, 2000, the Central Propaganda Department, Central Committee's Political and Judiciary Commission, the State Anti-Pornography and Illegal Publication Work Group, Ministry of Public Security, Ministry of Culture, the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television, the National Press and Publishing Bureau, and the State Copyright Bureau held a nationwide video Tele-conference. Gong Xinhan, deputy head of the Central Propaganda Department and the deputy director of the State Anti-Pornography and Illegal Publication Work Group attended the conference. The conference requested a complete clean-up of Falun Gong related publication, considering these publications an important channels and tools that the various overseas antagonist forces used to fight for ideological and cultural front with CCP. Regarding the occasional circulation of some Falun Gong related publications and publications based on overseas versions in society, the CCP committees and governments at various levels were required to “attentively implement the important notices



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and speeches on propaganda by the leaders of the CCP Central Committee,” and to “obey and serve the entire Party’s overall situation.” “The main responsible members of the Party and the administrations must take up the matter personally, strengthen their leadership, and search and confiscate Falun Gong related publications firmly and instantly.” During his speech at the conference, Wang Shengjun, the secretary-general of the Political and Judiciary Commission under the CCP Central Committee, suggested to fully utilize the legal weapon and work with the related departments to focus on searching and confiscating Falun Gong publications, and to insist on the police of “striking hard” and “punish heavily and harshly.” He also demanded that “the upper levels of political and legal departments strengthen their advice and coordination, and that the Procuratorate and the courts get involved beforehand.”⁶³

According to CCP’s official statistics in July 2001, since July 22, 1999 in mainland China, there were over 3,000 cases of printing and spreading Falun Gong materials; 260 types of promotional materials were confiscated, with a total number of over 3,300,000 copies; over 2,000 computers, printers, copiers, and plate-making machines were confiscated.⁶⁵

As all Falun Gong publications, cassette tapes and video products were banned and forcibly destroyed, ordinary people had no way of knowing the truth of Falun Gong, the Central Propaganda Department promoted a series of brainwashing propaganda to slander Falun Gong.

7. A Partial List of Officials in the Propaganda System Who Participated in the Persecution of Falun Gong

Liu Yunshan

Gender: Male

Date of Birth: July 1947

Positions: Deputy Minister of Propaganda between April 1997 and October 2002 (confirmed as full-minister level in October 1997); Member of the Politburo since November 2002; Secretary of the CCCCPC secretariat; Head of the Propaganda Department of CCP Central Committee; Director of the CCCCPC Committee Office in Guiding Spirit and Civilization Construction;⁶⁶ Director of the State Anti Pornography and Illegal Publications Work Team.⁶⁷

During his tenure in office, Liu Yunshan was in charge of the anti- Falun Gong propaganda inside China and abroad.⁶⁸ He hosted the nationwide anti Falun Gong commendation conferences⁵⁰ and the large anti-Falun Gong exhibits.³⁸ As director of the CCCCPC Committee Office in Guiding Spirit and Civilization Construction, he held the anti-Falun Gong meeting and was the key speaker.⁶⁹ At the State workshop against pornographic and illegal publication, he deployed the campaign against pornographic and illegal publication. He specially acknowledged the searching and confiscating of Falun Gong publication in the name of “Eliminating pornography and attacking illegal publications” and claimed it major progress in the anti pornography and illegal publications campaign.⁷⁰

Xu Guangchun



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Gender: male

Date of Birth: November 1944

Positions: Deputy Head of the Propaganda Department of CCCCPC since 1995; Director of the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television between June 2000 and December 2004; Director of the State Administration Committee of the Group of Radio, Film and Television since December 6, 2003; Member, standing member and then general secretary of Henan Province CPC Committee since December 2004.⁷¹

During his tenure in office, Xu Guangchun instigated all levels of the bureaus of Radio, Film and Television to produce anti Falun Gong programs.⁷² He actively implemented orders and instructions from CCCCPC and the Central Propaganda Department, deployed anti Falun Gong propaganda and news report, emphasizing, “We need to actively implement the strategy of ‘stepping out’... Do well the task to root our TVs and films oversea... so that the voice of China can play a more active role internationally.”⁷³

Li Dongsheng⁷⁴

Gender: male

Date of Birth: 1955

Positions: Assistant group leader of the News and Politics Group, News Department, deputy Director of the Political and Cultural Department, deputy director and director of the News Covering Department, Director of the News Center, and deputy Director of CCTV since 1978;⁷⁵ Member of the Party Committee and deputy Director of the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television between August 7, 2000 and February 12, 2001,⁷⁶ to assist Xu Guangchun in daily propaganda work;⁷⁷ conducted activities in the capacity name of deputy director of the “610 Office” in the country since 2001; appointed deputy Head of the Propaganda Department of CCCCPC in 2002.⁷⁸

During his tenure in office, Li Dongsheng attended the 57th annual conference of UN Human Rights Committee as special consultant of the Chinese delegation and issued anti Falun Gong statement during interviews by news reporters.⁷⁹ He also slandered Falun Gong during his speech on woman’s interests.⁸⁰ Between November 5 and 11, 2001, he accompanied Li Lanqing, director of the “Leadership Team to Handle the Falun Gong Issues,” in the capacity of the deputy director of the “610 Office”, to visit businesses, schools, research institutions on healthy and technology and high-tech development regions in several major cities in Guangdong Province, including Meizhou, Shantou, Shenzheng, Zhuhai, Sunde, and Guangzhou.^{81, 82, 83, 84, 85} On October 22, 2002, Li visited Yueyang City in Hunan Province in the capacity of deputy Director of the 610 Office, deputy Head of the Central Propaganda Department, to inspect the local 610 Office.⁷⁸ During August 26 to 28, 2002, as deputy Director of CCTV and deputy Head of the Central Propaganda Department, Li reported the status on exposing Falun Gong at the National Conference of Directors of Propaganda Departments held in Beijing.⁸⁶ Li Dongsheng is responsible for the anti Falun Gong propaganda conducted by CCTV and other major media for the last five years.

Gui Xiaofeng⁸⁷

Gender: Male

Positions: Member of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), member of the Party Committee and deputy Director of the National Press and Publication Administration between April 2001 and



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November 2004; ^{88, 89} deputy Director and Office Manager of the State Office of Eliminating Pornography and Attacking Illegal Publications since 1989.⁹⁰

During his tenure in office, Gui Xiaofeng actively searched and confiscated Falun Gong publications, alleging that Falun Gong's truth-clarifying materials were "illegal publications" and therefore should be "confiscated with no exception." He emphasized, "Since 1996, especially since July 1999, the Press and Publication Administration, the State Office of Eliminating Pornography and Attacking Illegal Publications and other related departments have issued several notices to search and confiscate publications such as the Falun Gong materials. These notices should be carried out continually."⁹¹ On March 13, 2003, during an interview with *People's Net*, Gui Xiaofeng said, "According to incomplete statistics, from 1994 to the end of 2002, the state has confiscated more than 16.3 million copies of Falun Gong propaganda materials."⁹² Gui Xiaofeng is responsible for banning the publication of and forcibly destroying Falun Gong books and audio and video products.

Wang Zhongwei ⁹³

Gender: Male

Date of Birth: December 1955

Positions: currently standing member of Shanghai City Party Committee, Director of the Propaganda Department of Shanghai; joined workforce in January 1976 and became a CCP member in December 1980; held positions of Secretary of the Youth League Committee in No.5 Shanghai Pharmaceutical Factory, Principal of Shanghai Young Administrative Cadres College, deputy general secretary of Shanghai Youth League Committee, Chairman of Shanghai Youth United Committee, deputy Party Secretary of the Municipal Press and Publications Bureau, Party Secretary and Director of Wenhui-Xinmin Newspaper Group.⁹⁴

On August 22 and 28, 2002, the first anti Falun Gong movie and a 16-serie TV programs produced by Shanghai Film Group were premiered in Shanghai respectively. Wang Zhongwei attended the opening ceremony and met with key production crews. The movie and the TV series were produced directly under the leadership of the Propaganda Department of Shanghai, which was led by Wang Zhongwei, the Municipal Office for the Prevention and Handling of Cults, and officials in Shanghai Wenguang Film Bureau. They used fabricated stories and artistic techniques to accuse Falun Gong of hurting lives. Both productions were recognized by the Central Propaganda Department, the Office for Prevention and Handling of Cults (the Central "610 Office") and the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television. Department of Propaganda, the Office of Civilization, the municipal Office for Prevention and Handling of Cult, Party Committee of Department of Education, Department of Justice, the Culture and Broadcast Bureau, the General Worker's Union, the Youth League Committee and the Woman Union jointly issued a notice, requesting all municipal districts, systems and departments to organize people to watch the two productions and to conduct regular activities for Party and Youth League members and other various forums and discussions on the productions.⁴² An anti Falun Gong show has been touring the communities in Shanghai for several years. On December 15, 2003, Wang Zhongwei attended a special show and issued awards to groups and individuals.⁹⁵

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