Zhe Jiang Beggar Murder Case

Findings from Initial Investigation of the Zhejiang Beggar Murder Case

July 3, 2003

On July 2, 2003, the Xinhua News Agency reported from Zhejiang Province an article entitled "Suspect for Poisoning 16 Beggars Is a Falun Gong Member". The subtitle was "Huge Poison-Murder Case in Zhejiang Province Solved". The reporter was Lu Jin. This article was released at 17:37:16 Beijing time. A screenshot of the web page is attached below. The article mentioned a suspect by the name of Chen Fuzhao and claimed that he was a "Falun Gong member."

The World Organization to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong (WOIPFG) investigated this case. The initial findings are as follows.

The Xinhua News Agency Drew Conclusions of the Case Prematurely, Contradicting the Local Report

The aforementioned July 2 article of the Xinhua News Agency said that the June 26 poison-murder case in Cangnan County, Wenzhou City, was solved "last night." This conclusion is not consistent with published reports out of Wenzhou City. On the same day of the Xinhua News Agency's report, there was a local report published at 10:31:10 a.m. on the "Metropolitan Express" (Du Shi Kuai Bao) newspaper, written by reporter Tang Zewen, who was responsible for local criminal cases. The title of the article was "14 Beggars Die Under Unusual Circumstances in a Month in Longgang". This report presented more details than the Xinhua News Agency article: "A man on a motorcycle gave a beggar, an old lady, a bottle of spring water. The old lady fell to the ground and died shortly after drinking the water." "There were earlier major cases of murdering beggars in Lucheng District, Wenzhou City. The police arrested Chen Yongfeng on May 24 and concluded that he killed ten beggars, taking apart nine of the corpses. Between the date of Chen's arrest and June 26, when seven beggars died, another seven beggars died under unusual circumstances during the same month. So far the police are not clear whether the deaths of these 14 people have anything to do with the case of Chen Yongfeng." The report also mentioned that the Minister of Public Security Zhou Yongkang and the Secretary of Zhejiang Province issued orders, demanding the police to solve the cases quickly.
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.
After the Xinhua News Agency article was published, many Chinese media outlets carried it. The initial version of this Xinhua News Agency article listed the Tang Zewen report from Wenzhou City as a related report. WOIPFG found this link removed when viewing the web page again at about 11 p.m. Beijing time on July 2.

**Conclusion**

Based on our initial findings, this appears to be another case of the Xinhua News Agency and high-ranking officials in the Ministry of Public Security framing Falun Gong with murder.