



Foreign Interference & Repression of Falun Gong in Canada

Key Development & Case Studies 1999-2024

Falun Dafa Association of Canada
October 2023, Updated July 2024

Prologue on Update - July 2024

2024 marks 25 years since communist China's eradication campaign against Falun Gong began. The foreign interference and transnational repression targeting Falun Gong have never stopped—these activities by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) have only become more clandestine and have intensified over the years. This updated report provides a number of additions to the original version of the report *Foreign Interference & Repression of Falun Gong in Canada* published in October 2023.

The year 2023–24 saw more intensified harassment, surveillance, and sabotage of Falun Gong truth-clarification activities. More alarming are the bomb threat and death threat that took place in Vancouver and Toronto respectively. New information in this report includes the following main incidents that occurred in 2023–24 as well as updates to a few previously documented cases:

- In March 2024, a bomb threat was emailed to Vancouver's Queen Elizabeth Theatre, where the Falun Dafa Association of Vancouver was hosting the Shen Yun classical Chinese dance performance (added in section 6.1.1).
- Constant surveillance and harassment persisted outside the two Chinese consulate sites in Toronto (added in section 6.1.2).
- In January 2024, a man believed to be a CCP proxy wielded a metal bar and uttered death threats against Falun Gong practitioners who were raising awareness outside the Chinese consulate's visa office (added in section 6.1.2.1).
- A noticeable increase was observed in the frequency of non-Chinese individuals participating in the surveillance and monitoring of Falun Gong activities. (added in section 6.5.3).
- In November 2023, the Ottawa Dragon Boat Festival apologized to the Falun Gong practitioner who was asked by the organization's executive director to remove his Falun Gong shirt at the festival in 2019 (updated in section 4.1).
- Chapter Two contains a new section on "Chinese embassy spreads hate materials to Canadian media outlets" (new section 2.5).
- Chapter Three contains a few more footnotes referencing additional media reports.

Executive Summary

For the past 25 years, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has conducted a multifaceted campaign of foreign interference to repress the Falun Gong community in Canada. This campaign is exceptional in its scope, duration, degree of penetration into Canadian society, and the variety of means employed.

This interference and repression are an extension of the CCP's campaign to eradicate Falun Gong in China, which began in July 1999 and continues today. The eradication campaign entails some of the worst human rights violations committed, including forced organ harvesting, which have been found to constitute crimes against humanity and potentially genocide.¹

The Falun Gong community in Canada has responded by actively raising awareness, exercising their Charter rights and freedoms to seek justice and uphold human rights. However, they have been met with a sophisticated and well-orchestrated foreign interference and repression campaign by the CCP that aims to suppress and silence their advocacy and resistance.

With the goal of altering the public perception of Falun Gong, diminishing public support for its call for justice and human rights, the CCP's suppression of Falun Gong extends to and adversely impacts the general Canadian public as a whole, including politicians in particular along with individuals and groups involved in many other facet of civil, social, and political life in Canada.

This phenomenon of foreign interference has also evolved over time to become more hidden and invisible. As a result, knowledge of it is relatively lacking on the part of the Canadian public, leading to disproportionately inadequate attention and response in regards to its level of threat posed and the damage caused to Canada's internal affairs, sovereignty, and foundational Canadian values such as the protection of fundamental freedoms and good governance.

In particular, the Canadian Falun Gong community has witnessed and experienced a trend toward increasing infiltration of the Canadian political system by what appears to be covert CCP proxies, along with the burgeoning of CCP front organizations that promote the CCP's narratives while excluding the Falun Gong community from participation in Canada's civil, social, and political life. Canada has also seen a consistently and alarmingly high level of physical assault and harassment against Falun Gong practitioners in the public space, and the continued systematic control of the Chinese community, media and digital space in Canada to promote the CCP's narratives while silencing speech by the Falun Gong community.

¹ [Final Short Form Conclusion China Tribunal](#) (June 2019). ChinaTribunal.

This report is broadly divided into three parts. The first part addresses the CCP's hate propaganda against Falun Gong and its dissemination in Canada. The second part addresses the CCP's political infiltration and interference against Canadian government officials and different parts of society. The third and final part addresses the CCP's physical violence, assault, and various other forms of intimidation and harassment, as well as cyberattacks committed against Falun Gong practitioners in Canada.

The report is further divided by chapters, with each chapter addressing a distinct form of foreign interference and transnational repression, as follows:

Chapter One provides the context for understanding the foreign interference and repression launched by the CCP, and how this repressive campaign aligns with the CCP leaders' original aims and imperatives to eliminate Falun Gong in mainland China.

Part I Hate propaganda and its dissemination in Canada

Chapter Two describes how the CCP employs its diplomatic missions in Canada to spread hatred against Falun Gong. By controlling Chinese-language newspapers and other publications, including online platforms, the CCP disseminates hate propaganda and disinformation against Falun Gong with the aim of persuading the Canadian society to marginalize Falun Gong and refrain from condemning or speaking out against the persecution of Falun Gong in China.

Part II CCP's foreign interference over politicians and various sectors of Canadian society to suppress Falun Gong

Chapter Three documents the alarming extent of CCP disinformation, intimidation, manipulation, and interference targeted at elected officials in Canada, with the aim of preventing them from supporting Falun Gong or criticizing the CCP's human rights violations in China. This chapter also portrays the CCP's more recent strategies of impersonating Falun Gong and carrying out political infiltration through covert agents.

Chapter Four illustrates how the CCP exerts pressure—through inducement, disinformation, and manipulation—on communities, businesses, students and academic institutions, and other arenas in an attempt to exclude Falun Gong from local events and activities. Such exclusion constitutes discrimination, which harms Canadian society and is contrary to the Canadian values of human rights, including the right to be treated with dignity and respect and not be rejected, isolated, or demeaned because of being targeted by the CCP.

Part III Grassroots experiences of physical violence, harassment, and surveillance by the Falun Gong Community in Canada

Chapter Five captures the severe physical and verbal assault that many Falun Gong practitioners in Canada have experienced while carrying out activities to raise awareness about their practice and the persecution in China, particularly within Chinese communities. Some of the cases have been life-threatening. Verbal abuse and harassment are common for many practitioners in major Canadian city centres like Toronto.

Chapter Six depicts the threat and intimidation that many Falun Gong practitioners endure in their private lives or while participating in public activities. Update was made on the growing trend of surveillance and intimidation by the CCP agents last year. Furthermore, many practitioners in Canada have family members in mainland China and are distressed to know that, due to their activism in Canada, their family members in China have been threatened and harassed. Cyberattack is another form of transnational repression used to target the Falun Gong community. These common experiences indicate that Falun Gong practitioners are under heavy surveillance in Canada by the CCP.

Chapter Seven concludes our report with a number of observations and related recommendations to the Canadian government and its agencies calling for measures to protect Falun Gong practitioners in Canada.

By shedding light on the CCP's interference and repression of Falun Gong in Canada, this report calls for greater attention and response to this situation so as to protect Canadians' rights, freedoms, and safety that are under threat.

This 25-year experience of foreign interference and repression is an invaluable source of information for the Canadian government, policymakers, and the public. It provides insight into the CCP's wide-ranging methods for carrying out foreign interference and suppressing targeted groups, and is an important resource for aiding the development of response strategies.

Methodology

The documented cases in this report include recent and ongoing incidents that have occurred in major Canadian cities across the country. The report provides a broad spectrum of incidents the Falun Gong community in Canada has experienced since the early years of the persecution, documented since the persecution of Falun Gong was launched in China in July 1999. Independent empirical reports of foreign interference and repression incidents are referenced to support our claims.

The more recent cases were gathered through written or oral accounts of known incidents. The collected information is categorized and collated based on the themes and nature of the cases. Accuracy of information is verified and confirmed by the Falun Gong coordinators or affected Falun Gong practitioners in each concerned city.

While this report outlines significant sample cases, it is not exhaustive. They only show the tip of the iceberg, underscoring the deep-rooted nature of foreign interference and repression against Falun Gong in Canada.

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CHAPTER ONE

Context & Key Issues

1.1 Background on Falun Gong and CCP's eradication campaign

1.1.1 What is Falun Gong?

Falun Gong, also known as Falun Dafa, is a peaceful spiritual practice grounded in the Buddhist tradition. It consists of five meditative exercises and moral teachings centred on the principles of Truthfulness, Compassion, and Tolerance.

Falun Gong emphasizes morality and cultivation of virtue. Practitioners strive to refine their mind and body to align with universal values rooted in traditional Chinese culture. The practice, first introduced to the public in China in 1992, quickly gained popularity due to its effectiveness in helping people improve their physical and mental well-being as well as make advancements in their spiritual elevation. By 1999, 70–100 million people were practising Falun Gong.^{2 3} Today, people of all ages and all walks of life in over 100 countries embrace and benefit a great deal from Falun Gong, which is free to learn and practise.⁴

1.1.2 Falun Gong was widely popular across China before the persecution

In the early years following its introduction to the public, Falun Gong enjoyed popularity and recognition across China. A 2017 Freedom House report titled "The Battle for China's Spirit" highlighted that "throughout the early and mid-1990s, Falun Gong, its practitioners, and its founder Mr. Li Hongzhi enjoyed substantial government support and positive coverage in state

² Matas, D. & Cheung, M. (2012). Concepts and precepts: Canadian tribunals, human rights and Falun Gong. *Canadian Journal of Human Rights* 1(1), 61-91. <https://cjhr.ca/download/1137>.

³ <https://faluninfo.net/why-is-falun-gong-is-persecuted-in-china/> Falun Dafa Information Center.

⁴ <https://www.learnfalungong.com/> LearnFalunGong.com

media." "State media reports from that period laud the benefits of Falun Gong practice," with adherents being awarded "healthy citizen awards," the report said. Mr. Li was invited to give a lecture at the Chinese embassy in Paris in 1995 at the government's invitation.⁵

The Chinese government initially commended and acknowledged Falun Gong for its health benefits and moral teachings, especially after conducting an investigation into Falun Gong's health effects in 1998.⁶ Shaozu Wu, a high-profile director of the sports commission, made the following comment about Falun Gong when he was appointed by the CCP to investigate Falun Gong in the precursor leading to the persecution of Falun Gong in July 1999:

"Falun Gong and other types of qigong can save each person 1,000 yuan in annual medical fees. If 100 million people are practising it, that's 100 billion yuan saved per year in medical fees."⁷

1.1.3 Why is Falun Gong being persecuted in China?

A 1999 Washington Post article reads: "Its [Falun Gong's] ranks include influential people in the Party, the government and the military."⁸ When the number of Falun Gong practitioners surpassed the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) membership and Falun Gong practitioners became the largest independent civil society group in China at the time, then-CCP chief Jiang Zemin viewed Falun Gong as a threat to his power and ordered the CCP to begin scrutinizing the activities of Falun Gong practitioners. The official site of the Falun Dafa Information Centre highlights four major reasons for the clampdown on Falun Gong:⁹

- Falun Gong's massive popularity and rapid growth, outnumbering CCP membership
- Falun Gong's complete independence from CCP's control
- Falun Gong's guiding principles incompatible with communist, atheist ideology
- Former CCP leader Jiang Zemin's jealousy and political motivations

Communism, as a totalitarian ideology, aims to control all aspects of people's lives, including what they can think and believe. In China, all churches, temples, and even health practices are allowed to operate only under the approval and control of the CCP. When Falun Gong was first

⁵ Cook, S. (2017). *Falun Gong: Religious freedom in China*. Freedom House. [Falun Gong: Religious Freedom in China](#)

⁶ Trey, M. (2016). *The mindful practice of Falun Gong: Meditation for health, wellness & beyond*. Turquoise Publishing Inc.

⁷ [An Opiate of the Masses?](#) (February 1999). U.S.News.

⁸ [Persecution of the Falun Gong](#) (November 1999). The Washington Post.

⁹ [Why is Falun Gong persecuted in China?](#) Falun Dafa Information Center.

introduced to the public in China in 1992, it also had to be introduced under the auspices of the state-run China Qigong Science Research Association.

In 1996, Falun Gong withdrew from the China Qigong Science Research Association due to pressure to establish a Communist Party branch and charge fees for the practice. Mr. Li wanted to keep the practice free of political influence. He also wanted it to remain a personal practice without any formal membership and to always be free of charge.

Thereafter, Falun Gong became the largest group outside of the Chinese Communist Party's control.

The core tenets of Falun Gong—Truthfulness, Compassion, and Tolerance—are the exact opposite of communist culture, which rules through deceit and struggle. CCP leaders feared that Falun Gong's strong moral code could undermine the Party's violent, Leninist tactics for controlling society.

According to The Washington Post, "The crackdown [on Falun Gong] was undertaken to demonstrate and solidify the power of the Chinese leadership. ... Communist Party sources said that the standing committee of the Politburo did not unanimously endorse the crackdown and that President Jiang Zemin alone decided that Falun Gong must be eliminated." Citing a Party official, the same story noted, "This obviously is very personal for Jiang."¹⁰

1.1.4 The eradication campaign against Falun Gong since 1999

In July 1999, Jiang Zemin and the CCP launched a campaign to eradicate Falun Gong, leading to the widespread arrests, detention, torture, extra-judicial killing, and imprisonment of Falun Gong practitioners. The persecution of Falun Gong has been considered the worst instance of persecution since the Cultural Revolution.¹¹

Amnesty International stated that the common methods of torture against the Falun Gong include kicking, beating, electric shocks, suspension by the arms, shackling in painful positions, sleep and food deprivation, and gender-specific forms of torture like rape and sexual abuse.¹² Falun Gong practitioners have reported experiencing over 100 methods of torture during the eradication campaign in the People's Republic of China (PRC).¹³

¹⁰ [Cracks in China's Crackdown](#) (November 1999). The Washington Post.

¹¹ [Falun Gong: Religious Freedom in China](#) (2017). Freedom House.

¹² [FALUN GONG PERSECUTION FACTSHEET](#) (October 2006). Amnesty International.

¹³ <https://faluninfo.net/torture/> Falun Dafa Information Center.

Falun Gong practitioners have also been forcibly sent to asylums and psychiatric hospitals, where they are injected with unknown psychiatric substances. Forced disappearances and displacement, harassment and surveillance, and social exclusion and discrimination are other widespread phenomena experienced by Falun Gong practitioners in China.¹⁴

A United Nations report in 2006 by Manfred Nowak, Special Rapporteur on Torture, documented that Falun Gong practitioners accounted for two-thirds (66%) of torture victims in China.¹⁵

In March 2020, the China Tribunal, an independent people's tribunal established to inquire into allegations of forced organ harvesting from prisoners of conscience in China, concluded that "forced organ harvesting has been committed for years throughout China on a significant scale and that Falun Gong practitioners have been one - and probably the main - source of organ supply."¹⁶ The Tribunal also determined that Crimes Against Humanity has been committed against Falun Gong practitioners in China.¹⁷

In June 2021, a statement from 12 United Nations special rapporteurs stated that they were "extremely alarmed" by credible information that forced organ harvesting has been targeting Falun Gong practitioners and other minorities in detention in China.¹⁸

The CCP's intent to destroy the Falun Gong group, in whole or in part, arguably falls within Article II of the 1948 Genocide Convention.¹⁹ Scholars have considered the multi-dimensional annihilation of the Falun Gong as form of "cold" or hidden genocide.²⁰

¹⁴ <https://faluninfo.net/violent-suppression-of-100-million-people/> Falun Dafa Information Center.

¹⁵ [Report of the Special Rapporteur on Torture & CIDT](#) (March 2006). United Nations. E/CN.4/2006/6/Add.6, page 13.

¹⁶ [Final Short Form Conclusion China Tribunal](#) (June 2019). ChinaTribunal.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ China: UN human rights experts alarmed by 'organ harvesting' allegations <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2021/06/china-un-human-rights-experts-alarmed-organ-harvesting-allegations?LangID=E&NewsID=27167> (June 2021) UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

¹⁹ Ford, C. (2022). Genocide in The People's Republic of China: Violations of International Criminal Law in the suppression of Falun Gong. *Journal of Political Risk*, 10(7). [Genocide in The People's Republic of China](#)

²⁰ Cheung, M., Trey, T., Matas, D., & An, R. (2018). Cold genocide: Falun Gong in China. *Genocide Studies and Prevention: An International Journal*, 12(1), 38-62. <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/gsp/vol12/iss1/6/>

Since the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic, the CCP has used the pretext of the pandemic to intensify the surveillance and detention of Falun Gong practitioners.²¹ In the first half of 2023, 702 Falun Gong practitioners were reported to be sentenced to prison,²² and 120 were reported to have been persecuted to death.²³

To date, the documented deaths of Falun Gong practitioners due to persecution have surpassed 5,000.²⁴ The actual death toll is believed to be significantly higher given the CCP's information blockade and coverup. This figure also does not consider the mass killing of Falun Gong practitioners through forced organ harvesting.

1.2 The CCP's apparatus of persecution against Falun Gong in domestic and transnational settings

1.2.1 610 Office - the apparatus of persecution in China

The 610 Office is an extrajudicial security entity established by the CCP, with the sole mandate to eliminate Falun Gong, working closely with the Political Legal Committee (PLC), to eradicate the Falun Gong, enforce ideological compliance, and maintain stability.²⁵ This secretive apparatus was created on June 10, 1999, under the leadership of the CCP's Central Committee, ordered by then-CCP leader Jiang Zemin.²⁶ Originally called the "Leading (Small) Group for Handling the Falun Gong Issue," it is now known as the "Leading (Small) Group for Preventing and Handling the Problem of Heretical Organizations" (zhongyang fangfan he chuli xiejiao wenti lingdao xiaozu).²⁷

The 610 Office wields authority derived from the CCP, allowing it to have power beyond law and government administration.²⁸ Employing the CCP's specialized tactic of "douzheng" (or

²¹ [NEW REPORT: Pandemic, Persecution, and Pushback](#) (April 2022). Falun Dafa Info Centre; [China: Freedom in the World 2022 Country Report](#) (2022). Freedom House.

²² [Reported in First Half of 2023: 702 Falun Gong Practitioners Sentenced for Their Faith](#) (July 2023). Minghui.

²³ [Persecution Deaths of 120 Falun Gong Practitioners Reported in the First Half of 2023](#) (July 2023). Minghui.

²⁴ <https://faluninfo.net/key-statistics-related-to-falun-gong/> Falun Dafa Information Center.

²⁵ [CHINESE INFLUENCE OPERATIONS](#) (October 2021). Institut de Recherche Stratégique de L'École Militaire.

²⁶ Xia, Yiyang. 2011. "The Illegality of China's Falun Gong Crackdown—and today's rule of law repercussions." Written Statement submitted by Senior Director of Policy and Research at the Human Rights Law Foundation to European Parliament, 2011. [The illegality of China's Falun Gong crackdown—and today's rule of law repercussions Written Statement by Yiyang Xia, Senior D](#)

²⁷ [The 610 Office: Policing the Chinese Spirit](#) (September 2011). The Jamestown Foundation.

²⁸ Ibid.

"battle"), it justifies extreme measures against perceived targets.²⁹ Operating through various hierarchical levels, from the Central Committee to local branches, it commands at least 15,000 officers domestically and abroad.³⁰ The office employs coercion, employing physical and psychiatric torture, sleep deprivation, and manipulation of family members to force Falun Gong practitioners to renounce their beliefs. Originally temporary, the 610 Office has become permanent, expanding its focus beyond Falun Gong to include other religious groups like house church Christians and Buddhists, while maintaining its core functions and objectives.³¹

The 610 Office holds a unique role in expanding repressive actions against the Falun Gong beyond domestic borders. Chen Yonglin, a prominent defector who had held a senior position in a Chinese consulate in Australia, testified before the United States Congress on July 21, 2005,³² and presented an affidavit to the Supreme Court of British Columbia on June 17, 2008.³³ In these accounts, Chen revealed that in every Chinese consulate operating in foreign countries, there is a Special Anti-Falun Gong Working Group that is part of the 610 Office dedicated to suppressing the Falun Gong overseas.³⁴ This office collaborates closely with the United Front Work Department and has agents worldwide who act with impunity.³⁵

1.2.2 Defected senior Chinese diplomat discuss designated unit in Chinese missions to suppress Falun Gong overseas

Chen Yonglin, who served as Consul for Political Affairs in Sydney, Australia, defected in 2005 and was accepted for asylum by the Australian government, being the highest-ranking consulate staff member to defect since the persecution of the Falun Gong began. He also served as a member of the Special Anti-Falun Gong Working Group of the Sydney consulate. This working group is an integral part of the 610 Office, which handles the Falun Gong matter extralegally.

In Chen's testimony before the U.S. Congress³⁶ and his affidavit presented in Canada,³⁷ Chen underscored the followings:

²⁹ [China: Transnational Repression Origin Country Case Study](#) (2021). Freedom House.

³⁰ [The 610 Office: Policing the Chinese Spirit](#) (September 2011). The Jamestown Foundation. Their figure was verified in [CHINESE INFLUENCE OPERATIONS](#) (October 2021). Institut de Recherche Stratégique de L'Ecole Militaire.

³¹ [The 610 Office: Policing the Chinese Spirit](#) (September 2011). The Jamestown Foundation.

³² [Chen-testimony-US-congress-072105](#) (July 2005). United States Congress Committee on International Relations.

³³ [Affidavit-from-Chen-Yonglin-to-BC-court](#) (June 2008). Supreme Court of British Columbia.

³⁴ [Chen-testimony-US-congress-072105](#) (July 2005). United States Congress Committee on International Relations.

³⁵ <https://www.irsem.fr/report.html> (October 2021). Institut de Recherche Stratégique de L'Ecole Militaire.

³⁶ [Chen-testimony-US-congress-072105](#) (July 2005). United States Congress Committee on International Relations.

³⁷ [Affidavit-from-Chen-Yonglin-to-BC-court](#) (June 2008). Supreme Court of British Columbia.

1. The CCP's "war against Falun Gong" is one of the main tasks of Chinese missions overseas. It constitutes more than half of the total work of a typical Chinese mission.
2. This "war" involves directly suppressing Falun Gong communities and mobilizing Chinese diaspora communities and beyond to isolate the Falun Gong community.
3. This systematic campaign is carried out by the extrajudicial "610 Office," which was established to eradicate Falun Gong in China following Jiang Zemin's order. Public security, state security, and foreign affairs agencies all participate in this eradication effort.
4. Each Chinese mission overseas must have at least one official in charge of Falun Gong affairs. Within each consulate where there are Falun Gong practitioners in its jurisdiction, the Special Anti-Falun Gong Working Group is composed of representatives from different offices at the Chinese consulate, the Consulate-General, the Deputy Consul-General, and the Consul-General. Chen stated that this group exists in all Chinese missions worldwide.
5. Diplomats are also tasked with detecting and keeping a record of Falun Gong adherents, adding them to a blacklist that prevents them from returning to China.

In their official capacity, members of the Special Anti-Falun Gong Working Group carried out the following functions, Chen said:

- They pressure all levels of government and institutions in the host country to avoid contact with Falun Gong.
- They write letters to the host country's government officials and politicians urging them not to praise Falun Gong publicly but rather to refrain from issuing proclamations recognizing Falun Gong and to exclude Falun Gong practitioners from civic activities such as parades.
- They mobilize Chinese migrants, their businesses, and Chinese students in the host country to influence host country institutions and elected officials.
- They encourage Chinese migrants, their businesses, and Chinese students in the host country to write complaint letters against the Falun Gong community and its activities.
- They control local Chinese media and exploit Chinese students, through funding or coercion, to slander, marginalize, and ostracize the Falun Gong community and to gather intelligence from the Falun Gong community. The Chinese missions also maintain a blacklist of Falun Gong practitioners for border checks and surveillance.

In response to why the CCP is invested in the extension of the persecution of Falun Gong overseas, Chen stated:

"The Chinese Communist Party has always relied on violence, lies, and advocating atheism to maintain its power. They could not understand Falun Gong practitioners' peaceful efforts to protect their freedom of belief. ... Now they feel they can't let people know about what has been done to Falun Gong in China."³⁸

1.3 Clear directives to launch systematic repression of Falun Gong abroad

Human rights organizations have obtained a series of Chinese government directives³⁹ that outline the priority and strategies of the CCP's suppression of overseas Falun Gong activities and operations.

A speech made by Meng Jianzhu in December 2015 to officials in the Central 610 Office and related security agencies in the PRC provides examples of these directives given by high-level officials.⁴⁰ Meng is a member of the CCP Central Committee and head of the Political and Legal Affairs Commission (PLAC). He also headed the "Leading Group for Preventing and Handling the Problem of Heretical Organizations" (i.e. the 610 Office).

These directives aimed to eliminate what they called the "operational bases" of Falun Gong overseas—despite Falun Gong being a personal practice that is loosely organized and has no membership requirements or centres of operations, with the only coordination being carried out by volunteers—and to alienate practitioners from their sponsors and supportive partners while escalating efforts of the anti-Falun Gong movement abroad. Strategies included enlisting support from Chinese diaspora leaders, scholars, experts, and journalists to promote the positive narratives of the CCP. They also included using diplomacy to influence foreign policies toward China and disseminating anti-Falun Gong messages in foreign countries.

³⁸ <https://www.theepochtimes.com/article/ex-envoy-details-chinese-regimes-overseas-scheme-1749162> (December 2018). The Epoch Times.

³⁹ Xia, Yiyang "CCP's directives on extending the persecution of Falun Gong to Western countries," Human Rights Law Foundation, February 19, 2022, <https://hrif.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/CCP-Directives-2015-2018-1.pdf>

⁴⁰ "中央领导讲话中央防范办 有关会议精神传达提纲 [Central leadership speech Central Prevention Office Outline for communicating the spirit of the meeting], <https://www.adhrrf.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/20160124.pdf> Adhrrf.org

The major aspects of Meng's directives⁴¹ were as follows:

1. The CCP perceives its struggle against Falun Gong as a political battle related to national political security and overall social stability. The Party views the fight against the Falun Gong as a serious political struggle as well as a contest against anti-China forces in the West. So it believes the overseas battlefield must be expanded and deepened.
2. The struggle is considered a war that requires top-level coordinated strategies to deal with both domestic and international fronts in order to eradicate Falun Gong.
3. Utilize CCP advantages for a concerted effort against overseas Falun Gong: leverage Western countries' business interests to push for bans, engage foreign friendship cities to curb Falun Gong's influence abroad, and deploy overseas economic entities to suppress Falun Gong's economic and cultural aspects.
4. Use a multifaceted strategy to suppress Falun Gong by a) coordinating online and offline efforts, globally and locally; b) mobilizing influential figures to endorse anti-Falun Gong initiatives; c) utilizing foreign-related resources such as friendship city projects, foreign affairs efforts, and commercial platforms to counter Falun Gong's influence; d) employing tactics of persuasion, restraint, and community disintegration to coerce Falun Gong practitioners to renounce their beliefs.
5. Eradicate Falun Gong's operational bases, sponsors, and partners while also diminishing their economic capacity by targeting both economic and cultural entities.
6. Enhance propaganda and advocacy by promoting favourable narratives through encouraging foreign media to voice support for anti-Falun Gong efforts.

To effectively align with national goals and directives, the United Front Work Department (UFD) serves as the executive arm to coordinate all relevant departments in gathering intelligence, controlling crackdown operations, and implementing educational transformations to achieve the overall goal of eradication of the Falun Gong. It operates behind the facade of the Chinese embassy and consulates in Canada.

⁴¹ <https://hrif.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/CCP-Directives-2015-2018-1.pdf>; (February 2022). Hrif.net The points were mentioned in the original Chinese texts of <https://www.adhrrf.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/20160124.pdf> Adhrrf.org <https://www.adhrrf.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/henan-20170405.pdf> (November 2017). Adhrrf.org

1.4 United Front Work Department's operation in Canada

The United Front Work Department (UFWD) is a primary tool of the PRC to co-opt non-Party elites in foreign countries. Canadian public safety agencies have recognized the threat that the UFWD poses to Canada.⁴²

Freedom House's 2021 special report on transnational repression highlights that the PRC's concentrated power and assertive foreign policy have contributed to a heightened and unprecedented level of global aggression, surpassing that of any other nation.⁴³ The UFWD operates as an ideologically driven CCP entity, aiming to stifle dissident voices, manipulate international discourse, and influence democratic processes abroad.⁴⁴

The UFWD extends its global influence by manipulating narratives within the Chinese diaspora and suppressing dissent. By leveraging substantial resources, it mobilizes various overseas Chinese groups to promote CCP interests through invoking nationalism and fostering cultural connections, thereby aligning them with CCP narratives.⁴⁵ Operating discreetly within Chinese consulates and embassies, the UFWD guides its front groups to stifle voices from Falun Gong adherents and other dissident groups.⁴⁶

A list recently disclosed by a China studies scholar reveals over 200 organizations in Canada currently known to be UFWD front organizations.⁴⁷ Michel Juneau-Katsuya, former chief of Asia-Pacific for the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS), has also identified the following examples of CCP UFWD front organizations in a deputation in Ontario.⁴⁸

⁴² <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/trnsprnc/brfng-mtrls/prlmntry-bndrs/20210625/08-en.aspx> (Aug 2021) Public Safety Canada.

⁴³ [China: Transnational Repression Origin Country Case Study](#) (2021). The Freedom House.

⁴⁴ [China's Overseas United Front Work: Background and Implications for the United States](#) (August 2018). United States - China Economic and Security Review Commission.

⁴⁵ Hamilton, C. & Ohlberg, M. (2020). *Hidden hand: Exposing how the Chinese Communist Party is reshaping the world*. Hardie Grant Books.

⁴⁶ Manthorpe, J. (2019). *Claws of the panda: Beijing's campaign of influence and intimidation in Canada*. Cormorant Books Inc.

⁴⁷ A list of 204 organizations was obtained from a private communication with a Chinese studies scholar in Canada who prefers to remain anonymous.

⁴⁸ Deputation of Michel Juneau-Katsuya, former Chief of Asia/Pacific Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS), Presented to the Toronto District School Board, Oct 1, 2014, Toronto, Ontario.
<https://mega.nz/file/K4J0zDgD#J73zGcSlcCqY5CZveTjPVNC2UY1u9dhxJpt0SSDc me8>

- The Confederation of Toronto Chinese Canadian Organizations (CTCCO), which is an umbrella group of over 100 Chinese member organizations.⁴⁹ The CTCCO describes its mandate on its official Chinese website in the following noteworthy terms: "whenever there is something against China's interest, CTCCO will organize parades to protest or use media to protect the image of China."⁵⁰
- The Fujian Communities Association of Canada (FJCAC) - the chair of FJCAC, Mr. Chengyi Wei, is also a former chair of the CTCCO.⁵¹
- The National Congress of Chinese Canadians (NCCC), which has different chapters in Canada. Juneau-Katsuya quoted Chen Yonglin's comment that "the NCCC is at the top of a pyramid of groups set up by the Chinese embassy and consulates in Canada. Their goal is to control and influence the Chinese community and the Canadian government."⁵²
- Chinese Professional Association of Canada (CPAC) - According to Juneau-Katsuya's deputation, the CPAC has strong connections to Overseas Chinese Affairs officials.⁵³
- The Beijing Association - According to Juneau-Katsuya, Beijing Association chair Ms. Baofeng Yang was highly praised in a report published on the official website of the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the State Council. The following leaked internal email revealed the association's involvement in the recruitment of counter-protesters at the October 1, 2014, rally outside the Toronto District School Board (TDSB):

"On September 14, 2014, an internal email was leaked from the Beijing Association that stated they urgently needed people to rally against the October 1st [TDSB Confucius Institute] motion. The email stated that all participants will be paid to attend!"⁵⁴

The above-mentioned Chengyi Wei and Baofeng Yang were the key leaders who organized a counter-protest at a rally in October 2014 outside the TDSB, which was meeting to decide whether to sever ties with the Confucius Institute. (Please see section 2.3 on hate incitement against the Falun Gong group).

⁴⁹ [多伦多华人团体联合总会官网网站 - Toronto CTCCO](#)

⁵⁰ Deputation of Michel Juneau-Katsuya, <https://mega.nz/file/K4J0zDgD#J73zGcSlcCqY5CZveTjPVNC2UY1u9dhxJpt0SSDcme8>p.3; also quoted in Beijing Rallies Support to Keep Confucius Institutes in Toronto Schools (October 2014). The Epoch Times.

⁵¹ Ibid. p.3

⁵² Ibid. p.2

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ Ibid., p.4

- The Chinese Benevolent Association of Vancouver and the Chinese Freemasons, Vancouver branch - These organizations are known for their active promotion of the PRC's suppression of democracy in Hong Kong and Tibet and their alignment with the CCP's views on Taiwan and Hong Kong.⁵⁵ ⁵⁶ Both organizations have played key roles in rejecting the Vancouver Falun Gong community's application to participate in the Chinese New Year parade (see section 4.2.1).

⁵⁵<https://nationalpost.com/news/vancouver-group-runs-newspaper-ad-praising-controversial-new-security-law-in-hong-kong> (July 2020). National Post.

⁵⁶<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/canada-chinese-freemasons-160-anniversary-1.6787635>

PART I

Hate propaganda and its dissemination in Canada

Propaganda has historically played a pivotal role in genocides, shifting blame onto the victims rather than the perpetrators. In the persecution of Falun Gong, propaganda is a primary tool for eradication, both domestically and internationally. A 2001 Washington Post article highlights a Chinese government official emphasizing the importance of propaganda in reshaping public perception, alongside violence and brainwashing, as key strategies in the campaign against Falun Gong.⁵⁷

Since the 1999 clampdown, China has waged a hate propaganda war against Falun Gong. State media (Chinese TV, radio, and print) demonize the practice and block external sources. The government's defamation of Falun Gong ranges from organizing illegal gatherings, promoting superstition and anti-science beliefs, and harming people's health to being a cult and committing murder. Please read Appendix A "Debunking CCP False Narratives about Falun Gong"

The CCP arbitrarily and retroactively used the "cult" label to demonize and dehumanize Falun Gong to facilitate its eradication. According to the 2017 Freedom House report "The Battle for China's Spirit," the term "cult" was introduced to CCP narrative after the start of the persecution in 1999, indicating its retroactive application to legitimize a violent suppression and to silence dissent, both internationally and domestically.⁵⁸

Similarly, a report by Human Rights Watch in 2002 stated that Falun Gong members are peaceful and law-abiding citizens and debunked the baseless claims that the practice posed threats to China's stability or public health. The report stated: "Its claim that belief in Falun Gong is a public health menace is equally bogus. The danger to health comes from the treatment its practitioners receive at the hands of the police and prison officials."⁵⁹

This indoctrination of the CCP extends to Canada, shaping Canadian attitudes to conform to the PRC's narrative. The January 23, 2001, "self-immolation" on Tiananmen Square even portrayed the staged individuals who set themselves on fire as Falun Gong adherents.

⁵⁷ It quoted the official who said "none of it would be working if the propaganda hadn't started to change the way the general public thinks." [Torture Is Breaking Falun Gong](#) (August 2001). The Washington Post.

⁵⁸ [Falun Gong: Religious Freedom in China](#) (2017). Freedom House.

⁵⁹ [China: Repression Against Falun Gong Unabated](#) (February 2002). Human Rights Watch.

The nationwide broadcast of the CCP-instigated hoax was forceful hate propaganda that turned the public against Falun Gong in China and abroad.⁶⁰ Despite The International Education Development, an NGO linked to the United Nations, having confirmed the evidence that concluded the incident was a fabrication, China's lack of independent news allows the CCP's narrative to spread the hate generated from this incident globally.⁶¹ Amnesty International's report also questioned the biased massive propaganda campaign that denounced the Falun Gong.⁶² However, this self-immolation was replicated in many Chinese-Canadian news media to spread hate to the Chinese diaspora communities.

The Ontario Human Rights Tribunal in 2006 and again in 2011 found that Falun Gong constitutes a protected creed under Ontario's Human Rights Code. The Ontario Human Rights Commission news release in 2006 summarizing expert evidence on Falun Gong, including evidence from Western scholars of religion, stated:

"Western scholars of religion would characterize Falun Gong as a new religious movement. The essence of Falun Gong is spiritual elevation. Falun Gong practitioners believe in the existence of gods and divine beings in the cosmos. Its leader, Li Hongzhi, has written a form of 'scripture'. His message is profoundly moral."⁶³

The most concerning aspect of this hate propaganda is its impact on swaying public opinion toward the CCP narrative on Falun Gong. This has led to controversy and indifference toward Falun Gong, allowing the persecution to persist unabated for almost a quarter of a century, including becoming more ingrained in Canadian society. The culprit is the Chinese Communist Party, and the victims are not only the Falun Gong community but also the Canadian public at large.

⁶⁰ [Twelve Years after the Tiananmen Self-immolation Hoax, More and More People Understand the Truth](#) (March 2013). Minghui.

⁶¹ Cheung et. al. (2018). "[Cold Genocide](#)" by Maria Cheung, Torsten Trey et al.

⁶² [China: The crackdown on Falun Gong and other so-called "heretical organizations"](#) Page 7 (March 2000). Amnesty International.

⁶³ [Backgrounder - Tribunal finds Falun Gong a protected creed under Ontario's Human Rights Code](#) (January 2006). Ontario Human Rights Commission.

CHAPTER TWO

Hate Incitement in Canada

This widespread anti-Falun Gong hate propaganda orchestrated by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has been instrumental in advancing the CCP's interference and repression against Falun Gong practitioners in Canada.

Compelling evidence demonstrates a systematic effort by Chinese diplomatic and consular staff in Canada to incite hatred and slander Falun Gong practitioners.⁶⁴ These efforts have taken various forms, including anti-Falun Gong displays, rallies, websites, and the dissemination of propaganda materials.⁶⁵

Chinese-Canadian media, the majority being controlled by the CCP, have also played a significant role in spreading hate propaganda. Major Chinese newspapers replicated defamatory materials from the PRC and published slanderous reports against Falun Gong practitioners.

2.1. Hate displayed by Chinese embassy and consulates in Canada

The large quantities of hate-inciting propaganda against Falun Gong distributed by the Chinese embassy and consulates in Canada replicate the disinformation used in China. This kind of official endorsement systematically propagated hatred and disinformation against Falun Gong in Canada.

⁶⁴ 2004 report by the World Organization to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong (WOIPFG), [Extending the Persecution of Falun Gong to Canada](#) (March 2004). WOIPFG.

⁶⁵ Ibid. Ch. 3

The Chinese embassy in Canada has dedicated sections on its website specifically for anti-Falun Gong propaganda, and the sections are easily accessible through prominent links. Below is a screenshot from the Chinese embassy website that attacks the Canadian government's statement on religious freedom in China and defames Falun Gong. The Chinese embassy uses this platform to spread hate against Falun Gong.⁶⁶



Early examples of hate incitement against Falun Gong by the Chinese consulates include the following:

- In the early 2000s, the Chinese consulate in Toronto had a display of anti-Falun Gong posters lining the wall in the area where visa applicants waited (see picture below).⁶⁷
- An exhibition organized by the "China Anti-Cult Association" featuring a collection of materials like those used in hate propaganda against Falun Gong practitioners was also held at the Chinese consulate in Toronto in the early 2000s (see picture below).⁶⁸
- The Chinese consul general in Toronto made a public speech at an anti-Falun Gong rally in the city's Chinatown in January 2001.

⁶⁶ [Remarks of the Spokesperson of the Chinese Embassy in Canada on the Statement by the Canadian Foreign Minister on the International Religious Freedom Day](#) (October 2020). Chinese embassy.

⁶⁷ According to the WOIPFG report, the photographs in Figure 1 were reportedly put on display from early 2003 to 2004. But after which, no one went into the consulate to check.

⁶⁸ [Extending the Persecution of Falun Gong to Canada](#) (March 2004). WOIPFG.

- The Chinese consulate in Calgary sponsored an anti-Falun Gong photo exhibition at Calgary City Hall in 2001. The consulate also distributed bundles of booklets containing anti-Falun Gong hate incitement material at an international conference held at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. The hate propaganda, which portrayed Falun Gong as a "cult," contributed to manipulating public opinion apparently in an attempt to justify the PRC's campaign to eradicate Falun Gong.⁶⁹
- The Chinese embassy organized an anti-Falun Gong exhibition on its premises in 2001.



Left: Anti-Falun Gong poster wall in the Chinese consulate in Toronto. Middle: An introduction to the exhibition titled "Combat Cults and Protect Human Rights" held at the Chinese consulate in Toronto in 2003, organized by the "China Anti-Cult Association." Right: Hate propaganda disseminated by Chinese consular officials in Calgary in 2004.

In June 2004, staff members of the Chinese consulate in Calgary, Cao Jianye and Wu Junyi, distributed anti-Falun Gong materials printed in China at a University of Alberta conference. The materials contained fabricated stories defaming and demonizing Falun Gong, framing it as a "cult" and justifying the PRC's crackdown.⁷⁰ After a year-long investigation, Edmonton Police reported that these materials constituted hate propaganda and that Cao and Wu breached the Criminal Code of Canada, which bans the wilful promotion of hatred against an identifiable group.⁷¹ The two quickly left Canada.

2.2 Dissemination of CCP's hate propaganda by Chinese Canadian media websites and outlets

Chinese Canadian media and the Chinese internet have played a significant role in spreading hate propaganda against Falun Gong. Numerous Chinese-language newspapers in Canada

⁶⁹ Matas, D. & Cheung, M. (2012). Concepts and precepts: Canadian tribunals, human rights and Falun Gong. *Canadian Journal of Human Rights* 1(1), 61-91. <https://cjhr.ca/download/1137>.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ Appendix 8. Edmonton Police Report of Wilful Promotion of Hatred by Chinese Consular Officials against Falun Gong [BLOODY HARVEST Appendix 8](#) (January 2007). Matas & Kilgour.

affiliated with or funded by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) have been regurgitating and disseminating the CCP's hate propaganda against Falun Gong in Canada.

2.2.1 Chinese community newspapers

Following the CCP's launch of the persecution of Falun Gong in 1999, a campaign of 24/7 hate propaganda was launched at the same time to demonize the group. Pro-CCP weekly Chinese community newspapers across Canada were utilized to disseminate this propaganda, which included major Chinatown community papers in Canada.

For example, in Ottawa, pro-CCP Chinese community newspaper publishers, managers, along with pro-CCP community leaders were called to the Chinese embassy in July 1999 and told to toe the CCP Party line. The publisher of Canada Capital Chinese Newspaper, Zhao Bingzhi, pledged allegiance to the CCP and declared that he would strongly condemn Falun Gong in an anti-Falun Gong meeting held inside the Chinese embassy in late July 1999, according to the CCP's mouthpiece People's Daily.

2.2.2 Money trail from CCP revealed behind hate propaganda published by La Presse Chinoise

Since late 2001 and until now, Montreal-based La Presse Chinoise has been replicating defamatory materials from the PRC in almost every issue of its paper, including multiple anti-Falun Gong special editions with cover-to-cover slanderous reports.⁷²

An internal CCP document obtained from China revealed that the 610 Office in China had paid La Presse Chinoise to publish 42 issues and 62 articles and print 400,000 anti-Falun Gong propaganda leaflets for distribution across Canada throughout the year in 2018.⁷³

La Presse Chinoise publisher Crescent Chau defied a court injunction demanding the paper to stop publishing anti-Falun Gong materials and continued to print its January 2002 anti-Falun Gong special edition.⁷⁴ Again, in August 2006 and July 2007, the paper printed and distributed 100,000 free copies of a 32-page anti-Falun Gong special edition in Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa, and Vancouver.⁷⁵

⁷² Matas & Cheung (2012). [Concepts and Precepts: Canadian Tribunals, Human Rights and Falun Gong](#), p. 83

⁷³ [EXCLUSIVE: Internal Chinese Regime Document Shows Money Trail Behind Defamation Campaign in Canada](#) (December 2022). The Epoch Times.

⁷⁴ [Zhang c. Chau, 2003 CanLII 47974 \(QC CA\)](#), JE 2003-1288 — [2003] JQ no 8071

⁷⁵ [Montreal Newspaper a Voice for Chinese Regime](#) (June 2020). The Epoch Times.

A 2012 Quebec Court of Appeal judgement held that it was appropriate, and not defamatory, to refer to the publisher of *La Presse Chinoise* Crescent Chau as an agent [of the Chinese government], promoting that government's position on Falun Gong, especially after Chau repeatedly stated that he shares the CCP's position of wanting Falun Gong eliminated.⁷⁶ The Supreme Court of Quebec also stated in its judgement in 2010:

“The reputations of Mr. Chau and of *La Presse Chinoise* (LPCE) are openly and unequivocally anti-Falun Gong and pro-PRC, and they are publicly praised for that by the Chinese Government.”⁷⁷

2.2.3 Major international daily Chinese newspapers

Several major Chinese newspapers distributed in Canada, such as *Sing Tao Daily*, *Ming Pao*, and *World Journal*, were found to be heavily influenced by the CCP. They replicated CCP narratives to spread disinformation about Falun Gong. For example, *Sing Tao Daily* published a series of articles to replicate and reinforce the CCP's propaganda against Falun Gong after the clampdown by the CCP in 1999.

In 2002, on the occasion of celebrating the spreading of Falun Gong for 10 years, Toronto practitioners of Falun Gong advertised their celebration event in *Ming Pao* in May. Although a contract for the ad had been signed, practitioners were informed by *Ming Pao* staff that their newspaper cannot publish ads from the Falun Gong community. According to an article by the U.K.-based *Global Media Journal*, “employees at *Ming Pao*'s New York office have told sources that their ‘true boss’ is none other than the Chinese consulate [in New York], and that they are obligated to do whatever the consulate asks.”⁷⁸

The Jamestown Foundation, an independent non-profit organization in the United States, confirmed the above-mentioned control of Chinese media by the PRC in its article "How China's Government Is Attempting to Control Chinese Media in America".⁷⁹ The Foundation also

⁷⁶ [Presse chinoise \(Québec\) enr. \(La\) c. Epoch Times Montreal Inc.](#), 2012 QCCA 373 (CanLII)

⁷⁷ [Chau c. Epoch Times](#) Chau c. Epoch Times Montreal Inc., 2010 QCCS 2602 (CanLII)

⁷⁸ Yang, C.Y. (2005). [The Perfect Example of Political Propaganda: The Chinese Government's Persecution against Falun Gong | Open Access Journals](#) *Global Media Journal*, Vol 4.

⁷⁹ [HOW CHINA'S GOVERNMENT IS ATTEMPTING TO CONTROL CHINESE MEDIA IN AMERICA](#) (November 2001). The Jamestown Foundation.

revealed the following four main tactics used by communist China to control and influence Chinese media in America:

1. The attempt to directly control newspapers, television stations, and radio stations through complete ownership or owning major shares.
2. The Chinese government's use of economic ties to influence independent media that have business relations with China.
3. The purchase of broadcast time and advertising space (or more) from existing independent media.
4. Deployment of Chinese government personnel to work in independent media, achieving influence from within.⁸⁰

2.2.4 'Borrowing the ships to go to sea'

“Borrowing the ships to go to sea” is a term used to describe the practice where CCP-controlled Chinese media outlets take charge of editing articles and designing layouts of certain pages for overseas media (or producing a daily TV or radio news package), and then have the overseas media publish the articles (or broadcast the news package) to help spread the CCP's propaganda overseas.

The Canada Commerce News Today (CCNT) is an example. It is a Chinese-language newspaper that publishes daily in Toronto and weekly in Montreal and Ottawa. It pledges allegiance to corroborating fully with the China Daily overseas edition and its overseas digital edition to tell “a good Chinese story.”⁸¹ In addition, CCNT (加拿大商報) is a media partner of People's Daily's overseas edition, as shown on the following page of the newspaper's overseas edition dated Sept 16, 2023:

⁸⁰ Ibid.

⁸¹ The introduction section of the CCNT on this webpage says in Chinese that “the newspaper will corroborate with the China Daily Overseas Edition and its overseas digital edition to its fullest extent to propagate a good Chinese (PRC) voice.” (translated): [強勢加入，再創高峰！林文峰接任環球商系主席！](#) (December 2017). Today Commercial News (CCNT).



The circled name on the list is CCNT in Chinese, showing that the CCNT is listed as a media partner of People's Daily's Overseas Edition on September 16, 2023.

In its July 22, 2015, issue, CCNT took word-for-word from the CCP mouthpiece Wen Hui Bao in Hong Kong to defame Falun Gong. Despite the apology made to the Falun Gong community and retraction of an anti-Falun Gong hate-propaganda article,⁸² CCNT continued to publish CCP anti-Falun Gong propaganda afterwards (for example in its January 11, 2020, edition, among other editions). Since July 22, 2016, CCNT has also distributed the overseas edition of People’s Daily as an insertion in its regular newspaper publication.

According to the U.S. State Department, China Central Television (CCTV), the PRC’s state TV outlet, provides free video footage and television scripts to 1,700 foreign news organizations and media groups. They are repackaged for local media outlets without branding.⁸³ Vancouver-based Talentvision TV regularly aired a segment of daily news taken from the CCP mouthpiece CCTV Channel 4. The Chinese hate propaganda against Falun Gong is perpetuated in Canada via live and unfiltered satellite feeds of the CCP’s hate-inciting programming being broadcasted over Canadian airwaves.

In 2002, Talentvision TV was found to have breached the Canadian Association of Broadcasters’ code of ethics for rebroadcasting the CCP’s anti-Falun Gong hate propaganda produced by CCTV-4. According to the ruling of the Canadian Broadcast Standards Council, the replicated report “is nothing more or less than a biased attack on Falun Gong by the producer of that news item” and failed the journalism standard in Canada.⁸⁴

In 2006, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) ruled that the terminologies used in the CCTV-4’s news stories to describe Falun Gong practitioners constituted abusive comments and “render the targeted group [Falun Gong] more vulnerable to hatred or contempt.”⁸⁵ (Also see Appendix A.)

While the CRTC agreed that the evidence of CCTV’s coverage of Falun Gong in 1999–2001 was abusive, CCTV-4, along with eight other CCP state-owned TV stations, were allowed to land in Canada.

⁸² Apology letter from CCNT ((加拿大商報), also known as Today Commercial News:

<https://mega.nz/file/u5gCGRoZ#NCxTtBckgueJXBO619MvbL788MHvj5TQqpfWcYckNiY>

⁸³<https://www.state.gov/how-the-peoples-republic-of-china-seeks-to-reshape-the-global-information-environment/> (September 2023), US Department of State.

⁸⁴ https://www.cbsc.ca/decisionsarchive/20-0102/20-0102-0416%2B_PD_E.pdf (May 2002). Canadian Broadcast Standards Council.

⁸⁵ [Broadcasting Public Notice CRTC 2006-166](#) (December 2006). Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission.

2.2.5 Social media and internet chat rooms

It is well known that Beijing employs WeChat, also known as WeiXin, to suppress international conversations on delicate subjects and to silence dissenting voices.⁸⁶ Administrators of Chinese BBS and digital chat rooms in various Canadian cities align themselves with the CCP's stance on Falun Gong in their control and moderation of these online platforms. Positive discussions about Falun Gong are promptly deleted, while anti-Falun Gong content is allowed to stay.

The CCP also deploys internet police, or "50 Cent Party" (paid commentators), to post pro-CCP remarks and to orchestrate smear campaigns against government critics.⁸⁷ They post content reproduced from Chinese anti-Falun Gong websites. This propaganda is synchronized across Chinese BBS and chat rooms worldwide and are given prominence on these online platforms.

The above tactics employed by the CCP to influence Chinese Canadian media, both traditional and online, have been instrumental in disseminating hate against Falun Gong in Canada to further the CCP's persecution of Falun Gong in China. This propaganda has gone largely unchecked in Canada and continues to be a concern within the Chinese-Canadian communities.

2.3 Hate rallies organized by UFWD front organizations instigated by Chinese consulate in Canada

On October 29, 2014, a rally was held at the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) protesting the partnership between the TDSB and the Confucius Institute (CI), a CCP-controlled organization known to censor information in schools identified as being critical of the Chinese government (see details in chapter 4 on CI). Concerned parents from the Falun Gong and other communities had been rallying outside the TDSB office since early October that year.⁸⁸

Leaders of front groups of the United Front Work Department (UFWD) were caught on tape at the October 29 rally inciting hate against the Falun Gong practitioners attending the rally, shouting "God Kill Falun Gong!" and "Falun Gong go to Hell!"⁸⁹

⁸⁶<https://www.state.gov/how-the-peoples-republic-of-china-seeks-to-reshape-the-global-information-environment/> (September 2023), US Department of State.

⁸⁷ FREEDOM ON THE NET 2023 <https://freedomhouse.org/country/china/freedom-net/2023> (2023) Freedom House.

⁸⁸ [TDSB committee votes to cut ties with controversial Confucius Institute](#) (October 2014). The Toronto Star.

⁸⁹ <https://mega.nz/file/zoJG1aoZ#NVyD5Y9L6k8bkH1GGwgneuHd2EvUutesoigeASm11E>

Michel Juneau-Katsuya, a former Asia-Pacific bureau chief for the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS), made a presentation to the TDSB on October 1, 2014. He identified a number of United Front groups with close ties to the CCP, including the CTCCO, the National Congress of Chinese Canadians (NCCC), the Chinese Professional Association of Canada, and the Beijing Association. This incident in Toronto is only a snapshot of the hatred perpetuated against Falun Gong among the Chinese diaspora in Canada, instigated by the Chinese embassy and consulates.

Similar incidents have taken place on multiple occasions in Toronto and other cities, such as on Parliament Hill in Ottawa at so-called "welcome" rallies for visiting Chinese leaders (see section 4.4.2).^{90 91}

2.4 Libel case against hate incitement by deputy consul general of Chinese consulate

On April 25th, 2003, Toronto Falun Gong practitioner Joel Chipkar wrote to the Toronto Star about the cover-up of SARS by the PRC. In response, the Chinese consulate's Deputy Consul General Xinchun Pan accused Chipkar and Falun Gong practitioners of having ulterior motives, and labelled them as members of a "sinister cult." The letter was published in the Toronto Star. Chipkar sued Pan for libel, and the Ontario Superior Court found Pan guilty and ordered him to compensate Chipkar, marking the first instance of a Chinese diplomat being sued by a Falun Gong practitioner outside China. The court found that Pan had violated international law by acting beyond his consular duties. The case set a precedent that a deputy consul general does not have diplomatic immunity.⁹²

2.5 Chinese embassy spreads hate materials to Canadian media outlets

The Chinese embassy and consulates not only wrote anti-Falun Gong defamation letters to Canadian media outlets for publishing (section 2.4), they also spread hate materials to editorial boards and manipulated the media in their reporting on Falun Gong. The embassy and consulates portray Falun Gong as being something questionable, leading many Western media outlets to replicate the CCP's defamatory labels when reporting on Falun Gong, which helps the CCP to propagate its hate propaganda.

⁹⁰ [Tape Reveals Embassy Footing Bill for Hu Jintao's Welcome Rally](#) (January 2019). The Epoch Times.

⁹¹ [Pro-Beijing Groups Rally Support to Put on Big Welcome for Chinese Premier's Canada Visit](#) (September 2023). The Epoch Times.

⁹² <https://en.minghui.org/emh/articles/2004/2/5/44809p.html> (Feb 2004) Minghui.

2.5.1 Chinese ambassador delivered anti-Falun Gong booklet to media

Mei Ping, China's ambassador to Canada from August 1998 to March 2005, “came to the National Post to extol the virtues of Communist China and the evils of Falun Gong, leaving behind a book that purported to show how Falun Gong had driven people to suicide, murder and madness, a claim without foundation and one that no other government has ever made about its own citizens who have taken up Li's teachings,”⁹³ National Post's John Turley-Ewart reported in an article published in March 2004. Also see Appendix A “Debunking CCP False Narratives about Falun Gong”.

The Chinese ambassador's “distributing his government's anti-Falun Gong material to our editorial board with a gusto was alarming,”⁹⁴ wrote Mr. Turley-Ewart in a May 2007 article in the National Post.

“Readers should keep in mind the Chinese spies are not just trying to undermine economic growth in Canada by stealing our industrial secrets, they are also engaged in a propaganda war against Canadians who practice Falun Gong, a war aimed at generating hate for those practitioners and ultimately diminishing their rights as Canadian citizens.”⁹⁵

2.5.2 Chinese Embassy provided anti-Falun Gong video to CJOH TV

An incident occurred in early 2000 when a local CJOH journalist contacted an Ottawa Falun Gong practitioner stating that the Chinese Embassy had provided him with an anti-Falun Gong video produced in China. The journalist said he planned to use a clip of the video as part of his program and to include comments from both the Chinese ambassador and the Falun Gong practitioner in the program.

The practitioner refused to participate, explaining that the contents of the video were trumped-up charges against Falun Gong. She also stated that the video itself was an example of the CCP's hate propaganda against the spiritual practice, used to spread hatred in society to justify and fuel the persecution of Falun Gong.

Ultimately, this proposed program did not move forward.

⁹³ National Post: [Falun Gong persecution spreads to Canada](#), March 20, 2004, by John Turley-Ewart.

⁹⁴ National Post: [China isn't a friend of Canadian democracy](#), May 2, 2007, by John Turley-Ewart.

⁹⁵ Ibid

2.5.3 Chinese Embassy pressured CBC to pull Falun Gong documentary, possibly using access to CBC's websites in China as leverage

CBC pulled *Beyond the Red Wall: The Persecution of Falun Gong* from airing due to pressure from CCP: CBC had heavily promoted this documentary that was scheduled to air on Nov. 6, 2007. However, the broadcaster abruptly pulled it at the last minute, following objections from Chinese Embassy and Consulate officials, as reported by multiple Canadian media outlets.^{96 97} A media report said Chinese officials had “pestered” CBC reporters in its Beijing bureau about the documentary.⁹⁸ CBC spokesperson Jeff Keay said the broadcaster received calls from an Ottawa-based Chinese Embassy official as well as officials from the Chinese Consulate in Toronto prior to the documentary airing.^{99 100}

CBC deleted parts containing key evidence of organ harvesting from documentary before airing it, following public outcry: Public outcry included concern from the president of the Canadian Association of Journalists, saying that “CBC has sent a message of self-censorship by pulling a previously aired and carefully vetted documentary just as it was about to be broadcast.”¹⁰¹

CBC aired the documentary two weeks later, on Nov. 20, 2007,¹⁰² but only after editing out about 5 minutes (10%) of footage that consisted of evidence of the CCP's forced organ harvesting from Falun Gong prisoners of conscience,¹⁰³ which the CCP considers the most sensitive information.

CCP blocked access to CBC's websites in China: CBC reported on April 4, 2008, that its French website, Radio-Canada.ca, had been blocked for six months (since November 2007), and its English website, CBC.ca, had been cut off since January

⁹⁶ CBC-TV yanks Falun Gong documentary after Chinese embassy complains,

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/entertainment/cbc-tv-yanks-falun-gong-documentary-after-chinese-embassy-complains-1.634444>

⁹⁷ CBC pulls Falun Gong documentary , <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/cbc-pulls-falun-gong-documentary/article697294/>

⁹⁸ <https://en.minghui.org/html/articles/2007/11/22/91544.html>

⁹⁹ CBC-TV yanks Falun Gong documentary after Chinese embassy complains,

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/entertainment/cbc-tv-yanks-falun-gong-documentary-after-chinese-embassy-complains-1.634444>

¹⁰⁰

¹⁰¹ <https://en.minghui.org/html/articles/2007/11/12/91284p.html>

¹⁰² CBC to air controversial Falun Gong documentary <https://www.cbc.ca/news/entertainment/cbc-to-air-controversial-falun-gong-documentary-1.685080>

¹⁰³ <https://en.minghui.org/html/articles/2007/11/22/91544.html>

2008.¹⁰⁴ A CBC story broadcast on April 4, 2008, suggested the blockages might be due to CBC's airing of the "Red Wall" documentary despite China's demand that it be held back.¹⁰⁵

Concluding remarks

The dissemination of hate against the Falun Gong community in Canada has been and continues to be instrumental in manipulating public perception of Falun Gong and bolstering support for and stifling dissent against the egregious human rights violations committed by the CCP against Falun Gong in China. It incites bigotry and fosters a climate of apathy and indifference toward the brutality experienced by the Falun Gong community in China, and to a lesser degree, Canada, as demonstrated in Part II of this report.

¹⁰⁴ CBC complains to Chinese ambassador after broadcaster's websites blocked
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/cbc-complains-to-chinese-ambassador-after-broadcaster-s-websites-blocked-1.745131>

¹⁰⁵ CBC protests to Chinese envoy over Beijing's blocking of its websites
<https://legacy.friends.ca/explore/article/cbc-protests-to-chinese-envoy-over-beijings-blocking-of-its-websites/>



Part II

CCP's foreign interference targeting politicians and various sectors of Canadian society to suppress Falun Gong

Foreign interference and repression against Falun Gong by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) permeates multiple sectors of Canadian society, exerting influence on different levels of government, elected officials, civic organizations, businesses, academic institutions, and the student population. These influences are geared toward extending the persecution of Falun Gong, suppressing awareness of human rights abuses against its practitioners, and marginalizing the Falun Gong community in Canada. This results in widespread indifference and silence regarding the brutalities occurring in China, affecting tens of millions of innocent people. This not only harms the Falun Gong community but also turns a large segment of Canadian society into victims of the CCP's malicious campaign, undermining people's conscience and eroding Canadian values.

Within the repression against Falun Gong, the influence over the government sector is unprecedented. Many rounds of defamatory letters, accompanied by fabricated publications, have been sent to MPs, governors general, provincial elected officials, and municipal mayors. There is an alarming trend. Where previously these letters were sent directly by top diplomats in Chinese embassies and consulates, such as ambassadors, consuls general, *chargés d'affaires*, in recent years, authors have impersonated Falun Gong practitioners to send such letters under this false identity.

Another noticeable trend is the CCP's increasing reliance on and operation through front organizations. Civilians and private sectors are recruited to further its repressive agenda.

The CCP's influence over Canadian institutions consists of both inducement and coercion. Inducement often takes the form of paid trips to China and lavish hospitality in that country, along with profitable business opportunities and various kinds of funding and sponsorships. On the other hand, coercion manifests through denial of political and business opportunities, visa refusals, and threats, including threat of a damaged Canada-China relationship.

As the CCP's foreign interference and repression have been more publicized and resisted leading to consequences for some actors, the CCP's methods have become more subtle and harder to detect than before. By involving wide arrays of seemingly private actors in its repressive campaign, the CCP has managed to spread its influence and control more widely and deeply into the fabric of Canadian society, eroding our rights, freedoms, safety, and security.

CHAPTER THREE

CCP's Manipulation, Intimidation, and Infiltration of Canadian Politicians to Undermine Falun Gong Support

Since the persecution of Falun Gong began in 1999, Chinese diplomatic officials and their agents in Canada, including United Front Work Department (UFWD) front organizations, have been disseminating hate propaganda and disinformation to Canadian politicians to defame and discredit Falun Gong, and to pressure and induce them to withdraw or withhold their support for Falun Gong and condemnation against the CCP's persecution of Falun Gong. They have adopted various strategies and tactics to systematically manipulate and influence all levels of Canadian officials.

Former Chinese diplomat Chen Yonglin testified to the existence of a Special Anti-Falun Gong Working Group, established in each consulate and embassy (refer to Chapter One). Diplomats of this special unit are tasked to pressure the politicians to avoid contact with Falun Gong practitioners, refrain from public praise and proclamations of Falun Gong, and exclude practitioners from civic events. Chen stated that,

"[such] letters to politicians and government bodies normally stress that Falun Gong is an "evil cult" which is banned in China and express the hope that the host government will be sensitive to the "feelings of the Chinese people." Such letters also often state that if the wishes of the Chinese Government are not respected and the host country's national or local government chooses to cooperate with Falun Gong practitioners in disregard of Beijing's express wishes, the result may be "severe blow" to the bilateral relations meaning decreased trade and investment opportunities with China."¹⁰⁶

¹⁰⁶ Chen Yonglin's Affidavit to BC superior court <https://mega.nz/file/OhwUhTga#yVqxXdAVB6mFB2WM0CCOBnwEdM0HqoRQiqUp0BgeNhk> (June 2008). Supreme Court of British Columbia

The above-mentioned tactics have been manifested in Canada precisely as Chen stated in his affidavit. They exemplify the experience of the Falun Gong community in Canada. For instance, an MP from B.C. once asked a Falun Gong practitioner to remove his support letter from a website due to threats from the Chinese consulate regarding his visa application for a business trip to China. He expressed his continued support for Falun Gong privately but was unable to do so publicly.

Canadian officials who have limited knowledge or interactions with the Falun Gong community are most vulnerable to the CCP's disinformation and intimidation campaign. Officials who are more familiar with Falun Gong are in a position to recognize the falsehood and the propagandistic nature of the content of the letters and seek timely clarification from practitioners. Some politicians have reflected their concerns to the Falun Gong community after receiving bizarre and sometimes threatening letters impersonating Falun Gong practitioners and were able to learn that they were fake emails sent by CCP agents. But this is not always the case.

A change of tactics

In the past 25 years, we have observed that the Chinese mission's previously blunt approach toward Canadian politicians and officials has become more subtle and clandestine. Several incidents may have affected the change of strategy:

- In 2004, Chinese Vice-Consul General in Toronto Xinchun Pan was found liable for defaming a Falun Gong practitioner as a member of a "sinister cult" in the Toronto Star (see section 2.4).^{107 108}
- In 2005, the Edmonton police hate unit concluded that materials spread by the Chinese consulate in Calgary constituted hate propaganda and recommended prosecuting the two diplomats involved for "wilful promotion of hatred" targeting an identifiable group.¹⁰⁹ (see section 2.1).
- Publicity and defiance by certain officials against the CCP's intimidation and interference activities in Canada targeting Falun Gong and other groups.

To evade public scrutiny, Chinese missions increasingly rely on agents and proxies to infiltrate political offices to influence politicians and widely circulate fake emails in the name of

¹⁰⁷ [Chinese Vice-Consul General Leaves Canada after Failing to Pay Court Judgment](#) (November 2004). Falun Dafa Information Center.

¹⁰⁸ [Court seeks diplomat's assets - The Globe and Mail](#) (July 2004). The Globe and Mail.

¹⁰⁹ Appendix 8. Edmonton Police Report of Wilful Promotion of Hatred by Chinese Consular Officials against Falun Gong [BLOODY HARVEST](#) (January 2007) Organharvestinvestigation.net

impersonated Falun Gong practitioners. Despite their shift to more subtle and hidden tactics, the damage persists and continues to escalate within Canada's political circles.

The CCP's hate-inciting tactics and political infiltration severely impact Canadian officials and politicians, making them unwitting victims of the CCP's manipulation and intimidation campaign in Canada, tarnishing Canadian values and harming our society and communities.

3.1 Propaganda, intimidation, pressure on government officials not to support Falun Gong

In the earlier years of the persecution, top diplomats in the Chinese embassy and consulates routinely and openly sent anti-Falun Gong hate propaganda to MPs, elected provincial representatives, mayors, and city councillors across Canada to defame Falun Gong and pressure them not to support Falun Gong.

A National Post article in 2004 ¹¹⁰ reported that:

China's diplomats also spend much of their time trying to persuade Canadian politicians to discriminate against Falun Gong under the threat that failing to do so could jeopardize Canada-China trade relations.

Writing in March, 2003, to Jim Peterson, a Liberal MP and now a member of Paul Martin's Cabinet, Chu Guangyou, China's charge d'affaires in Canada, warned that China has "advised the Canadian government of the sensitivity of the issue [of Falun Gong] in the overall bilateral relations. I hope you and your government will understand our position and be vigilant against any attempt of Falun Gong to jeopardize our bilateral relations." With the letter came the now standard package of anti-Falun Gong propaganda.¹¹¹

Such pressure reaches beyond federal government officials. Countless similar letters have been sent to provincial politicians as well as city councillors and mayors across Canada.¹¹²

¹¹⁰ National Post: [Falun Gong persecution spreads to Canada](#), March 20, 2004

¹¹¹ Ibid.

¹¹² Ibid.

3.1.1 Pressurizing federal and provincial politicians and officials

3.1.1.1 Chinese ambassador delivering anti-Falun Gong hate materials to Governor General and MPs

In April 2007, Jiyan Zhang, a defector and wife of a diplomat from the Chinese embassy in Ottawa,¹¹³ disclosed that Chinese Ambassador Lu Shumin told all embassy officials at a meeting that he had sent anti-Falun Gong materials to Canadian MPs, government officials, and a former governor general.¹¹⁴

Ms. Zhang revealed that there is a 10-person squad, previously led by Political Affairs Counsellor Sun Lushan, followed by Counsellor Chen Wangxia, and as of 2007 by Minister-Counsellor Zhang Weidong, specifically responsible for "Fighting Falun Gong" in Canada.¹¹⁵

3.1.1.2 Chinese ambassador's package sent to British Columbia MP

In 2001, an MP from British Columbia wrote to Mei Ping, then-Chinese ambassador to Canada, condemning the persecution of Falun Gong. In response, he received a three-page, anti-Falun Gong defamatory letter and other propaganda materials from the ambassador.

A scanned copy of the letter can be found in Appendix B (3.1.1.2). It is marked as received, with a House of Commons stamp, on 14 June 2001. It used derogatory terms such as "cult," "anti-humanity," "anti-science," and "anti-society" to defame Falun Gong and denied the existence of the persecution, describing it as "education and persuasion" according to Chinese law. It urged the MP to "respect the position of our government."

The accusations against Falun Gong in the letter and materials are fabricated, aiming to justify the persecution. Clarifications to shed light on the disinformation is in Appendix A "Debunking CCP False Narratives about Falun Gong."

3.1.1.3 Chinese embassy's package sent to Ontario MP

In March 2003, an MP who had previously expressed support for Falun Gong, received a package of hate propaganda from the Chinese embassy.

¹¹³ [Wife of Chinese diplomat announces defection in Ottawa | CBC News](#) (March 2007) Canadian Broadcasting Corporation

¹¹⁴ [Canada: Evidence of the Chinese Embassy Interfering with NTD TV Exposed](#) (April 2007) Minghui.

¹¹⁵ [Wife of Canadian Chinese Diplomat Says Chinese Embassy is Lying](#) (April 2007). The Epoch Times.

The package included a three-page letter, a CD, and other anti-Falun Gong materials. A scanned copy of the letter is in Appendix C (3.1.1.3). It is very similar to the letter in the above case of the B.C. MP, and appeared to issue a threat about the diplomatic relationship between Canada and China:

"The Chinese government have on many occasions expressed its position and policy towards Falun Gong, and advised the Canadian government of the sensitivity of the issue in the overall bilateral relations. I hope you and your city government will understand our position and be vigilant against any attempt of Falun Gong to jeopardise our bilateral relations."

3.1.1.4 Ambassador's letters to MPs and other officials

In August 2000, Falun Gong practitioners received many congratulatory letters for Falun Dafa Week from officials of all levels of government, including Governor General Adrienne Clarkson and Deputy Prime Minister Earl Grey. MP Gordon Earle from Halifax, Nova Scotia, was one of them.

Shortly afterwards, Mr. Earle received a letter from the Chinese ambassador urging him not to support Falun Gong. In his reply, he wrote, "As Multiculturalism Spokesperson of the federal NDP I stand by my letter. ... Once again, I am proud to extend greetings on behalf of the New Democratic Party of Canada to all who celebrate Falun Dafa Week."¹¹⁶

It was likely that the Chinese ambassador had sent such a letter to all officials who had sent greetings for Falun Dafa week.

3.1.1.5 Chargé d'affaires' letter to MP

Following BC MP Libby Davies's congratulatory letter to the Falun Gong community on the occasion of the 10-year anniversary of Falun Dafa's public introduction, published on Falun Gong website Minghui.org on June 2, 2002,¹¹⁷ she promptly received a defamatory letter from Chinese official Chu Guangyou ("Chargé d'Affaires a.i.") dated June 4, 2002.

¹¹⁶ B.2 Letter from M.P. Gordon Earle to Chinese Ambassador, [Extending the Persecution of Falun Gong to Canada](#) (March 2004). WOIPFG

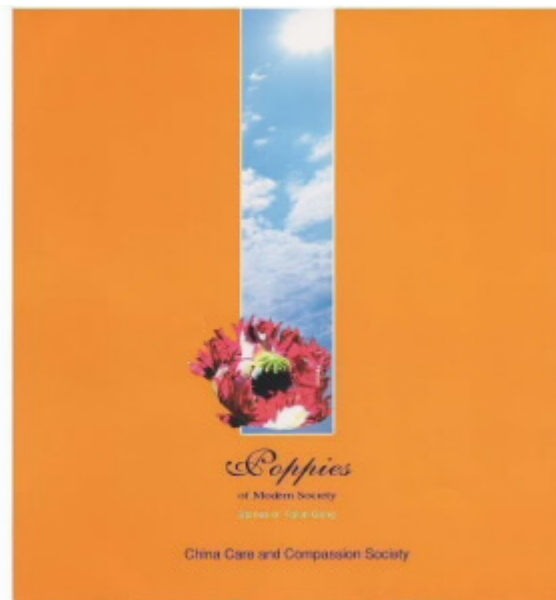
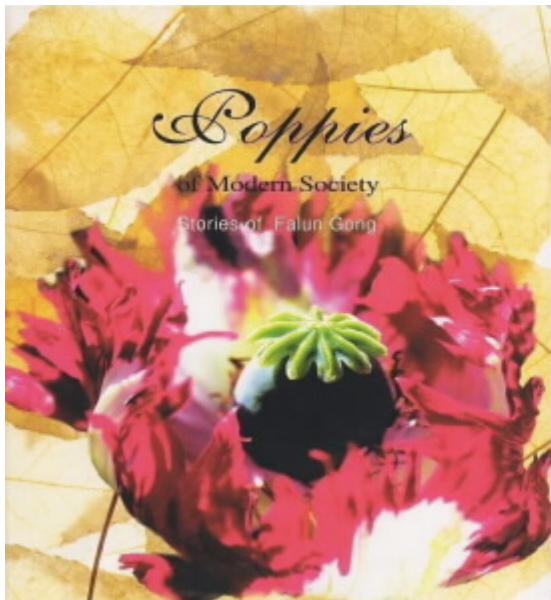
¹¹⁷ [Canadian MP wrote a letter: "Expressing my congratulations and best wishes to Falun Dafa practitioners"](#) (June 2002) Minghui [Congratulatory Message from Member of Parliament to the 10th Anniversary of the Public Introduction of Falun Dafa, Vancouver East, Canada](#) (May 2002). Minghui

3.1.1.6 Chinese consulate's mailings to federal and provincial politicians

In August 2003, several MPs and members of provincial parliaments (MPPs) and legislative assemblies (MLAs) from multiple provinces informed Falun Gong practitioners that they received an anti-Falun Gong glossy propaganda book from the Chinese consulate in Toronto. It's possible that this targeting extended to all MPs and MPPs.

An example of the accompanying cover letter is in Appendix D (3.1.1.6).

The book, titled "Poppies of Modern Society: Stories of Falun Gong," contained many distorted and out-of-context quotations from Falun Gong's teachings, accusations of various harmful activities, and other materials used in state-run brainwashing classes.



The book appeared to have been printed in China.

3.1.1.7 Calgary Chinese consulate targeted all Alberta MLAs to oppose Falun Gong

On July 4, 2009, at a ceremony preceding a Falun Dafa parade, a Calgary MLA told Falun Gong practitioners that officials of the Calgary Chinese consulate had contacted all provincial MLAs to persuade them to oppose Falun Gong.

3.1.2 Target mayors and city councillors

3.1.2.1 Ambassador's letters to mayors

In May 2001, Mayor Andy Wells of St. John's, New Brunswick, was one of the mayors across Canada who proclaimed "Falun Dafa Week." Shortly afterwards, he received a letter from Chinese Ambassador to Canada Mei Ping defaming Falun Gong and urging him not to support

the practice. Mr. Wells responded to the ambassador, saying in part: "I was pleased to receive representatives from Falun Gong in our Chambers during the month of May. Your persecution of this innocent group exemplifies your government's moral and ethical bankruptcy."¹¹⁸

3.1.2.2 Consuls general's letters to mayors

In the summer and fall of 2001, Falun Gong practitioners in different provinces participated in the "Walking Across Canada SOS" activity to raise awareness of the persecution in China and to seek help from the Canadian public. Chinese consulates sent defaming and threatening letters to mayors and other officials in the cities along the route, as some officials have told the walkers. Here are two examples:

In September 2001, Mayor Lou Rinaldi of Brighton, Ontario, received a letter defaming Falun Gong from the Chinese consul general in Toronto the day before five Falun Gong practitioners arrived in Brighton for an awareness-raising S.O.S. Global Walk. The letter was from then-consul general Sun Shuxian. It attacked Falun Gong with hate propaganda and urged the mayor not to support the S.O.S. walkers.

In October 2001, the Calgary S.O.S. Walkers met with the mayor of the City of Lethbridge, Alberta, who told the walkers that he had received a warning letter from the Chinese consulate urging him not to support Falun Gong.

3.1.2.3 Chinese consulate's letters to Toronto city councillors about Chinese New Year performance

In January 2004, all Toronto city councillors received a letter from the Chinese consulate in that city urging them not to support a classical Chinese dance performance called the Chinese New Year's Gala, which was hosted by a Toronto presenter with Falun Gong practitioners participating. "You may have received an invitation to the gala or have been asked to send a letter of congratulation to this event," the letter said. "We hope you will handle this invitation with great caution." The letter also enclosed defamation materials attacking Falun Gong.¹¹⁹

¹¹⁸ Section 4.6 & B.3 Letter from Mayor of St. John's to Chinese Ambassador, [Extending the Persecution of Falun Gong to Canada](#) (March 2004) WOIPFG

¹¹⁹ 7.2 Consulate Stifles Independent Media's Cultural Gala, [Extending the Persecution of Falun Gong to Canada](#) (March 2004). WOIPFG



3.1.2.4 Chinese consulate pressure on Toronto city council not to hold Falun Dafa Day
 In 2005, The Globe and Mail detailed extensively¹²⁰ how the City of Toronto and many city councillors were being exhorted by the Chinese consulate and its agents to follow the CCP Party line on how Falun Gong and other groups unfavoured by the communist regime should be treated.

¹²⁰ [Feeling the long arm of China - The Globe and Mail](#) (August 2005). The Globe and Mail

It reported that, in 2004, Chen Xiaoling, the Chinese consul general in Toronto, wrote to all 44 city councillors, including Mayor David Miller, threatening consequences for the city if it does not comply with the consulate's request not to hold a Falun Dafa Day in Toronto. She wrote that if the motion to hold a Falun Dafa Day is passed, it "will have a very negative effect on our future beneficial exchanges and cooperation." The motion did not pass.¹²¹

"After Mr. Tony Wong became the only Chinese Canadian elected at the provincial level, the consul-general of Chinese consulate in Toronto invited him and his wife for a 10-course banquet prepared at her \$3-million residence on the Bridle Path. "They were probably happy I condemned Falun Gong," said Mr. Wong, 56. "They talked to me about how difficult it is to deal with Falun Gong outside of China because Falun Gong is able to get the sympathy and support of politicians here who don't understand its true nature."

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3.1.2.5 Mayors discontinued issuing of Falun Dafa Day proclamation after China trip

One tactic to influence elected officials is to invite them to visit China. Here are two instances.

In May 2010, the Ottawa Citizen reported that the Mayor Larry O'Brien of Ottawa, upon return from a business trip to China, refused to issue a proclamation to recognize Falun Dafa Day as he had done in previous years because he said he had "made a commitment."¹²³

Two representatives of the local Falun Gong group later learned from a city councillor that Mr. O'Brien had made that commitment not to proclaim Falun Dafa Day due to a request from the Beijing mayor during his visit to China. Ottawa City Council later bypassed the mayor to issue a proclamation for Falun Dafa Day in June 2010. Since then, mayors in Ottawa have proclaimed Falun Dafa Day every year without any issue.

Another case was reported by Global News,¹²⁴ stating that seven mayors from the Vancouver area were invited on an all-expenses-paid trip to Beijing in 2007 by billionaire real estate developer and former People's Liberation Army officer Li Zhe who has official connections to the United Front Works Department.

¹²¹ The Globe and Mail: [Feeling the long arm of China](#) (August 2005).

¹²² Ibid.

¹²³ Ottawa Citizen: [O'Brien keen to avoid 'incident' with China](#), May 13, 2010

¹²⁴ [Canadian mayors may have unwittingly been targets of Chinese influence campaign](#) (March 2020). Global News.

Following the trip, the then-Port Moody mayor, who had proclaimed Falun Dafa Month from 2002 to 2007, ceased issuing the proclamation.¹²⁵

According to a profile story in the People’s Daily, Li Zhe came to Canada with the intention of using his real estate business to persuade Canadian politicians to view China more favourably.¹²⁶

Based on his successful “people-to-people diplomacy” in Vancouver, Li’s pro-China influence campaigns in the West had “been fully affirmed and supported by relevant Beijing authorities.”¹²⁷

“A few years ago, Li Zhe met a Canadian official who had never been to China, but was hostile to China,” the 2011 People’s Daily report said. “In order to change the official’s attitude towards China and give him a chance to meet a real and friendly China, Li Zhe invited him to come and visit China.”¹²⁸

“It was that trip to China that completely changed that Canadian official’s one-sided view of China.”¹²⁹

3.1.2.6 Consular general pressuring Port Alberni city hall

According to a media report, former Chinese consul general Yang Qiang visited Port Alberni in March 2008 for economic and trade discussions. Subsequently, he sent letters promoting anti-Falun Gong propaganda and discouraging the mayor and councillors from giving support to Falun Gong.¹³⁰ A copy of the letter is in Appendix E (3.1.2.6.).

3.1.2.7 Removal of protest display boards at Vancouver consulate sought by mayor upon CCP’s request

Under CCP influence, Vancouver’s mayor in 2011 ordered the removal of Falun Gong’s 24-hour protest site outside the Chinese consulate in that city. The site had been there for a decade by that time.

¹²⁵ Ibid.

¹²⁶ Ibid.

¹²⁷ Ibid.

¹²⁸ Ibid.

¹²⁹ Ibid.

¹³⁰ [Is China influencing B.C. politicians? Falun Gong case points that way - Victoria Times Colonist](#) (September 2014) Times Colonist.

To call for an end to the persecution in China, Vancouver Falun Gong practitioners began a round-the-clock vigil in front of the Chinese consulate in 2001, with display boards and a temporary shack for shelter. Practitioners took turns to attend the vigil, often meditating in the shack. However, in June 2006, Mayor Sam Sullivan, elected the year before, began efforts to remove the display boards and dismantle the vigil.¹³¹

Mayor Sullivan cited a supposed violation of a city bylaw. Major Vancouver media reports pointed to the fact that the City of Vancouver was being pressured by the Chinese government to take action against the vigil site, provided the Mayor's close relationship with China.¹³² He was reported to have been "treated like an emperor" on a visit to China.¹³³

The above claim was corroborated in an interview by Dawa Business Press in Vancouver with outgoing Vancouver Consul General Qiang Yang on August 6, 2008. He said: "There are those boards in front of our consulate general. ... I have repeatedly urged the relevant departments of the Vancouver city government to solve this problem."¹³⁴ Vancouver Courier reported that Vancouver Chinese consulate spokesperson Zhou Yong admitted to complaining to Vancouver City Hall about the protest.¹³⁵

Additionally, a statement by a defected Chinese agent, Hao Fengjun, in June 2005 indicated successful lobbying efforts by Beijing to pressure the Canadian government to remove the Falun Gong displays in front of the Vancouver consulate.¹³⁶

3.2 Impersonating Falun Gong in emails to elected officials to discredit the practice

Starting from about 2010, there was a shift in how the CCP disseminated its hate propaganda to Canadian government officials, although the CCP's interests in doing so did not wane.

As the West grew more adept at identifying and countering direct CCP propaganda against Falun Gong and it became increasingly clear that Chinese officials involved in the dissemination

¹³¹ [Is China influencing B.C. politicians? Falun Gong case points that way - Victoria Times Colonist](#) (September 2014) Times Colonist.

¹³² Ibid. For Vancouver Sun and Global TV, links are not accessible anymore.

¹³³ ["Vancouver fails to measure up: mayor" by Wency Leung](#) (July 2006). Vancouver Sun.

¹³⁴ [Dawa business press 080807-Yang Qiang](#) (August 2008). Dawa Business Press. [this transcript was verbatim of the interview retained for archive record. Chinese words on left column became scrambled codes]

¹³⁵ [Chinese Consulate Protest Display Must Go, Says Vancouver Mayor](#) (June 2006). The Epoch Times.

¹³⁶ Ibid.

of such propaganda could be held accountable, the regime resorted to a new tactic: impersonating Falun Gong practitioners and sending elected officials bizarre or aggravating emails designed to discredit the group. Over the years, the Falun Dafa Association of Canada has received more than a dozen variations of such fake emails forwarded by Canadian elected officials.

The Center on Multidimensional Conflicts at the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) confirmed this trend in its research report:

"Since 2010, practitioners of Falun Gong living in Canada have also reported various acts of online intimidation and disparagement, allegedly orchestrated by the Chinese state. For example, in 2015, 2018 and 2019, insulting and threatening emails were sent to several Canadian ministers or members of the Canadian Parliament. The perpetrators falsely claimed to be affiliated with Falun Gong. However, tracking the IP addresses of some of these emails showed that they originated in China. Some observers have therefore suggested that the whole scheme was an attempt by Chinese authorities to discredit Falun Gong practitioners in Canadian political circles."¹³⁷

As documented in the UQAM report, the CCP has sent numerous such fake emails to officials at all government levels since 2010. They aim to tarnish the reputation of Falun Gong and sow distrust and disdain for its practitioners in Canada. The emails often portray the sender as obsessive, irrational, and rude (see examples below), lending credence to the Chinese regime's portrayal of Falun Gong as a societal menace and undermining sympathy and support from Western government officials.

Each year, rounds of fraudulent emails are sent to MPs and cabinet ministers, typically around the time of the annual Falun Dafa celebrations in May and during the Shen Yun touring season from December to May. Shen Yun is a traditional Chinese performance of classical Chinese dance created by New York-based Shen Yun Performing Arts and presented by local Falun Dafa associations in cities around the world, including major cities across Canada.

This systematic and persistent impersonation and vilification email campaign isn't confined to Canada; it's a global phenomenon, highlighting the involvement of the communist regime. Identical or similar emails have been sent to politicians in various other countries, including the United States, Australia, New Zealand, and beyond.

¹³⁷ [Geopolitical Cyber Incidents in Canada](#) (August 2022). UQAM. p. 13

Below are examples of emails forwarded to us by elected officials out of their concern, illustrating a long-term, systematically executed smear campaign against Falun Gong.

3.2.1 Bogus email sent to MP containing false claim about Falun Gong teachings

NDP MP Wayne Marston received a bogus email in 2011 purportedly from a Falun Gong practitioner saying that the Falun Gong community is against cross-racial marriage, among other false claims. Mr. Marston's office tracked the IP address and found that it originated in Hebei Province, China. The email was sent at 2 a.m. EST, which is daytime in China. Mr. Marston's office staff recognized that the email was suspicious, as it did not match their impression of Falun Gong practitioners, and promptly forwarded the email to the Falun Dafa Association of Canada. The views expressed in the email were not from Falun Gong but an obvious attempt to malign Falun Gong.

3.2.2 Insulting and threatening email sent to MPs

An email sent to Conservative MP Stephen Woodworth on May 14, 2015, used a sender name that made the email appear to have been sent by a Falun Gong practitioner. The sender "Tony Falun" also put "falundafa" in the sender email address to malign Falun Gong. The recipient email was missing, indicating that the email was sent to a BCC list, which could include multiple recipients. In fact, MP Woodworth had attended the Falun Dafa Day celebration a week earlier on Parliament Hill.¹³⁸ This was a hate-inciting and malicious email.

MP Bruce Hyer, then-deputy leader of the Green Party of Canada, received the same email.

From: Tony Falun [<mailto:tony.falundafa@gmail.com>]

Sent: May 14, 2015 10:14 AM

Subject: ELIMINATION

STUPID!

You've missed the 16th World Falun Dafa Day celebration party, the last chance for you to be saved. Waiting for you will be a THOROUGH ELIMINATION!

In May that year, more than 10 Canadian MPs forwarded to the Falun Dafa Association of Canada such malicious emails impersonating Falun Gong adherents.

¹³⁸ [Ottawa, Canada: Lawmakers Praise Truthfulness-Compassion-Forbearance at Celebration of World Falun Dafa Day](#) (May 2015). Minghui

The Falun Dafa Association of Canada filed a report to the Ottawa police regarding the emails. The police replied saying that they have forwarded the information "to the proper federal agency." The Association has yet to hear back as to any action that might have been taken or any investigation that might have been done.

3.2.3 Variation of insulting and threatening email sent to federal minister

A similar bogus email was sent to MP Jason Kenney, then the minister of multiculturalism, on May 12, 2015. The sender "andrewtang" also put "falun" in the sender email address. Mr. Kenney had sent a greeting letter to the Falun Dafa Association of Canada on the occasion of Falun Dafa Day the week before.¹³⁹

The recipient email was again missing, indicating that the email was sent to a BCC list, which could contain multiple recipients.

From: TangAndrew [<mailto:andrewtang.falun@hotmail.com>]

Sent: May 12, 2015 10:06 AM

Subject: Your last chance to be saved

Dear Mp

You refused to attend the 16th World Falun Dafa Day celebrations due to Chinese 'sensitivities'?

It's very stupid for you to do so.

The present time is near the point of extinction for the human race, all devils will emerge this time. Today, as Falun Dafa celebrates the 16th anniversary of World Falun Dafa Day, we remember you that only Master Li's countless law-bodies can look after the entire human race. People will be saved as they continue in faith in Master Li and in obedience to Master Li's will.

You must come to our celebration party, this is the last chance for you to be saved.

Yours

Andrew Tang

¹³⁹ [Canadian Ministers Send Congratulations for the 23rd World Falun Dafa Day](#) (May 2015) Minghui.

3.2.4 Amnesty International report on impersonating emails sent to MPs

Amnesty International released a report in 2017 on the CCP's activities to harass and intimidate Chinese dissidents in Canada.¹⁴⁰

"Amnesty International reviewed seven messages that had been sent between May 12, 2015, and January 2017. Certain emails contain strange and sometimes threatening messages," the report said.

Amnesty also said an April 2016 bogus email that was sent to MP David Anderson was forwarded by his office to the RCMP for investigation.

"The email chain provided to Amnesty International indicates that this message was apparently taken seriously, as the Honourable David Anderson's Executive Assistant forwarded this email to the RCMP," the report said.

3.2.5 Bogus email sent to MPs claiming to be colleague of Falun Gong association representative

An email was sent to Conservative MP Scott Reid and a newly elected Liberal MP from Ontario (more MPs presumably received the same email, see case 5.2.6) on November 7, 2015, by an individual self-identified as Alan Lou with the email address alenlou88@gmail.com. The individual claimed to be a colleague of "Ms. Grace"—presumably a reference to Grace Wollensak, a representative of the Falun Dafa Association of Canada. The email asked MPs to confirm their attendance at a non-existent Falun Gong parade and said other bizarre things.

Ms. Wollensak had never heard of a Falun Gong practitioner named Alan Lou in Canada and is very certain that no Falun Gong practitioner would send such an email.

The email clearly indicated that the actual identities of Falun Gong practitioners and their activities are being spied on and exploited for such disinformation campaigns.

These impersonation emails were effective as a method of disinformation. Shortly thereafter, the newly elected MP from Ontario ran into Ms. Wollensak at an event and expressed her upset over receiving aggressive and rude emails mentioning "Grace" and "Falun Gong." After Ms. Wollensak clarified the situation, the MP understood that these emails were part of the CCP's

¹⁴⁰ [Harassment and Intimidation of Individuals in Canada Working on China-related Activism](#) (April 2017). Amnesty International.

plot to sow discord. From then on she forwarded all such emails from CCP agents to Ms. Wollensak.

Later, many more MPs were confirmed to have received such fake emails. They were timed for dissemination to newly elected officials, who were less familiar with the subject of Falun Gong, during the first week of the first session of Parliament after the 2015 election.

3.2.6 Unknown number of MPs received bogus emails and reported to RCMP

In February 2016, two RCMP officers from the Parliamentary Protective Service Integrated Intelligence Unit contacted Grace Wollensak and met with two Falun Gong representatives to investigate certain offensive emails sent to MPs in which they were implicated. A number of MPs—an unknown number—had apparently received such emails, in which Ms. Wollensak's name appeared, and reported the matter to the intelligence unit. After clarification, the Falun Gong representatives requested that the RCMP investigate the matter and take measures to stop such malicious activity. The RCMP officers said they were tasked to protect parliamentarians and suggested that Falun Gong practitioners look to other routes for help.

Later, one officer informed Ms. Wollensak that she had "contacted YAHOO-Law Enforcement contact email" and "requested that the email of KATHYINFUTURE@YAHOO.COM is under review for impersonating Falun Dafa Association." But that KATHYINFUTURE was still active 3 years later, see the case below in 3.2.7.

3.2.7 Bogus email sent to MP containing concocted image of MP and false claims about Falun Gong

In March 2019, Sue Zhang, a coordinator of Vancouver's Falun Gong community, was forwarded an email received by NDP MP Peter Julian's riding office. The email was sent to Mr. Julian from an individual self-identified as "Cathy" at the end of the email with the name "Kathy Future" as the sender name. The sender began by thanking Mr. Julian and then said odd things about Falun Gong, including referring to an attached image of Mr. Julian superimposed on an inappropriate background.

"I have made a poster using your photograph to show how your support the fine arts and Falun Gong. I am sure that you would be glad to see the posters around the world," the email read.

The author of the email was not a real practitioner. The content of the email appears to be designed to portray an image of a Falun Gong practitioner as someone irrational, aberrant, and mentally unstable. The subject line of this email was "Thank you for your kind help", which has

the effect of baiting the recipient to click on this email. A message of friendliness was mixed into the messaging of this email, which creates an impression of genuineness and authenticity, rendering this fraud and impersonation even more insidious and harder to detect.

De : Kathy Future <kathyinfuture@yahoo.com>
Envoyé : 6 mars 2019 03:32
À : Julian, Peter - M.P. <peter.julian@parl.gc.ca>
Objet : Thank you for your kind help.

Dear Mr.Peter Julian:

You must have known something about the Shenyun Performance Arts which reflects the beautiful Chinese culture. Shenyun is sponsored by Falun Dafa which is also known as Falun Gong. The people who practice Falun gong can go to heaven after his/her death, even the dead people can live happily in the heaven. They can avoid of suffering every torture with the help of our master – Mr. Li Hongzhi. Master Li has a lot of law bodies which can protect you all the time, and the audiences who watch the performance can get the influence of Mr. Li.

I heard that you have watched the show and you HAVE SPOKEN HIGHLY of the show and spoken highly of Falun Gong as well.

I have made a poster using your photograph to show how your support the fine arts and Falun Gong. I am sure that you would be glad to see the posters around the world.

The poster is in the attachment for you to look into.

Yours faithfully

Cathy

3.2.8 Bogus email sent to minister containing concocted image of minister and false claims about Falun Gong

A variation of the aforementioned email was sent to Minister of Foreign Affairs Chrystia Freeland in January 2017 from an individual self-identified as "Brian" with the email address 何合 sydfh1978@gmail.com. The subject line of this email was "Thank you for your support as permit of your poster," which is quite deceiving. As the email adopts some of the same language, messaging, and wording as the email above from "Kathy Future," the authors are likely to be the same person or the same organization, acting with the intention of fostering

antipathy and hostility toward Falun Gong on the part of Canadian elected officials. See Appendix F (3.2.8) for a copy of the email.

3.2.9 Variation of bogus email sent to MP containing concocted image and false claims about Falun Gong

In December 2017, Liberal MP Judy Sgro, co-chair of Canadian Parliamentary Friends of Falun Gong, also received a fraudulent email but from a person self-identified as "curry zhaoz, curry.zhaoz@gmail.com," also with an image of her superimposed on an inappropriate backdrop and stating that it would be posted everywhere to show that she supports Falun Gong.

"It's really an attempt to disparage the Falun Gong's followers," said Ms. Sgro ¹⁴¹ Staff at Ms. Sgro's office mentioned to the Falun Gong practitioners that they have received different versions of suspicious emails over the years and they simply ignored them.

3.2.10 Bogus emails sent to MLAs

In the summer of 2017, the Falun Dafa Association of Winnipeg learned from a minister of the Manitoba legislature that a person impersonating a Falun Gong practitioner wrote a threatening email to the minister of health. The email address obtained was the same as that was "kathy future."

3.2.11 Bogus emails sent to Ottawa city councillor following attendance at Shen Yun performance

A then newly elected Ottawa city councillor attended the Shen Yun performance at the National Arts Centre in December 2011 and was interviewed by a TV station at the theatre.

He later told an Ottawa Falun Gong practitioner that following the show his office started to receive emails non-stop with offensive and rude content claiming to be from Falun Gong practitioners. With the help of technical support at city hall, the office managed to block the emails. That practitioner explained to him that those emails were not from Falun Gong practitioners but were part of the CCP's activities attempting to discredit Falun Gong.

¹⁴¹ 'Don't step out of line': Confidential report reveals how Chinese officials harass activists in Canada <https://nationalpost.com/news/world/confidential-report-reveals-how-chinese-officials-harass-activists-in-canada-there-is-a-consistent-pattern>

3.2.12 Bogus emails sent to Edmonton city councillors

In April 2011, some Edmonton city councillors received an email that, among other things, discussed the recent earthquake in Japan in an offensive manner, suggesting that the victims were being punished. The tone of the email was irrational, and the writer appeared to be suffering from mental illness. Once again, the sender falsely claimed to be a Falun Gong practitioner. Similar emails were sent widely to different countries at the time.

3.2.13 Bogus emails sent to authors of investigative report on forced organ harvesting from Falun Gong practitioners in China

Both human rights lawyer David Matas and former MP and secretary of state David Kilgour — co-authors of "Bloody Harvest: The Killing of Falun Gong for Their Organs" — had also received emails from individuals impersonating Falun Gong practitioners in the past.

In one email, Mr. Matas was told that if he did not practise Falun Gong, he and his family would suffer dire consequences, and if he didn't reply to the email, he would "face difficulties and big suffering."

"Obviously it is an attempt to discredit Falun Gong. For me, I am not going to be convinced by some Communist Party pretence, but some people are. It can be quite damaging for the promotion of respect for human rights," he said.¹⁴²

3.3 Political influence and infiltration by CCP through UFWD front organizations to suppress Falun Gong

While the CCP has continued to use covert agents, proxies and front organizations to achieve its objectives, these operations have become more sophisticated over time.

These agents conceal their connections to the CCP, and exert influence against Canadian political targets in secret. In particular, they have been covertly disseminating disinformation about Falun Gong to Canadian officials, who have occasionally reported such acts to Falun Gong practitioners.

¹⁴² [Fake Letter Sent in Trudeau's Name Not Isolated Case in China's Disinformation Campaign](#) (May 2019). The Epoch Times

3.3.1 Seeking to dissuade MPs who supported Falun Gong's human rights

In December 2000, four MPs attended a press conference to support efforts to rescue Canadian citizen Prof. Kunlun Zhang, who, while visiting his ailing mother-in-law in China, was imprisoned and tortured in that country for his belief in Falun Gong.¹⁴³

MP Irwin Cotler was one of those four MPs.¹⁴⁴ A few days later, he received a letter from the president of the Ottawa Chinese-Canadian Congress (华联会), BinZhi Zhao, claiming that he represented 25 Chinese community groups and advising Prof. Cotler to stay away from Falun Gong. He repeated the CCP's hate propaganda against Falun Gong. It is a known fact that the Ottawa Chinese-Canadian Congress is a voice of the Chinese embassy in the community. The letter very much resembled the above-mentioned letters sent from the Chinese embassy to MPs, and appeared to originate from the Chinese embassy.

Chinese state-run media CCTV also reported on Zhao's writing to the four MPs.¹⁴⁵ Later, local Falun Gong practitioners contacted a few of the organizations that the author of the letter claimed to represent. All said that they were not aware of this letter.

3.3.2 Aiding Chinese embassy's attempt to remove Falun Gong vigil in front of embassy

On October 18, 2001, two Ottawa Falun Gong representatives met with the mayor's policy adviser to clarify the facts about Falun Gong and the persecution in China. In the meeting, the policy adviser said that the city received tremendous pressure from the Chinese embassy to remove the Falun Gong daily vigil from the embassy. He said he told the embassy that the city cannot remove the protest because freedom of expression is protected by Canadian law, but that the city would "do something."

A few weeks later, a Falun Gong representative received the vigil permit for November¹⁴⁶ and saw that the permit contained new restrictions that required banners to be hand-held and also limited the size of banners such that they would be virtually unreadable from the Chinese embassy across the street.

¹⁴³ [Ottawa Citizen: Liberal MP rises to defend Canadian jailed in China; KunLun Zhang a classic 'prisoner of conscience', says Irwin Cotler](#) (December 2000). Minghui

¹⁴⁴ [Canadian MP, Irwin Cotler, Condemns Chinese Imprisonment of Canadian Academic](#) (December 2000). Minghui

¹⁴⁵ [渥太华侨领致函加国国会议员不要在"法轮功"问题上干涉中国内政](#) (December 2000). CCTV

¹⁴⁶ [Report to/Rapport au: Transportation and Transit Committee/ Comité des transports et des services de transport en commun](#). (January 2012). Ottawa Transportation and Transit Committee

The local Falun Gong group wrote to the mayor and communicated with the permit office chief, as well as the police demonstration unit and the city lawyer, asking them not to succumb to a foreign government's demands to restrict Canadians from exercising their freedom of expression for a human rights cause. The Falun Gong group also pointed out that not a single city resident had complained about the vigil site, raising questions about the motive behind the restriction.

Albert Tang, a representative of the Federation of Ottawa-Carleton Chinese Organizations, often seen as the voice for the Chinese embassy in the community, promptly filed a complaint with the city in mid-November claiming the vigil was "embarrassing" for some people when crossing the street to go to the Chinese embassy.¹⁴⁷

Fortunately, the city's Transport Committee unanimously passed a motion to grant an exemption to the bylaw allowing the protest to continue in a visible manner.¹⁴⁸

3.3.3 Letter to Ontario MPP to dissuade support for Falun Gong

Former Ontario MPP Jack MacLaren received an unsigned letter from the Jiangsu branch of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), a CCP United Front Work Department (UFWD) organization, dated January 13, 2014.¹⁴⁹ The letter demanded that he withdraw his support for Falun Gong and urged him to ask his colleagues to do the same.

Mr. MacLaren stated that the demands of CCP organizations have no influence over his decisions. On the contrary, he said, the letter prompted him to step up his efforts to support Falun Gong practitioners. See Appendix G (3.3.3) for a copy of the letter.

3.4 Co-opting Canadian politicians to align with CCP narratives

Over the past 25 years, many elected officials have shown appreciation for the Falun Gong practice and its moral principles and have expressed support for the Falun Gong community's efforts to seek an end to the persecution of Falun Gong in China. However, a few have aligned

¹⁴⁷ Falun Gong supporters win battle of banners [Falun Gong supporters win battle of banners](#) (January 2002). Centretown News

¹⁴⁸ [Falun Gong supporters win battle of banners](#) (January 2002). Centretown News

¹⁴⁹ [Ontario, Canada: Threatening Letter from China Has the Opposite Effect—Provincial Legislator Vows Stronger Support for Falun Gong](#) (February 2014). Minghui

themselves with the Chinese embassy's and consulates' efforts to marginalize the Falun Gong community, essentially being complicit in disseminating CCP's anti-Falun Gong propaganda. This is a matter of serious concern.

3.4.1 Michael Chan

Numerous media articles report that Michael Chan, a former Ontario MPP and currently deputy mayor of Markham, Ontario, has been close to the Chinese regime and that he is "Beijing friendly" and "an influential and polarizing leader" in the Chinese-Canadian communities in the Greater Toronto Area.¹⁵⁰

In 2013, at a meeting between two Toronto Falun Gong practitioners and an Ontario cabinet minister the minister mentioned that Michael Chan, then also an Ontario provincial minister, had distributed anti-Falun Gong pamphlets from the Chinese consulate to Liberal ministers and other MPPs.

Around 2016, when a few Toronto Falun Gong practitioners sought a meeting with some newly elected MPs who were former MPPs in the same Ontario caucus with Michael Chan, two of those MPs told the practitioners that they could not have a meeting and that the practitioners should talk to Michael Chan to find out why they could not have a meeting.

3.4.2 MPP Vincent Ke

In early 2023, a Falun Gong practitioner Peter was told by an Ontario MPP that his colleague Vincent Ke tried to dissuade some MPPs from supporting Falun Gong events. According to some media reports, Mr. Ke has been reported to be close to the Chinese consulate.^{151 152 153}

¹⁵⁰ [CSIS warned Trudeau about Toronto-area politician's alleged ties to Chinese diplomats - The Globe and Mail](#), (February 2023). The Global and Mail

[Polarizing Chinese-Canadian leader re-enters political arena](#) (August 2022). Global News Canada; [Beijing-friendly Liberal politician calls for public inquiry into 'unlawful' CSIS](#) (March 2023) National Post

¹⁵¹ [UNPO: Tibet: A Chinese-Sponsored "Tibetan" Association Faked Signature of Canadian Prime Minister](#) (April 2019). Unrepresented Nations & Peoples Organization

¹⁵² [Ontario legislature member is part of alleged Beijing 2019 election-interference network](#) (March 2023). Global News Canada

¹⁵³ [Progressive Conservative MPP Vincent Ke leaves caucus after allegations of election interference](#) (March 2023). The Globe and Mail

3.4.3 Former Montreal city councillor Marcel Tremblay

In 2009, Falun Dafa's Tian Guo Marching Band was invited to join the parade organized by the Montreal Caribbean Festival. However, just before the parade, then-Montreal city councillor Marcel Tremblay asked the president of the festival to reject the band. The president refused.

Mr. Tremblay had been an active participant of Chinese embassy-organized events including a propaganda show¹⁵⁴ about Tibet that was denounced by many.

¹⁵⁴ <http://www.phayul.com/news/tools/print.aspx?id=24644&t=1> Phayul

CHAPTER FOUR

Manipulation and Coercion of Multifarious Sectors to Suppress Falun Gong

The CCP's interference and repression extends to civil societies and private organizations and permeates the entire fabric of Canadian society. This chapter illustrates how the Chinese embassy and consulates use monetary sponsorship and business opportunities to influence the behaviour of both Chinese and non-Chinese organizations and businesses, inducing and pressuring them to exclude Falun Gong practitioners from their events and activities and to sever ties with Falun Gong practitioners.

The targets of such tactics by the CCP, executed through the United Front Work Department and other affiliates, include government and non-government organizations, civic groups, businesses, academic institutions, and Chinese student associations. Organizations that have received sponsorship from the Chinese government or its affiliates are exceptionally vulnerable.

Although the purpose of this campaign is to silence and suppress the Canadian Falun Gong community, the receiving end of the CCP's tactics of manipulation, intimidation, coercion, and inducement is the Canadian society at large. By being threatened and induced to take a negative stance against their conscience, the CCP's campaign tests and corrupts individual morality and erodes Canadian values.

The CCP's malign influence also fosters an environment of fear, self-censorship, and discrimination within Canada, gravely harming Canadians.

4.1 Falun Gong practitioner asked to take off Falun Dafa shirt at Ottawa Dragon Boat Festival

As reported by the Ottawa Citizen¹⁵⁵ and National Post,¹⁵⁶ in June 2019, during the Ottawa Dragon Boat Festival, 72-year-old Falun Gong practitioner Gerry Smith (a non-Chinese) was ordered by the festival's CEO, John Brooman, to take off his Falun Dafa shirt. The shirt bore the words "Falun Dafa" and "Truthfulness, Benevolence, Forbearance." Mr. Smith was looking after a 10-year-old boy at the time, who was the son of a friend, and the two were having lunch at a picnic table on festival grounds.

Mr. Brooman told Mr. Smith that the Chinese embassy was a festival sponsor.¹⁵⁷ He said China treated him as a VIP when he visited that country and that he is a friend of China.

He said that wearing a shirt with "Falun Dafa" on it was "politicizing" the event. The case was brought to the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal¹⁵⁸ in February 2020.

In November 2023, the Ottawa Dragon Boat Festival published an apology on its website. The festival's statement said it "apologizes to Mr. Smith for asking him to remove his Falun Dafa shirt. The Festival has a policy of equity, inclusion and diversity and welcomes all attendees from every race, religion, ethnicity and creed. All people, including Falun Gong practitioners, are welcome to the Festival."¹⁵⁹

The City of Ottawa also wrote Mr. Smith a letter stressing that under a city bylaw, holders of special-events permits cannot discriminate against anyone — "which includes Falun Gong practitioners" — based on creed and other grounds. Anyone who violates the bylaw is "guilty of an offence."¹⁶⁰

¹⁵⁵ [Today's letters: Don't take orders from China at Dragon Boat Festival](#) (July 2019). Ottawa Citizen.

¹⁵⁶ [Ottawa man says Dragon-boat festival CEO ordered him to remove Falun Gong shirt, citing Chinese sponsorship](#) (July 2019). National Post.

¹⁵⁷ Ibid. This National Post article mentioned that the Chinese embassy in Ottawa is listed as a "gold sponsor" of the festival.

¹⁵⁸ [20200211 HRTO 2019-38926-I](#) (February 2020) Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario File No. 2019-38926-I

¹⁵⁹ National Post: [Ottawa dragon boat festival apologizes for telling man to remove Falun Gong shirt](#), November 2023

¹⁶⁰ Ibid

Mr. Smith dropped the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal complaint after the apology.¹⁶¹

4.2 Exclusion of Falun Gong group from community participation

The Falun Gong community has been targeted for exclusion from various community events. Such exclusion was frequently the condition given by the Chinese embassy or one of the Chinese consulates for sponsoring the Canadian organization involved. This phenomenon is particularly concerning as these community events included some that were funded by Canadian taxpayers.

4.2.1 Exclusion from Vancouver Chinese New Year parade from 2003 to 2023

Since 2003, the Falun Gong community has been repeatedly denied participation in the Vancouver Chinese New Year (also known as Spring Festival) Parade. The parade office has cited various pretexts for these refusals, such as claims of not accepting new groups, not having received Falun Gong's application, or not having enough time allocated by the city government.

However, reports of new groups joining the parade every year, published by local Chinese-language newspapers such as China News, World Journal, Sing Tao Daily, and Ming Pao, belie the parade office's purported justification. Notably, parade participants have included Consul General Shugen Liang of the Chinese consulate of Vancouver,¹⁶² which suggests a potential reason for the exclusion of the Falun Gong community from this parade.

The parade's organizing coalition obtained civic status in the mid-2010s, enabling it to receive public funding for the event. Among the six lead organizations involved in organizing the annual parade,¹⁶³ two have been observed to adopt anti-human rights stances aligned with the CCP's narratives. The Chinese Benevolent Association of Vancouver is known for propagating the PRC's position on suppressing democracy in Hong Kong¹⁶⁴ and Tibetan voices,¹⁶⁵ while the Vancouver branch of the Chinese Freemasons supports the CCP's stance on Taiwan's unification

¹⁶¹ Ibid

¹⁶² [温哥华华埠新春大游行吸引六万人近半非华裔\(图\)](#) [in Chinese] (February 2011). China News.

¹⁶³ The six organizations co-organizing the parade include the Chinese Benevolent Association of Vancouver, the Shon Yee Benevolent Association of Canada, the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Vancouver, the Vancouver Chinatown Merchants Association, the Chinese Freemasons Vancouver Branch, and S.U.C.C.E.S.S. [Vancouver's Chinatown gears up for first Lunar New Year parade in years- BC](#) (January 2023). Global News Canada.

¹⁶⁴ [Vancouver group runs newspaper ad praising controversial new security law in Hong Kong](#) (July 2020). National Post.

¹⁶⁵ [提供不实讯息 温哥华新春游行主办方遭主流质疑 | 大纪元](#) (February 2011). The Epoch Times.

and Hong Kong's national security law.¹⁶⁶ This political alignment suggests a nexus between the CCP's agenda and the parade's exclusion of Falun Gong.

In 2008, despite support from notable figures like MP Bill Siksay, Peter Julian, and Fred Muzin, then-chairman of the BC Hospital Employees' Union, the Falun Gong group's application to participate continued to be rejected by the organizers, who cited the pretext of "crowd control," the same reason that had been used to exclude Falun Gong in the past.¹⁶⁷

¹⁶⁶ [Chinese Freemasons celebrate 160 years of community and cultural support in Canada](#) (March 2023). Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

¹⁶⁷ [提供不实讯息 温哥华新春游行主办方遭主流质疑 | 大纪元](#) (February 2011). The Epoch Times.

*cc: Mr. Tolson
file 475-1000
John Lee*

慶祝二零零八年春節籌備委員會
Chinatown Spring Festival 2008

Organized by
Chinese Benevolent Assoc. Vancouver Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Vancouver
Vancouver Chinatown Merchants Assoc. New Year Festival Assoc. Canada
Chinese Freemasons Vancouver Branch



February 2, 2008

Hospital Employees' Union
5000 North Fraser Way
Burnaby, BC
V5J 5M3

Attention: Mr. Fred Mazin, President

Dear Mr. Mazin,

Re: Chinatown Chinese New Year Parade

Thank you for your letter to the Chinese New Year Festival Planning Committee expressing your concern to the captioned event. We would like to bring your attention to the problem our Committee is facing in the past year. The parade was scheduled to be held for an hour and it turned out to be more than one and a half hour; thus, causing serious confusion to the neighborhood. In view of the situation, the Committee had decided to confine the event to no more than one and a half hour. That is why we do not accept any application to this year's parade, even some major sponsors who expressed keen interest to the parade. We are sure a Union like yours would understand the organizers have to face the security, safety and crowd control problems for such a major event with so many celebrities participating.

Once again, we would like to thank you for your concern to the event.

Yours truly,

James Lee
Chairman
Planning Committee

Letter from the Vancouver Chinatown Spring Festival 2008

Prominent Canadian politicians at the time, such as Minister of immigration Jason Kenney and Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff, voiced their support for the Falun Gong group's participation in

the parade. They emphasized the importance of inclusivity and the values of multiculturalism in Canada. Law professors alluded to the fact that providing false reasons to exclude a group based on its beliefs or political views is illegal and against established regulations in Canada.¹⁶⁸

4.2.2 Rejection of Falun Gong in community events in Calgary and Edmonton

Similar influences of community event organizations by the CCP have occurred in other cities. In 2008 in Calgary, the Chinese Cultural Centre rejected a Falun Gong practitioner's booth application for a community event, citing that all booths were sold out. However, when the group reapplied under a different name, its request was immediately approved, with staff explicitly stating that booths were available as long as they were not associated with Falun Gong.

In Edmonton, the Falun Dafa group's participation in the 2002 Klondike Days Parade was accepted, but its applications were rejected in 2003 and 2004 due to interference from the Chinese consulate. Media coverage of the issue prompted the organizers to eventually allow the Falun Dafa group to participate.

4.2.3 Falun Gong group rejected by public and civic organizations in Ottawa

In 2001, the Falun Gong group participated in the Ottawa Tulip Festival Flotilla boat parade. However, the next year, their application was unexpectedly rejected, marking the first-ever rejection in the festival's history. When Falun Gong representatives met with the festival's program manager to discuss this decision, she cited the Chinese embassy's sponsorship as the reason for the rejection. After significant media attention and public outcry, the festival reversed its decision and allowed Falun Gong to participate.¹⁶⁹

Again, in May 2008, due to pressure from Chinese embassy officials on-site, Falun Gong practitioners' Tian Guo Marching Band was banned from performing at the festival's opening ceremony, where the band had been invited to perform "O Canada" and "Maple Leaf Forever." The festival organizers said that the festival was in support of "international relationships." The Chinese embassy was a sponsor of the event. After a media and public outcry, the festival organizers eventually apologized¹⁷⁰ and welcomed the band back to play at the festival.¹⁷¹

¹⁶⁸ [提供不实讯息 温哥华新春游行主办方遭主流质疑 | 大纪元](#) (February 2011). The Epoch Times.

¹⁶⁹ [渥太华维护郁金香节的理念【明慧网】](#) (May 2002). Minghui.

¹⁷⁰ [Tulip Festival extends apology to Falun Gong](#) (May 2008). Canada Free Press.

¹⁷¹ [Tulip festival organizers issue formal apology](#) (May 2008). Canadian Television Network Ottawa.

In April 2008 and April 2009, for two consecutive years, Ottawa Public Health (OPH) employee Sally Zhang rejected the local Falun Gong group's application to participate in the "Health Is Wealth Fair" held during Asian Heritage Month. Ottawa Falun Gong practitioner Kay Lee filed a complaint with the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal citing discrimination on the basis of belief. In March 2011, after tribunal mediation, OPH issued an apology for its employee's decision, made compensation, and promised to educate its employees to prevent recurrence of similar discriminatory treatment of Falun Gong.¹⁷²

The CCP's influence and pressure on Canadian communities and institutions to exclude Falun Gong adversely impacts not just the Falun Gong community but also Canadian society as a whole, potentially leading some individuals and groups to align themselves with the CCP's anti-human rights agenda, in direct contradiction to Canadian values. Falun Gong practitioners' efforts to defend their right to fair treatment have helped to inform some of those individuals and organizations concerned not to follow the communist regime's harmful agenda.

4.3 Infiltration of academic institutions to suppress Falun Gong

4.3.1 Confucius Institute serving as CCP foreign agent

The Confucius Institute (CI) is a Chinese-language educational institute funded and overseen by the Ministry of Education of the Chinese government, operating globally.¹⁷³ Despite innocuously appearing as Chinese-language classes, CI has faced strong criticism for disseminating political propaganda, including denial of the Tiananmen Square massacre.¹⁷⁴

The Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) has identified CIs as fronts for Chinese espionage.¹⁷⁵ The U.S. State Department has designated the Confucius Institute U.S. Center (CIUS) as a foreign mission of the PRC.¹⁷⁶ Based in Washington, D.C., the PRC-funded CIUS is the think-tank arm of the network of CIs across the globe.

¹⁷² [Ottawa Public Health Apologizes to a Falun Gong Practitioner Unfairly Treated by Its Employee](#) (March 2011). Minghui.

¹⁷³ [US labels Confucius Institute a Chinese 'foreign mission' - BBC News](#) (August 2020). British Broadcasting Corporation.

¹⁷⁴ The House of Commons (May 2023). Interim Report of the Special Committee on the Canada-People's Republic of China Relationship "A Threat to Canadian Sovereignty- National Security Dimensions of the Canada-People's Republic of China Relationship." [A Threat to Canadian Sovereignty: National Security Dimensions of the Canada-People's Republic of China Relationship](#) p.35. Canadian House of Commons.

¹⁷⁵ Deputation of Michel Juneau-Katsuya, <https://mega.nz/file/K4J0zDgD#J73zGcSltCqY5CZveTjPVNC2UY1u9dhxJpt0SSDcme8P.1>

¹⁷⁶ <https://2017-2021.state.gov/designation-of-the-confucius-institute-u-s-center-as-a-foreign-mission-of-the-prc/> (Aug 2020) US State Department

Despite the number of CIs installed in or affiliated with Canadian universities having declined in recent years, CIs are being rebranded with new names and are still operating in some Canadian colleges and school boards.¹⁷⁷

4.3.2 Confucius Institute's discrimination against Falun Gong in hiring practice

The director of Carleton University's CI has testified before the House of Commons Special Committee on the Canada–People's Republic of China Relationship that the CI is open to everyone.¹⁷⁸ However, in reality, the CI has adopted discriminatory hiring practices targeted specifically at Falun Gong.

Sonia Zhao, a former instructor at McMaster's CI and a Falun Gong practitioner, when applying to teach at a CI, was required to sign an application form containing a clause that stipulated, "[teachers] are not allowed to join illegal organizations such as Falun Gong"¹⁷⁹ She filed a complaint with the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal in 2011 for the discrimination that she faced at McMaster CI for practising Falun Gong.

Despite Sonia Zhao's complaint, the CI headquarters in China was unwilling to remove this discriminatory clause from CI's hiring contract. As a result, McMaster University decided to close its CI in February 2013.^{180 181}

4.4 Control of Chinese students to suppress Falun Gong in Canada

The Chinese Students and Scholars Association (CSSA), a student organization that exists in many universities across the world, is known to be directly controlled by the PRC and has been accused of engaging in espionage.^{182 183} Beijing relies heavily on overseas Chinese students and

¹⁷⁷<https://www.theepochtimes.com/world/some-canadian-institutions-continue-to-host-chinas-confucius-institute-despite-latest-revelations-4915486> (December 2022) Epoch Times

¹⁷⁸ [A Threat to Canadian Sovereignty: National Security Dimensions of the Canada–People's Republic of China Relationship](#), p. 34. (May 2023). Canadian House of Commons.

¹⁷⁹<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/education/mcmaster-closing-confucius-institute-over-hiring-issues/article8372894/> (Feb 2013) Globe and Mail.

¹⁸⁰<https://bulletin-archives.caut.ca/bulletin/articles/2013/03/mcmaster-university-severs-ties-with-confucius-institute> (March 2013). CAUT Bulletin Archives

¹⁸¹<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/education/mcmaster-closing-confucius-institute-over-hiring-issues/article8372894/> (Feb 2013) Globe and Mail.

¹⁸² [How Beijing's Invisible Hand Infiltrates Canadian Campuses | The Epoch Times](#) (February 2019). The Epoch Times; [Student group with links to Beijing banned from McMaster](#) (October 2019). University World News.

¹⁸³ Hamilton, C. (2018). *Silent invasion: China's influence in Australia*. Hardie Grant Books.

communities to carry out its spying and other influence activities, capitalizing on their sense of patriotism to enlist their services.¹⁸⁴

4.4.1. Chinese students paid to disrupt a film event on forced organ harvesting at Ontario university

In 2018, Paula Chen, a student at the Ontario College of Art & Design University (OCAD), organized a screening of the documentary "Human Harvest" with Professor Cheung and lawyer Mr. An, who are experts on the issue of forced organ harvesting of Falun Gong practitioners.

Before the event, members of the Chinese Students Association (CSA) at OCAD tore down event posters and unsuccessfully demanded its cancellation. During the screening, a large group of Chinese students disrupted the event, making inappropriate comments and laughing during scenes depicting forced organ harvesting.

Leaders from the group revealed that they were paid to disrupt the event. These actions highlight the coordinated and organized nature of the disruption. The CSA and CSSA are known as Chinese "government-sponsored agencies" overseeing Chinese students abroad, as mentioned in Jonathan Manthorpe's book "Claws of the Panda," with oversight from Chinese diplomatic missions, such as the Toronto Chinese consulate in this case.¹⁸⁵

4.4.2 Students of the PRC coerced to join counter-protest on Parliament Hill

In June 2010, the Chinese embassy's first secretary of the education section, Shaohua Liu, conducted a briefing for Chinese overseas students in Canada ahead of CCP leader Hu Jintao's state visit to Canada. The purpose of the briefing was to mobilize Chinese students to stage a "counter-protest" against alleged "enemies" of the state who were expected to protest human rights violations in China during Hu Jintao's visit.¹⁸⁶

¹⁸⁴ [The Chinese Communist Party's Foreign Interference Operations: How the U.S. and Other Democracies Should Respond](#) (June, 2018). Hudson Institute.

¹⁸⁵ Manthorpe, J. (2019). *Claws of the panda: Beijing's campaign of influence and intimidation in Canada*. Cormorant Books Inc.

¹⁸⁶ Chinese Embassy to Students: Prepare for 'War' During Hu's Visit to Ottawa | The Epoch Times(October 2015). The Epoch Times.

Shaohua Liu promised a turnout of 3,000 people to counter-protest for the CCP. A tape recording obtained by The Epoch Times¹⁸⁷ revealed instructions from Liu and Pinghua Yuan,¹⁸⁸ who organized the meeting. Liu emphasized that the event was mandatory for government-funded students, framing it as a "political struggle" to protect China's reputation.¹⁸⁹ Students were offered transportation, meals, free T-shirts, and \$50 per day in compensation.¹⁹⁰

Furthermore, the embassy stressed secrecy, cautioning students not to disclose the conversation to outsiders, as it would endanger the embassy.¹⁹¹ This incident is not isolated, as it exemplifies a pattern of rallies instigated and organized by the Chinese embassy or consulates to disrupt and suppress demonstrations and protests carried out by Chinese dissidents, against persecution and various human rights issues and atrocities in China.

4.4.3 Falun Gong practitioner threatened by Chinese Students and Scholars Association

In 2005, the vice-chair of the CSSA at the University of Ottawa wrote to student Lingdi Zhang, a Falun Gong practitioner, who participated in demonstrations during official visits from the PRC.¹⁹² The email cautioned her that they were aware that she practised Falun Gong and warned her to "watch out" for herself. The email also disclosed that the CSSA at the University of Ottawa was under the direct leadership of the Education Office at the Chinese embassy in Canada.¹⁹³

4.5 Interference experienced by Canadian businesses supporting Shen Yun performance

Shen Yun is a New York-based classical Chinese dance performing arts group hosted by local Falun Dafa associations around the world since 2006. A Shen Yun performance features classical

¹⁸⁷ Excerpts of Shaohua Liu's original recording (with Chinese transcript and English translation):

<https://mega.nz/folder/G5QmVajQ#JYYS0H2M5LZ3nJbzFOHA>

¹⁸⁸ Transcripts Released: Chinese Embassy Directing Students to Rally for Hu Jintao | The Epoch Times (October 2015). The Epoch Times. [tape referred to footnote 154 & 157]

¹⁸⁹ Ibid.

¹⁹⁰ Tape Reveals Embassy Footing Bill for Hu Jintao's Welcome Rally (January 2019). The Epoch Times.

¹⁹¹ Transcripts Released: Chinese Embassy Directing Students to Rally for Hu Jintao | The Epoch Times (October 2015). The Epoch Times.

¹⁹² [Harassment and Intimidation of Individuals in Canada Working on China-related Activism](#) (April 2017). Amnesty International.

¹⁹³ [How Beijing's Invisible Hand Infiltrates Canadian Campuses | The Epoch Times](#) (February 2019). The Epoch Times.

stories of courage, wisdom, and virtue from ancient China as well as experiences of religious persecution in contemporary China. Chinese embassies and consulates around the world have tried to sabotage and prevent the show from performing in different parts of the world.^{194 195} The following two incidents highlight the Chinese consulate's influence on Canadian businesses not to support Shen Yun's performances abroad.

In 2008, the Chinese consulate in Calgary sabotaged a sponsorship deal between Shen Yun and Travel Alberta involving a tour of Banff National Park for the Shen Yun performers. Chinese Consul General Xinjian Wu coerced and induced Travel Alberta into cancelling the sponsorship. Wu threatened Travel Alberta's head, warning of negative repercussions on its business relationship with China and future visa applications.¹⁹⁶ Although Travel Alberta was initially supportive and enthusiastic about this deal, it terminated the deal on April 11, 2008, citing pressure from the Chinese consulate.

The Chinese consulate also pressured the Calgary Tourism Bureau to withdraw from the sponsorship, which would have led to the hosting of an opening reception and gifting cowboy hats for Shen Yun performers – known as an act of honour in Calgary.¹⁹⁷

In attempts to stop Shen Yun from performing in Calgary and Edmonton, fraudulent emails impersonating Falun Gong practitioners were sent to the manager of the Northern and Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditoriums in 2010 and 2011.¹⁹⁸

These emails, written in broken English, had a threatening tone and accused both the theatre manager and the Alberta culture minister of being “evil” if they did not show support for Shen Yun. The emails went on to say that those who opposed the show would be “punished.”

The aim of these emails apparently was to make Falun Gong practitioners appear irrational, zealous, and unbalanced, and to create animosity between them and the email recipients in order to discredit the group and their activities.

¹⁹⁴ Overview: Why is the Communist Party Going After Shen Yun? <http://leeshaillemish.com/on-shen-yun/2019/01/23/overview-why-is-the-communist-party-going-after-shen-yun/> Leeshaillemish.

¹⁹⁵ Incidents & Evidence <http://leeshaillemish.com/on-shen-yun/whos-afraid-of-shen-yun/> Leeshaillemish.

¹⁹⁶ Travel Alberta ends sponsorship plans after call from Chinese government [Travel Alberta ends sponsorship plans after call from Chinese government](#) (April 2008). Marketing Magazine.

¹⁹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁹⁸ [Third wave of fraudulent emails sent to officials in Alberta](#) (November 2012). The Epoch Times.

In 2010, Chinese consulate interference with Shen Yun also took place in the city of Winnipeg, Manitoba. A business in Chinatown had agreed to sponsor Shen Yun in exchange for an ad in Shen Yun's program book. Shortly thereafter, an individual affiliated with the Chinese consulate warned the sponsor's husband against supporting Shen Yun. The sponsor was surprised that the consulate knew of their plan, which had never been publicly disclosed.

4.6 Ottawa senior had Chinese senior association membership rescinded

In December 2001, the Chinese embassy exerted pressure on the Ottawa Chinese Senior Association (OCSA) to rescind the membership of Daming Huang, an elderly Falun Gong practitioner, because of her belief in Falun Gong.¹⁹⁹

The incident occurred while Daming Huang was at a New Year's celebration also attended by the consul general of the Chinese embassy, Ping Huang. Ping Huang recognized Daming Huang as a Falun Gong practitioner. At the end of the event, the association's secretary informed Daming Huang that her membership had been rescinded.²⁰⁰

Another association member stated in an affidavit that she overheard Consul General Ping Huang instructing the OCSA chair that "the association should not allow persons who practise Falun Gong to join the association."²⁰¹ Daming Huang's membership was unilaterally terminated because of her spiritual belief as a result of the consul general's instruction.

The case was brought to the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal,²⁰² which ruled in Daming Huang's favour, finding the association in violation of the Human Rights Code of Ontario. The association was ordered to pay a sum of \$15,000 in damages to Daming Huang to compensate for the infringement of her rights.²⁰³ Daming Huang was not the only Falun Gong practitioner banned from joining the association.²⁰⁴

¹⁹⁹ [Huang v. 1233065 Ontario Inc. \(Ottawa Senior Chinese Cultural Association\), 2006 HRTO 1 \(CanLII\)](#) (January 2006). Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario.

²⁰⁰ Matas & Cheung, 2012.

²⁰¹ Ibid.

²⁰² [Huang v. 1233065 Ontario Inc. \(Ottawa Senior Chinese Cultural Association\), 2006 HRTO 1 \(CanLII\)](#) (January 2006). Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario.

²⁰³ [Huang v. 1233065 Ontario, 2011 HRTO 825 \(CanLII\)](#) (April 2011). Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario

²⁰⁴ [Huang v. 1233065 Ontario Inc. \(Ottawa Senior Chinese Cultural Association\), 2006 HRTO 1 \(CanLII\)](#) (January 2006). Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario.

The association, under the direction of the Chinese embassy, never paid Ms. Huang the damage. Instead, it dissolved the association.

Concluding Remarks

Although the cases summarized in this part are mostly non-violent, they are no less damaging. By inducing or pressuring Canadians and Canadian communities to marginalize or discriminate against Falun Gong practitioners, the CCP erodes Canada's commitment to upholding Canadian values and damages the fabric of Canadian society itself.

By excluding Falun Gong practitioners from Canada's public and social life, the CCP also cultivates an environment of intolerance and hostility toward the Falun Gong community in Canada. Such behaviour also breeds impunity toward the violence, assault, and harassment that the CCP commits against Falun Gong practitioners on Canadian soil, which has been the mainstay of its foreign interference and repression against Falun Gong in Canada for the past 25 years, as highlighted in the next part.



Part III

Grassroots experiences of physical violence, harassment, and assault by Falun Gong Community in Canada

Falun Gong practitioners in Canada endure interference ranging from disruption to violence when they practise their faith and clarify the truth about Falun Gong publicly in Canada. These incidents range from gun threats, physical assault, harassment, and intimidation to coordinated and sometimes dangerous acts of mischief such as tire slashing. The CCP also attacks and harasses Falun Gong practitioners via the airwaves and cyberspace, through means such as cyberattacks, phone harassment, surveillance, and censorship and banning on Chinese social media platforms.

Even elderly Falun Gong practitioners are not exempt from violent mistreatment. Practitioners' family members in China are also targeted by the CCP, leading to disruptions in their family life and in some cases, forced severance of family ties. The CCP carries out these acts to suppress Falun Gong activities as well as to instill fear in the Falun Gong community in both Canada and China.

Perpetrators of these acts of aggression are believed to be agents or affiliates of the Chinese consulates and embassy. Some have directly proclaimed to be working under the direction of the Chinese consulate. In other instances, the perpetrators appear to be acting in coordination with Chinese officials.

The incidents of violence and harassment experienced by Falun Gong practitioners are not random or sporadic. Some perpetrators have been seen to follow and target Falun Gong practitioners repeatedly, in different places and at different times. Acts of mischief and sabotage such as slashing tires have been timed and calculated to disrupt important activities by Falun Gong practitioners, such as public speeches or other significant events exposing the CCP's persecution of Falun Gong in China.

The attacks and harassments against Falun Gong practitioners continue to remain frequent and severe over the past two decades, indicating a persistence and continuity in the CCP's transnational repression of Falun Gong in Canada.

CHAPTER FIVE

Physical & Verbal Assault

5.1 Physical assault

5.1.1 Senior splashed with hot coffee while raising awareness outside Toronto Chinese consulate

On February 9, 2023, a Chinese national drove by and splashed a cup of hot coffee over Shenyun Niu, a 72-year-old Falun Gong practitioner, during her routine peaceful protest against the CCP's persecution of Falun Gong outside the Chinese consulate in Toronto at 240 St. George Street. The assailant also verbally abused her with profanity and insults.

Fellow practitioners at the site took a picture of the assailant's car (see picture below). They noticed that this prominent luxury car was sometimes parked on the consulate's premises.



The assailant's licence plate was captured in a photo.

5.1.2 Elderly practitioner choked at Nathan Phillips Square, Toronto

On April 27, 2022, a Caucasian man came to a Falun Gong truth-clarification site at Nathan Phillips Square and ripped the practitioners' banner. When an elderly practitioner, Shuliang Ren, tried to stop him, he choked Ren's neck and did not release his hold until a bystander intervened. Although the attacker was a non-Chinese, the abuse pattern was very similar to the harassment behaviours displayed by Chinese nationals suspected of being sent by the consulate to Nathan Phillips Square (refer 5.2.2).

In recent years, non-Chinese have been identified in assaults against Falun Gong practitioners in public places. The ethnic appearance of the assailants has changed but the patterns of assault have remained constant over the past 25 years.

5.1.3 Dangerous spikes on Calgary Falun Gong practitioner's cars

A dangerous situation occurred in November 2014 in Calgary, where a forum on forced organ harvesting was scheduled to be held featuring author Ethan Gutmann and his new book, "The

Slaughter: Mass Killings, Organ Harvesting, and China's Secret Solution to Its Dissident Problem." During that month of preparation for the event, organizer Jeff Yang had two of his cars vandalized four times with knife slashes and screws, including tires that were punctured and a front windshield that was damaged. If the slashes had gone unnoticed, the potential burst of the tire on the highway could have resulted in a fatal traffic accident. All incidents were reported to the police.²⁰⁵



Top left: Cracked windshield. Top right: Tire punctured on November 13, 2014. Bottom: Tire punctured by a nail.

Mr. Yang's case was not an isolated incident. In March 2006, soon after allegations and evidence of forced organ harvesting against Falun Gong practitioners taking place in China first arose, Ottawa practitioners held a protest in front of the Chinese embassy. It was one of the first protests on this issue globally. After the event, the coordinator of the national Falun Dafa

²⁰⁵ This was not the first time that Jeff Yang encountered a life-threatening incident after working on a Falun Gong-related event. In April 2008, right after the Shen Yun performance was hosted in Calgary, a pick-up truck suddenly ran very close to his car on an undivided highway, clearly with the intent of pushing him into the lane where traffic was coming from the opposite direction. Fortunately, a truck travelling down that lane saw what happened and honked to warn him. Mr. Yang then drove back onto his proper lane. The pickup truck driver immediately drove off, running a red light.

Association of Canada, Xun Li, found that one side of the rear window of his van parked nearby was smashed.²⁰⁶

5.1.4 Shen Yun tour bus tire slashed in Ottawa

Shen Yun Performing Arts is a Chinese classical dance company with a stated mission of reviving the true Chinese culture that has been systematically destroyed by the CCP. Every year, Shen Yun visits different cities in Canada to perform. These performances are hosted by the local Falun Dafa associations.

On January 13, 2010, after driving to Montreal following a performance in Ottawa, Shen Yun's bus driver noticed strange cut marks on one of the front tires of the touring company's bus. Upon inspection at Motor Coach International in Montreal, a member of the staff servicing the bus said that the cuts were made by a blade.^{207 208}

The tire was slashed in such a way that the tire would not go flat immediately but would only subsequently burst after heating and expanding while the bus was being driven on the road. It was also the front tire that was slashed, which means that when the tire burst, the bus would be expected to lose control—endangering the lives of 50 passengers from Shen Yun on board. The case was reported to Ottawa police, but no report has yet been received from the police.

The tire incident was part of a series of similar events. Three days later, a tire on another Shen Yun tour bus burst at 1 a.m. while the bus was travelling on I-40 West between Memphis and Little Rock. Two days later, during a pre-trip inspection in Little Rock, slashes were found again on another Shen Yun vehicle. Similar incidents occurred again in 2015 and 2016 during the Shen Yun tour season.²⁰⁹

²⁰⁶ [Harassment and Intimidation of Individuals in Canada Working on China-related Activism](#) (April 2017). Amnesty International.

²⁰⁷ <http://leeshailemish.com/on-shen-yun/whos-afraid-of-shen-yun/> (2014). Leeshailemish.

²⁰⁸ <https://www.theepochtimes.com/article/slashed-tire-posed-threat-to-chinese-performers-in-ottawa-1518634> (December 2015). The Epoch Times.

²⁰⁹ <http://leeshailemish.com/on-shen-yun/whos-afraid-of-shen-yun/> (2014). Leeshailemish.

5.1.5 Vancouver Falun Gong practitioner threatened at gunpoint at protest site

On August 3, 2007, Vancouver practitioner Raymond Zhang, a 33-year-old chemistry technician, was put to gunpoint while meditating outside the Chinese consulate on Granville Street. This attack occurred around 5:30 a.m. The assailants were three Asian men.²¹⁰

While meditating, Raymond heard footsteps and witnessed one of the men tearing down a Falun Gong banner nearby. The same individual then pointed a gun at Raymond and yelled, "Get out of here! Don't stay here!" Subsequently, the three assailants punched him in the face. The assault only came to an end when a TransLink bus driver intervened, causing the assailants to flee.

Raymond suffered fractures on the left side of his face, internal bleeding, and a bruised face with a bloody left eye.²¹¹

This incident happened when the Chinese consulate was actively trying to remove this protest site (refer to section 3.1.2.7).

5.1.6 Student beaten inside Chinese embassy in Ottawa

On December 28, 2001, Xueliang Wang, a Falun Gong practitioner and graduate student at the University of Ottawa, received an email invitation as a member of a student group and attended a New Year's Eve movie event at the Chinese embassy in Ottawa. While taking a photograph of an anti-Falun Gong exhibition, embassy staff recognized him as a Falun Gong practitioner and physically assaulted him. Wang was dragged into a room against his will, where he was beaten and had his camera taken away by force.²¹²

5.1.7 Woman assaulted at Chinese official delegation's public meeting in Toronto

In August 2001, during a visit by Chinese officials to establish an appeal office for Chinese Canadians in Toronto, Falun Gong practitioners were assaulted and silenced when they questioned the delegates' announcement prohibiting Falun Gong practitioners from appealing. During the announcement, Ms. Haiying Liu asked, "Could you tell me, aren't Falun Gong

²¹⁰ <https://www.canadafreepress.com/2007/epoch-times080307.html> [the links are not accessible anymore but were archived upon request]

²¹¹ <https://o.canada.com/vancouver/news/westcoastnews/story.html?id=481ddcec-01d9-417f-86bc-a704e7dcf06> [the links are not accessible anymore but were archived upon request]

²¹² Case details in section 5.2 of the "Extending the Persecution of Falun Gong to Canada" report <https://www.upholdjustice.org/node/82> (March 2004). WOIPFG.

practitioners human beings, too?" She was immediately dragged from her chair by two men who grabbed her arms and forcibly removed her.²¹³ Another practitioner took some photographs while waiting, and was slapped on his face and splashed with hot tea on his body and his camera.

5.2 Verbal abuse and harassment

Verbal abuse and harassment are some of the most common experiences faced by Falun Gong practitioners in Canada when they attempt to tell the public the facts about their practice and the persecution of Falun Gong taking place in China. Forms of harassment include threats, stalking, and surveillance.

5.2.1 A 78-year old Falun Gong practitioner being harassed for hours at CN Tower

On August 20, 2023, 78-year-old Chuanying Zhou, a Falun Gong practitioner, hung a banner in front of the CN Tower with a message to stop the persecution of Falun Gong. Around 11:30 a.m., a young woman confronted her and mocked her for practising "Truthfulness, Compassion, and Tolerance." The woman swore at Ms. Zhou hysterically and proceeded to forcibly take the Falun Gong materials from Ms. Zhou photographed her while a male accomplice also verbally harassed her. The incident lasted for a few hours.

When Ms. Zhou, who lives in Chinatown, started to walk home, the female perpetrator followed her and cursed her from a distance. Eventually, a police officer asked Ms. Zhou whether she wanted the woman to be arrested, to which she agreed. At the police station, the officer assured Ms. Zhou that the woman would face criminal charges.

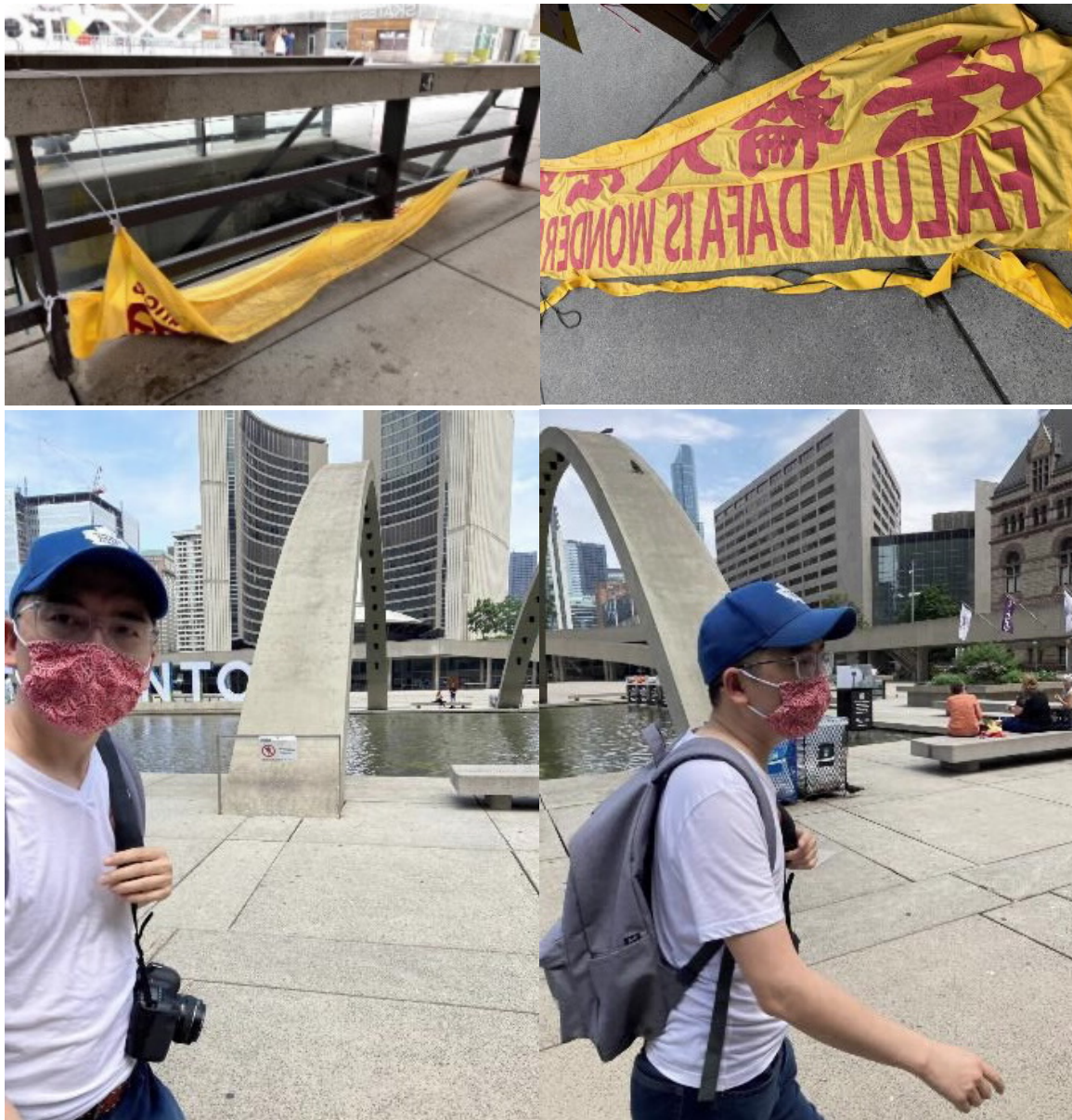
5.2.2 Harassment and sabotage in downtown Toronto

Many Falun Gong practitioners engaging in truth-clarification activities outside the Chinese embassy or consulate and in other public places have had their picture taken by suspicious individuals. In Toronto, a female practitioner, Annie Fang was followed by such an individual on September 30, 2022, at 3:24 p.m. Annie recalled that the same man had disrupted various Falun Gong sites a number of times in the vicinity. The man followed Annie, took pictures of her, swore at Falun Gong, and snatched her hat and phone when Annie also tried to take a picture of him.

²¹³ Case details in section 5.3 of the above report <https://www.upholdjustice.org/node/82> (March 2004). WOIPFG



The man in the above photos taken at Chinatown was the person who harassed Annie. The same man had on another occasion torn down a Falun Gong banner outside City Hall at Nathan Phillips Square in downtown Toronto. He took pictures of Falun Gong practitioners at that site, ripped their banner, and verbally insulted the practitioners on April 4, 2022, as shown in the pictures below. The repeated targeting of Falun Gong activities by this man at different locations and different times suggests that he is not a random passerby. He was seen again in May 2024 taking very close-up photographs of a practitioner during a downtown event.



5.2.3 Same woman harassed practitioners at Scarborough subway station in Toronto and Niagara Falls

In the afternoon of August 25, 2022, four Falun Gong practitioners, Yumin Zhang, Guiqin Chen, Xinan Ye, and Lingjuan Wang, were outside the Scarborough subway station distributing truth-clarification flyers when they were harassed by a woman (as seen in the photo). The woman, who was holding a "Jesus" sign, yelled at them through a loudspeaker in Chinese, saying: "You are an evil cult," "You are liars," and "You have been kicked out of China."



Woman disrupting Falun Dafa truth-clarification sites, This set of pictures was taken by Falun Gong practitioners on August 25, 2022, outside the Scarborough subway station.

This woman assaulted another Falun Gong group in Niagara Falls one week later. The repeated presence of this individual at different Falun Dafa truth-clarification locations with great distance between each other suggests that she is not a random passerby.

When one of the practitioners asked her, "How much did you get from the Chinese consulate?" she replied, "That's another pair of shoes." This woman's actions were persistent. Whenever

she saw someone accepting a Falun Gong flyer from one of the practitioners, she would disrupt the scene and tell that person not to take the flyer. When the practitioners went inside the station to take the subway home, they saw the woman following and stalking them.

On September 2, 2022, the same woman was identified, this time leading a group of Chinese people, at a Falun Gong practice in Niagara Falls, where the group harassed the Falun Gong practitioners at the scene. They yelled through their speakers in abusive language slandering Falun Gong. They also used the wooden signs they were carrying to strike the practitioners.



Same woman interfering with Falun Gong practice site in Niagara Falls.

The Chinese group's appearance at the Falun Gong practice site in Niagara Falls is unlikely to be a random incident, as the Falun Gong group would only go there a few days each month.

5.2.4 Harassment at rally outside Calgary consulate by CCP agent falsely claiming to be City of Calgary employee

On August 21, 2017, a group of Falun Gong practitioners in Calgary rallied in front of the Chinese consulate in the city centre to expose the CCP's crime of organ harvesting from Falun Gong practitioners in China. Around 4 p.m., a Chinese man accompanied by an Indigenous man appeared and began to disrupt the rally.

The Chinese man claimed to be a City of Calgary employee and shouted at the practitioners. He refused to show his ID when asked, but said their gathering was illegal. He tore down their banner that said "Stop organ removal from living people."



Man tears down Falun Dafa banner, claiming that he is an employee from the city of Calgary

When Falun Gong practitioner Jeff Yang stepped forward to intervene, the Chinese man swore at him in Chinese. Mr. Yang then called 911 and reported the incident to police. The Chinese man continued to slander the practitioners while preparing to leave.



The Indigenous man covered his face while the Chinese man recorded the practitioners on his phone. However, in another photo, the Indigenous man's face could be seen.

After the event, Ms. Jiang from the Falun Gong group returned to the site after the others had left. She saw two individuals come out of the Chinese consulate to talk with the Indigenous man.

Later, Jeff Yang was informed by police that they had already identified the Chinese man and would keep an eye on him.

A concluding remark

The physical and verbal assaults of Falun Gong practitioners have been rampant over the years, especially in major city centres in Canada. The assaults, almost always accompanied by harassment, caused injury and distress to Falun Gong practitioners who were only engaging in respectful and peaceful truth-clarification activities. Despite reporting the cases to the police, most victims were not informed about the outcomes of the investigations, even though most elected to press charges against their attackers.

CHAPTER SIX

Intimidation & Surveillance

Since the start of the persecution of Falun Gong in 1999, Falun Gong practitioners in Canada have been subjected to heavy surveillance by the CCP on Canadian soil. Through this spying, the CCP has obtained the personal information of many Canadian Falun Gong practitioners. The CCP uses this information to make threatening phone calls, conduct cyberattacks, and carry out other malign activities against these practitioners. In the case of practitioners with family members in China, the CCP uses the information to intimidate, threaten, and blackmail their family members back home.

6.1 Recent increase of harassment, threats, intimidation, and sabotage

Falun Gong practitioners in the past two years have experienced increasingly more frequent cases of harassment, threats, intimidation, and sabotage on Canadian soil while raising awareness or hosting the Chinese classical dance performance, Shen Yun. Documented below are a bomb threat in Vancouver in March 2024 and a death threat in Toronto in January 2024.

6.1.1 Bomb threat in Vancouver while hosting Shen Yun in March 2024

On March 24, 2024, in Vancouver, during the Shen Yun show at Queen Elizabeth Theatre hosted by the Vancouver Falun Dafa Association, an email containing a bomb threat was sent to the theatre. The sender, using a Chinese name, threatened to detonate the bombs he or she claimed to have been placed in the venue if Shen Yun was allowed to perform. The email read as follows:

“We randomly placed a lot of bombs in the theater. If you don't want us to detonate the bombs, please refuse Shen Yun Performing Arts to perform here immediately! And expel

the relevant personnel to leave. If the show starts successfully, we will directly detonate these bombs! ! !”

Theatre staff reported the incident to the Vancouver police and RCMP (report #: VA24-48329).

The threats were suspected to have been orchestrated by the CCP. Similar threats were also sent to theatres in Taiwan and the United States.²¹⁴ Shen Yun’s training centre Feitian Academy in New York also received threats of bombing and mass shooting during the same period.

Earlier this year the Falun Dafa Information Center, a U.S.-based human rights organization, documented 135 incidents of CCP interference with Shen Yun performances in 38 countries.²¹⁵ Leaked CCP documents indicate that the interference originates from the very top of the Party. Chinese diplomats were the primary actors in 81 out of the 135 incidents.

The recent bomb threat indicates that the threat to the Falun Gong community is escalating.

6.1.2 Constant surveillance, harassment with life-threatening intimidation outside consulate in Toronto

A prominent example is at the sites at the Chinese consulate and its visa office at 393 University Ave. in Toronto. Surveillance has been constant. Practitioners have been harassed on a weekly basis by Chinese nationals believed to be sent from the Chinese consulate in Toronto or their proxies.

Not only did practitioners find that their photos were being taken by various individuals they believed to be Chinese nationals, but they were also sworn at, in some cases for nearly an hour, with some experiencing aggressive verbal assaults. The variety and large number of people involved indicate that the CCP has hired many people to monitor Falun Gong practitioners.

On Aug. 16, 2022, a Chinese woman’s reply to a practitioner's questioning of her presence indicated that she was sent by the consulate. She told the practitioners that she was there to fulfil her duty by taking pictures and sending them to the consulate.

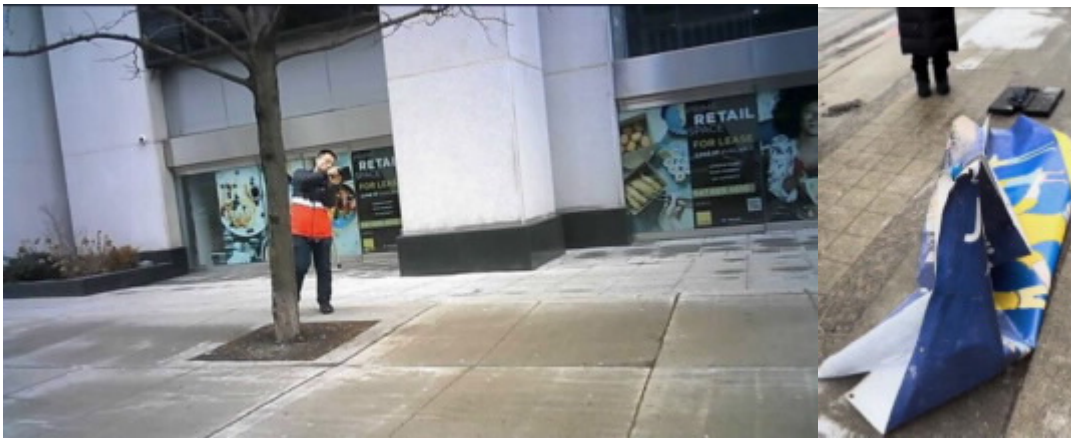
²¹⁴ <https://faluninfo.net/bomb-threats-mark-new-low-in-campaign-to-silence-shen-yun/>

²¹⁵ <https://library.faluninfo.net/diplomatic-disruptions-and-disinformation-beijings-global-drive-to-stop-shen-yun/>

6.1.2.1 Death threat to Toronto Falun Gong practitioners with a metal bar outside Chinese consulate visa office

393 University Ave. in Toronto is the Chinese consulate's visa office. Falun Gong practitioners hold banners there and distribute flyers to passersby every weekday to raise awareness of the persecution.

On Jan. 23, 2024, the Chinese man pictured below repeatedly struck the Falun Gong banner hanging outside the visa office with a metal bar until it was torn (see video clip capture of the big torn banner).²¹⁶ He also shouted at the Falun Gong volunteers, took pictures of them, and threatened them by saying, "I'll kill you."



When the volunteers called the police, the man left, but later came out from the nearby Staples store while the police officers were there. A practitioner spotted him and told the police, who took him away.

²¹⁶ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1lo7BpXsQiCAdUNSI-jKZyGJjuTZwnpoi/view>



The above-mentioned assailant was arrested.

The man came back several times. Practitioners believe he was hired by CCP proxies in the Chinatown area to harass them during their activities.

On Jan. 26, 2024, two female practitioners were at the visa office site at 2 p.m. when the same man came with the same metal bar, harassing them by shouting and scolding, taking pictures, and again threatening to kill them.

A practitioner videotaped him and he ran away. On the next day, practitioners went to the 52nd Division of the Toronto Police Service to report the incident. Police have since informed the practitioners that they have arrested the man and would ask the court to issue a restraining order (police report #24-203654).

6.2 Family members intimidated in mainland China

Through monitoring and surveillance, the CCP obtains the identity of their family members that it blackmails, threatens, and harasses through its local public security personnel in China. Such tactics disrupt the victims' family life and in severe cases destroy their family relationships.

6.2.1 Anastasia Lin²¹⁷

Anastasia Lin emigrated from China to Canada with her mother in 2003. She pursued her acting career through the University of Toronto Theatre program and is a Falun Gong practitioner. In 2015, she won the Miss World Canada pageant and was scheduled to represent Canada in the finals of the Global Miss World pageant held in China the same year. However, due to her spiritual belief and advocacy for the religious freedom of Falun Gong and for human rights in China in general, she was denied entry to China and declared persona non grata.

Her father, a businessman in Hunan Province, received threats from the Chinese Ministry of State Security (MSS) shortly after Anastasia received the Miss World Canada title in 2015. Under tremendous pressure and intimidation, he asked her to stop speaking out against the CCP's persecution of Falun Gong, and stated that they would otherwise be forced to "go separate ways." Her story has been reported by human rights organizations²¹⁸ and featured as an example of the transnational repression of Falun Gong. Her story can be found in Ben Roger's new book "The China Nexus: Thirty Years In And Around The Chinese Communist Party's Tyranny."²¹⁹

Ms. Lin is not alone in this experience. Many practitioners in Canada with family members in China have had similar experiences, where their relatives have been and continue to be harassed and intimidated by the Chinese authorities in mainland China. Many family members have been intimidated and pressured to such a degree that they have asked to cease contact with the Canadian Falun Gong practitioners, which has been heartwrenching for all concerned.

6.2.2 Wenli Sun and Yuping Zhao

In 2023, after Falun Gong practitioner Wenli Sun spoke at a public rally in April, his family in mainland China received a harassment phone call right away.

A similar situation took place for Falun Gong practitioner Yuping Zhao, who came to Canada in 2009. In 2010, she attended a press conference outside the Chinese consulate on April 23 to talk about her imprisonment and forced labour experience in China. Right after the event, her husband was contacted by police in mainland China who complained about her "anti-CCP" work

²¹⁷ Anastasia Lin's case is well-known. After which cases were in chronological order. Also to protect the security of practitioners, their residing cities are suppressed.

²¹⁸ [Harassment and intimidation of individuals in Canada working on China-related human rights concerns: An update](#) (March 2020). Canadian Coalition on Human Rights & Amnesty International Canada.

²¹⁹ Roger, B. (2022). *The China Nexus: Thirty Years In And Around The Chinese Communist Party's Tyranny*. Paperback.

in Canada. When her speech was published on Minghui, an official Falun Gong website, her husband was visited by police again. As a result, her husband pressured her to stop speaking out in Canada.

The coincidence in timing between the practitioners' activities in Canada and the harassment that their family members encountered in China indicates that Falun Gong practitioners are being closely monitored in Canada.

6.2.3 Helen Li

Helen Li frequently clarifies the truth about Falun Gong in her city's Chinatown. In the fall of 2022, a Chinese man appeared outside Helen's residence and told her that he knows who her father is. Although Helen ignored him, her father started receiving frequent intimidation phone calls from local police in China, threatening him with Helen's life and safety. He was asked to persuade Helen to stop practising Falun Gong.

6.2.4 Anna Hu

During the summer of 2021, Anna's family in mainland China was harassed by local police. Anna believes that her daughter, a reporter for The Epoch Times newspaper in Canada, was likely being monitored. Local police in Anna's hometown contacted Anna's mother, sister, and former husband to gather information about Anna's daughter's situation in Canada. They even showed her family members in mainland China photos of her daughter working in Canada. Such intimidation by the local police has seriously threatened the safety of Anna's family members in China and caused Anna a great deal of worry about the safety of her family members in Canada as well.

6.2.5 Tao Qiong

Many Canadian practitioners' family members in mainland China have been interrogated by local public security personnel in China, in sessions euphemistically known as "tea sessions." The purpose of these sessions was to gather details and personal information of designated Falun Gong practitioners in Canada.

In 2010, the mother of Tao Qiong, a Falun Gong practitioner in Canada who actively participated in truth-clarification activities, was forced to attend "tea sessions" with state public security officers in mainland China every two months. They gathered information about Ms. Qiong regarding her husband's workplace, her daughters' schools, and her younger brother's

workplace in mainland China. They also wanted to know when Ms. Qiong's mother would be visiting her in Canada.

6.2.6 Ying Zhu

In 2002, a family member of Ying Zhu travelled from mainland China to Canada for business and paid her a visit. Upon his return to China, he was immediately interrogated by the national security bureau. The agents inquired about his purpose in visiting Ying.

During that same year, Ying's family sent some money to her account via a relative in Hong Kong. Subsequently, her relative's account was frozen on the grounds of "financially supporting Falun Gong activities."²²⁰ This incident suggests that the CCP authorities possess bank account information of Canadian Falun Gong practitioners, which calls to question how they were able to obtain this information.

6.3 Harassing phone calls

Another type of harassment and threat commonly experienced by Falun Gong practitioners in Canada is intimidating phone calls. Many practitioners who reside in major Canadian cities have received intimidating Chinese phone calls since 1999.

Practitioners who are active in helping Chinese people withdraw from the CCP via phone calls frequently have their phones hacked. One of these volunteers is Rachel Wang, who always receives harassing phone calls that are full of abusive and profane language. These practitioners believe that the callers are paid by the CCP.

The following case is another, but by no means the only, example of phone harassment that has become part of everyday reality for some Falun Gong practitioners in Canada.

6.3.1 Harassing phone calls received by Ms. Zhou in Ottawa

Since 1999, Ottawa Falun Gong practitioner Ms. Zhou has been receiving numerous strange phone calls at her home landline. These calls often consist of recorded rants in Mandarin Chinese defaming Falun Gong. Some robo calls replay CCP propaganda songs that praise the Chinese Communist Party and its leaders. Ms. Zhou felt most unsettled when she received a call in Spring 2002 from an unknown male caller who spoke fluent Mandarin and mentioned about her recent travel.

²²⁰ [Canada: Victims Recount Plights in Press Conference Attended by Major Media](#) (June 2005). Minghui

6.4 Threats against Falun Gong practitioners

6.4.1 Practitioner's children threatened

In August 2008, Michelle Zhang's two children (ages 7 and 4) and their babysitter were home by themselves when a man with a gun knocked at her door and threatened to take away her two children.²²¹ The gunman eventually left because the babysitter did not open the door. Michelle believed this was linked to the CCP because no one knew her apartment address following her move to Toronto three months earlier.

She had prior experience when she lived in Vancouver when the persecution first began. She became outspoken because her brother-in-law died in a labour camp at the age of 28 in China and her sister disappeared due to the couple's belief in Falun Gong. Because of her activism, the window of her former husband's car was smashed and human excrement was spread all over her apartment balcony, incidents that she believed were linked to the CCP.

6.5 Surveillance of Falun Gong practitioners in Canada

Practitioners are under constant surveillance by CCP agents in Canada. The repeated presence of certain individuals unknown to the Falun Gong practitioners at their practice or truth-clarification sites raises alarms that these individuals may be involved in Chinese consulate surveillance activities.

Falun Gong practitioners participating in peaceful protests outside the Chinese embassy and consulates risk having their photos taken as part of CCP surveillance of their activities in Canada.

6.5.1 Falun Gong practitioners being watched in Montreal

Dongdong Yang's encounter with a stranger in a Chinese grocery store in Montreal in 2016 sheds light on the issue of Falun Gong practitioners being watched on Canadian soil. Ms. Yang was selecting ginger at a grocery store one day when a Chinese man approached her. After making some casual comments on the quality of the ginger, he asked a list of questions that were intimately related to Ms. Yang - for example, whether she still practised Falun Gong? whether her husband was retired and if they were divorced? and whether her child has

²²¹ <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=enbnY6Lxwbo&feature=youtu.be> (April 4, 2023) Global National News.

graduated from high school?. These comments suggest that the unknown man was familiar with Ms. Yang's personal circumstances and that she was being tracked, stalked by the man whose purpose was to intimidate her.

6.5.2 Chinese man closely watching Falun Gong practitioners at Pacific Mall for 10 years

The Mandarin-speaking man in the following pictures has been monitoring and stalking Falun Gong practitioners at Pacific Mall (a Chinese mall in Markham, Ontario) persistently for the last 10 years. He can also be seen at many other Falun Gong truth-clarification sites, such as Chinatown, City Hall, and Scarborough Town Centre. Falun Gong practitioners are concerned that he may be spying on them.



Man who has been stalking Falun Gong practitioners and listening to their conversations.

This man would stand very close to practitioners for a long time listening to their conversations carefully. He also followed a few elderly practitioners on their bus ride home.

Falun Gong practitioners asked this suspicious man why he comes to this site so often. He said, "Someone paid me to do so." But he wouldn't tell who paid him. Many Falun Gong practitioners have spoken with this man and noticed that he made up different stories each time they talked to him.

6.5.3 Non-Chinese participated in surveillance and monitoring Falun Gong truth-clarification activities

The CCP's foreign influence is clandestine and deceptive.²²² Non-Chinese Canadians have been recruited to serve as agents of the CCP as a camouflage to monitor Falun Gong activities and carry out surveillance of practitioners.

In August 2012, Canadian freelance reporter Mark Bourrie, who previously worked for 2.5 years for Chinese state media Xinhua news agency, run by the Chinese Propaganda Department, for 2.5 years, said that he had to quit his job with Xinhua after the outlet repeatedly asked him to document dissident activities, including collecting the names of all attendees at Falun Gong press conferences.^{223 224} Falun Gong practitioners in Ottawa often witnessed Xinhua staff, including non-Chinese reporters, taking close-up pictures of attendees at protests. For example, one protest in July 2010 in front of the Chinese embassy was attended by three non-Chinese reporters from Xinhua. Xinhua reporters stopped coming to Falun Gong events after the Chinese state-run news agency was widely exposed as a spy agency.

In the past two years, Falun Gong practitioners in the forefront of raising awareness have noticed an increase in the presence at their activity sites of non-Chinese individuals suspected of acting on behalf of the CCP. In Ontario, this has been observed at Pacific Mall in Markham, outside the Chinese consulate visa office in Toronto, in Niagara Falls, and outside the Chinese embassy in Ottawa, among other locations. Some of these individuals have even harassed practitioners.

It was mentioned in section 5.2.4 that an Indigenous man was caught on camera assisting a Chinese man to disrupt a peaceful Falun Gong protest outside the Chinese consulate in Calgary. The higher frequency of repeated appearance of non-Chinese is a phenomenon that we believe is not accidental. Here are two examples in 2022 and 2023 respectively:

²²²https://foreigninterferencecommission.ca/fileadmin/user_upload/Foreign_Interference_Commission_-_Initial_Report__May_2024_-_Digital.pdf

²²³ Journalist, Or Spy? Xinhua Doesn't Distinguish <https://www.thedailybeast.com/journalist-or-spy-xinhua-doesnt-distinguish>

²²⁴ China's state-run news agency being used to monitor critics in Canada: reporter <https://nationalpost.com/news/canada/notes-going-to-china-not-public-canadian-speaks-out-about-split-with-xinhua-news-agency>

6.5.3.1 A 2023 case – a Caucasian woman seen to be receiving payment to take pictures of Falun Gong practitioners at the Chinese consulate in Toronto

In 2023, a Falun Gong practitioner who often gave out flyers outside the Chinese consulate visa office witnessed a Caucasian woman taking pictures of them and being paid by a Chinese man afterwards. She saw a Chinese man give this lady some banknotes after she finished taking pictures of Falun Gong practitioners. This woman was being seen in another location later.

6.5.3.2 A 2022 case – Caucasian man among many Chinese embassy-related people who took pictures of Falun Gong practitioners during daily protest outside Chinese embassy in Ottawa
At their peaceful vigils outside the Chinese embassy in Ottawa since 2001, Falun Gong practitioners have been having their photos taken by Chinese people often who are likely sent by the embassy.

On a Wednesday in July 2022, Falun Gong practitioners Mary Kovacks and Kathy Gillis (both Caucasians) were doing their meditation exercise across the street from the Chinese embassy in Ottawa when Ms. Gillis sensed that someone was taking pictures of them. She opened her eyes and saw a middle-aged Caucasian man standing in front of the embassy on the other side of the street taking pictures of them. She was puzzled by the strange camera he was using, which had a tube-like device attached to it at a 90-degree angle.

The man came across the street and Ms. Gillis confronted him, asking, “Why were you photographing us? Who are you with?” He responded with a stream of verbal abuse and accused them of not belonging in Canada, despite both being Canadian-born citizens of the country. This incident was reported to police in September 2022. Other Falun Gong practitioners in Ottawa have also noticed this white man frequently takes pictures of them outside the embassy as well.

6.6 CCP’s blacklist of Falun Gong practitioners

Falun Gong practitioners, especially those who actively participate in resisting the CCP’s persecution of the practice, are being monitored in Canada. During the earlier days of the persecution, some Falun Gong practitioners in exceptional cases had to return to mainland China for various reasons. Some were quickly identified as Falun Gong practitioners upon entry into China and faced interrogation and even detention and torture.

6.6.1 Vancouver woman followed and abducted in China

In February 2000, Dr. Ying Lee, a Vancouver resident and Falun Gong practitioner, was followed and later kidnapped while blindfolded by Chinese national security officers at the hotel where she was staying while on a business trip to China as a member of a delegation with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). Dr. Lee was interrogated for eight hours and was threatened that she would be detained and may be sent to jail. Dr. Lee said she was questioned twice more after that instance and was under constant surveillance for the rest of the trip. Later, state security officers advised the CIDA mission's Chinese partner to exclude Dr. Lee from the project.²²⁵

The Chinese authorities were able to single out Dr. Lee as a Falun Gong practitioner, suggesting that they had already identified her while she was in Canada.²²⁶

6.6.2 Montreal student abducted and detained upon entering China

In May 2001, Ying Zhu from Montreal travelled to China to visit her family. Ms. Zhu's mother had just undergone surgery and urgently wished to see her daughter. However, Ms. Zhu was taken away by China's Public Security Bureau officers at the border when she entered China from Hong Kong and detained for 33 days in Guangzhou. She was detained in a small room. She was under 24-hour surveillance and was mentally tortured while in detention.^{227 228} During this time, she said that in addition to trying to recruit her to spy on Falun Gong practitioners in Canada, they demanded that she give them detailed information on friends listed in her phone book. "When I refused, they told me they knew everything about every Falun Gong practitioner in Montreal."²²⁹

6.6.3 A blacklist of Falun Gong practitioners supplied to Icelandic government, which barred Falun Gong practitioners from entry

The following case involving Iceland illustrates how a blacklist of Canadian Falun Gong practitioners was maintained by the PRC government and supplied to Icelandic officials before a state visit by CCP leader Jiang Zemin. Under CCP pressure, the Icelandic government

²²⁵ [Harassment and Intimidation of Individuals in Canada Working on China-related Activism](#) (April 2017). Amnesty International,

²²⁶ [Extending the Persecution of Falun Gong to Canada](#); section 6.3. (March 2004). WOIPFG.

²²⁷ [The Story of Zhu Ying](#) (June 2001). WowZone.

²²⁸ [Montreal student home after time in Chinese jail](#) (June 2001). The Globe and Mail.

²²⁹ [Falun Gong wants Ottawa to check claims of Chinese spies in Canada](#) (June 2005). Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

cooperated with the Chinese communist regime to deny entry to these practitioners and to suppress Falun Gong practitioners' freedom of speech and expression:

On June 12, 2002, Falun Gong practitioners were prevented from boarding a plane at different countries' airports that were bound for Iceland during a visit by the CCP head Jiang to Iceland. The Icelandic embassy in Copenhagen confirmed that 42 people were restricted from boarding the plane (25 were from Canada²³⁰), and 38 practitioners from Taiwan who had arrived earlier were detained.²³¹ Iceland cited concerns about potential disturbances to law and order and a shortage of police to handle a large protest against Jiang as the reasons for barring the practitioners' entry.

The Icelandic Data Protection Authority later deemed keeping a list of Falun Gong practitioners during the state visit justified, but it declared the distribution of the list to Iceland Airline and embassies unlawful.²³²

In 2011, Iceland's Minister of Foreign Affairs Ossur Skarphedinsson apologized on behalf of the Icelandic government for the mistreatment of Falun Gong practitioners during Jiang's visit, acknowledging violations of their human rights, freedom of speech, freedom of expression, and freedom to travel, as concluded by the Data Protection Authority and Ombudsman of Althingi.²³³

6.6.4 Blacklist supplied to Mexican government

Canadian Falun Gong practitioners also found that they were blacklisted within the Mexican immigration system when they travelled to Mexico in October 2002 during Jiang Zemin's state visit. The blacklist was provided by the Chinese government, but the Mexican government decided to grant entry to the practitioners.²³⁴ During this process, some practitioners saw their names on a list in the Immigration department's computer system with a descriptor of "dangerous person" beside their names.²³⁵

²³⁰ [Extending the Persecution of Falun Gong to Canada](#) (March 2004). WOIPFG.

²³¹ [AP: Falun Gong members barred from boarding Iceland-bound plane ahead of Chinese president's visit](#) (June 2002). Minghui.

²³² [AFP: Iceland govt reprimanded over Falun Gong blacklist](#) (June 2003). Minghui.

²³³ [Iceland: Foreign Affairs Minister Apologises to Falun Gong Practitioners](#) (June 2011). Clearharmony.net

²³⁴ [A Global Campaign of Harassment, Intimidation and Violence](#) (July 2004). Falun Dafa Information Center.

²³⁵ [Extending the Persecution of Falun Gong to Canada](#) section 6.2. (March 2004). WOIPFG.

More such cases are documented in the WOIPFG report titled "[Extending the Persecution of Falun Gong to Canada](#)".²³⁶

6.7 CCP's cyberattacks

Canadian Falun Gong practitioners have been experiencing cyberattacks from China for many years since the persecution began in 1999.

6.7.1 Crash of Falun Gong practitioners' website due to CCP cyberattacks

On September 15, 2023, as this report was being written, Canadian Falun Gong practitioner Mr. Qian in Halifax said his website had been down for four days as a result of hacking that was believed to be attributed to the CCP. Mr. Qian is the administrator for the database server The Global Mission to Rescue Persecuted Falun Gong Practitioners in China: <http://globalrescue.hopto.org/unproj/china/mainch.jsp>.

The hacking attacks have been a frequent and recurring issue for the past 20 years for Mr. Qian. Mr. Qian traced the IP address of close to 10 of these cyberattacks and they all originated from within mainland China.

Between March and April 2021, Mr. Qian witnessed a cyberattack that targeted his Falun Gong server in real time.

At that time, Mr. Qian was showing technical details of the Falun Gong server to a practitioner who previously worked at the CCP's National Security Department prior to immigrating to Canada. Mr. Qian used this practitioner's laptop purchased in China to remotely control Mr. Qian's home machine, and showed the practitioner how to remotely control that server machine in Taiwan from Mr. Qian's home machine.

That night, Mr. Qian was informed that the website was not working. From his home machine, he remotely controlled the server machine in Taiwan and found his files disappearing one by one. He watched this process unfold for about half an hour but could not stop the files from disappearing.

Other administrators of Falun Gong websites in Canada have had similar experiences to Mr. Qian's.

²³⁶ [Extending the Persecution of Falun Gong to Canada](#) Chapter 6 (March 2004). WOIPFG.

On July 16, 2011, Chinese state TV station CCTV-7 aired a 22-minute documentary, "The Internet Storm is Coming," on cyber hacking attacks launched by the country's military. Overseas Falun Gong websites were illustrated as attack targets.²³⁷

6.7.2 CCP's online attacks against Falun Gong

In 2002, Michael Chase and James Mulvenon did a study on Chinese dissidents' use of the internet and the CCP's cyberattacks against dissidents, including attacks on Falun Gong websites. Their findings show that the CCP has been heavily attacking Falun Gong websites www.minghui.ca and www.minghui.org.²³⁸

The Chase-Mulvenon Study reveals a concerted effort by the Chinese government to target Falun Gong practitioners through cyberattacks. Around the time of the beginning of the persecution in China in 1999, Falun Gong websites outside the country experienced systematic network degradation, leading to frequent crashes, with high-profile sites like www.minghui.ca and www.falundafa.ca being specifically targeted. These attacks, identified as denial-of-service attacks, were traced back to Chinese government servers in Beijing, as confirmed by Canadian ISPs hosting the sites.²³⁹

The study also uncovers deceptive tactics employed by the CCP's Ministry of Public Security, framing Falun Gong practitioners for hacking into the U.S. Department of Transportation. Additionally, practitioners' email addresses were flooded with fabricated messages, including hate propaganda. These tactics, utilizing non-existent IP addresses and originating from China, showcase a calculated effort to disrupt Falun Gong practitioners' online presence and communications, demonstrating a targeted campaign against the group.

6.7.3 Emailing viruses and hacking

Falun Gong practitioners have received emails infected with viruses likely sent by the CCP on many occasions, including receiving virus attachments from trusted sources. There have also been instances of practitioners' email accounts being hacked from mainland China.

In 2007, during high-level Chinese government official Bo Xilai's visit to Canada, a practitioner sued him for persecuting Falun Gong when he was the mayor of Dalian City. Chinese authorities

²³⁷ [Did China Tip Cyber War Hand?](#) (August 2011). The Diplomat.

²³⁸ [You've Got Dissent! Chinese Dissident Use of the Internet and Beijing's CounterStrategies on JSTOR](#) (2002).

RAND.

²³⁹ Ibid.

closely monitored the case. In 2008, an email containing the court date was accessed from an Asian IP address while the recipient was in Canada, raising concerns of email hacking.

In 2003, a list of officials involved in persecuting Falun Gong was submitted to the RCMP. In 2004, files related to this list that were being stored and prepared for submission on the computer of a practitioner, Ms. Zhou, vanished from that computer, but copies were fortunately retrieved. By 2014, file directories containing evidence against Jiang Zemin and Bo Xilai had also disappeared from that practitioner's device, suggesting targeted hacking for stealing sensitive information. Ms. Zhou believes her computer was hacked to access and steal those files.

Concluding remarks

The intensity, severity, and frequency of assault, harassment, surveillance, and intimidation of Falun Gong practitioners have not changed over the past 25 years, which highlights the CCP's persistence and continued efforts in eradicating and suppressing Falun Gong.

The CCP's activities against Falun Gong have only become more clandestine and deceptive, as they are being increasingly conducted through covert agents, private civilians, and front organizations.

In 2005, former Chinese diplomats Chen Yonglin and Hao Fengjing, who defected to and sought asylum in Australia, revealed that China had approximately 1,000 spies and informants in Canada, primarily assigned to target Falun Gong followers and to steal commercial secrets.²⁴⁰

Chinese government-affiliated secret police stations have been discovered in several Canadian cities, as reported in the media, posing a threat to Canadian society.

In light of the trends observed thus far, the number, variety, and sophistication of Chinese interference and repression in Canada have increased in recent years, making detection more difficult.

²⁴⁰ [IN-DEPTH: China's Many Spies in Canada](#) (August, 2023) The Epoch Times. According to Roger Faligot's 2019 book *Chinese Spies*, around 2,000 Chinese officials and journalists were undercover in Canada and the U.S. in 2000, providing cover for top intelligence operatives. This number has since increased significantly due to the expansion of the CCP's United Front Work Department, a major tool for foreign interference.

CHAPTER SEVEN

Conclusion & Recommendations

Conclusion

This report affirms the conclusion by Freedom House in 2021 that "China conducts the most sophisticated, global, and comprehensive campaign of transnational repression in the world."²⁴¹

Falun Gong practitioners in Canada have sought an end to the persecution and crimes of humanity that are part of the ongoing eradication campaign against Falun Gong in China. In response, their efforts, actions, and in fact their social life have been profoundly disrupted and challenged by the foreign interference and repression carried out by Chinese diplomats and their agents and proxies on Canadian soil.

Not only does the CCP's extension of the persecution of Falun Gong to Canada threaten and undermine the safety, security, and liberties of Falun Gong practitioners seeking to speak out against the human rights abuses in China, the CCP's interference also adversely impacts Canadian society as a whole, creating a climate of indifference in the face of the CCP's mass killing and torture in the PRC, and breeding intolerance and discrimination toward Canadians, in contradiction to well-established Canadian values.

This report details characteristics of the foreign interference and repression targeted at the Falun Gong community in Canada. This phenomenon is well substantiated by evidence and has become a pressing issue that compels the attention of Canadian authorities:

1. Foreign interference and repression is multifaceted. Falun Gong practitioners face the most brutal suppression by the totalitarian communist regime in China. The overseas

²⁴¹ <https://freedomhouse.org/report/transnational-repression/china> (2021) Freedom House.

Falun Gong community has been tirelessly working to raise awareness and call for an end to the persecution, which is already itself a challenging task. The difficulties and challenges they face are compounded by experiences of political interference, demonization, spying, bullying, and abuse perpetrated by the CCP in Canada. Support and protection have been lacking and are urgently required from Canadian institutions and government agencies.

2. Efforts by the Falun Gong community in Canada to raise awareness, seek an end to the persecution, and resist CCP suppression in Canada are not only aimed at protecting their own basic rights and freedoms but also serve to uphold Canadian values and safeguard Canadian society. However, there is a limit to what the Canadian Falun Gong community can do, as the Chinese government they are up against has near unlimited resources at its disposal. Navigating the legal process is also difficult, costly, and time-consuming, as seen in the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal case of Daiming Huang vs Ottawa Chinese Seniors Chinese Culture Association, which spanned a decade and drained considerable resources (refer to section 4.6). This report calls on the Canadian government to take action to ensure that the Falun Gong community in Canada does not have to face this shared threat alone.
3. The CCP's continuous hate propaganda and disinformation campaign against Falun Gong, a spiritual practice that is otherwise unknown or unfamiliar to most Canadians, has been responsible for creating indifference, apathy, and even marginalization and discrimination toward the Falun Gong community within Canadian society. The CCP's unlawful dissemination of hate speech and disinformation against Falun Gong in Canada must be addressed.
4. In the early years, the anti-Falun Gong hate campaigns that the Chinese embassy and consulates instigated and participated in were more direct and visible. After hate-incitement cases involving Chinese diplomats were brought under police investigation and into Canadian courts and tribunals, as well as to public attention, these CCP activities became more clandestine and deceptive, carried out more by hidden agents and proxies, which are no less damaging and harmful. The network of these covert agents has grown and has become deeply integrated and embedded into Canadian society, creating an invisible but pervasive hand controlling Canadian communities to serve the CCP's interests, eroding Canadian values and sovereignty. Canada must take effective and urgent measures to respond to this phenomenon before it is too late.
5. The CCP's strategies and tactics in foreign interference and transnational repression are sophisticated, some of which have been documented in books and reports on the CCP's infiltration and foreign influence in the West. Most if not all of the strategies canvassed in existing studies have been used to suppress Falun Gong communities worldwide. Of particular note is the malicious email campaign involving impersonation of Falun Gong

practitioners, calculated to induce elected officials to distance themselves from the Falun Gong community and the Falun Gong human rights issue, which is unprecedented and exceptionally insidious and harmful.

6. An important aspect of the CCP's interference is the use of enticement, inducement, and material incentives to influence the behaviour of Canadians in key positions or roles in Canadian society to act in the interests of the CCP and to align themselves with the communist regime's agenda. These enticements include free trips to China, lavish hospitality, promising career and business prospects, as well as monetary rewards, among others.
7. The CCP's infiltration into Canada's political system and institutions is extremely concerning, as it adversely affects the proper functioning of the Canadian government and undermines the very ability of the Canadian institutions to address and rectify this issue itself. This report submits that Canada must be decisive in its response to the CCP's infiltration and must treat it as top priority in order for it to be effective.
8. There is a clear pattern and organization to the seemingly random and sporadic acts of assault and attacks perpetrated against the Falun Gong community. Canadian law enforcement and authorities need to conduct deeper investigations to unravel and address the potential systemic causes of these apparently individual cases, instead of dealing and treating these cases as isolated, individual incidents, an approach likely to have limited effect.
9. The CCP has successfully instilled fear in the minds of many, not only within the Chinese community, but also among the non-Chinese populations of the world. Many individuals and organizations fear the CCP and give credence to the CCP's threats, coercion, and retaliation, which the CCP exploits to control them. Chinese nationals fear the possibility of being barred from visiting China or having their families in China implicated if they do not comply with the CCP's demands. Businesses fear losing business opportunities in China, and governments fear adverse impacts on their relationship with China if they do not succumb to the CCP's transgressive demands. Scholars who study China fear research opportunities or denial of visas to China. Some community event organizers fear losing sponsorship by the Chinese embassy or consulates. Fear manifests differently for different persons, but the ultimate goal of the CCP behind these endeavours is simple and consistent—to induce individuals to subscribe to or cooperate with its agenda of persecution against Falun Gong. These decisions are regrettably made at the costs of compromised conscience.
10. In a similar vein, although the CCP's interference and repression targets the Falun Gong community, its measures encompass, affect, and involve all sectors, and indeed the fabric of Canadian society. The objective is to suppress voices advocating for an end to human rights abuses in China and conceal the CCP's crimes against humanity committed

against the Falun Gong. But at the same time, this coercive and manipulation campaign also harms Canadians' interests and erodes Canadian values, which endangers this country. As such, the victims of this interference is not just the Falun Gong, but also Canadian society at large.

11. The CCP's interference and repression in Canada, which has become increasingly rampant, have gotten attention and concern from the Canadian government, media, and the public in recent times. However, it's crucial to recognize that these activities have been systematically targeting Falun Gong since 1999. Our documentation of cases demonstrates that due to a lack of recognition and action from our government and society, the situation has escalated to its current extent. How much further can we afford to let it go?

Recommendations

In light of the findings in this report, it is imperative for Canadian authorities to take decisive action and measures to protect the Falun Gong community and others from foreign interference and repression by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

This report urges the Canadian government and its agencies to be vigilant, resilient, and committed to responding to the CCP's invasive and aggressive infiltration into Canada's communities, institutions, political system, and beyond. It is essential for Canada to safeguard its values, democracy, sovereignty, and the rights and freedoms of its people against foreign interference.

We have seen numerous reports on the CCP's interference and influence in Canada in recent years, along with many well-thought-out recommendations, such as those contained in the recent report "Combating Transnational Repression And Foreign Interference In Canada" by the Human Rights Action Group and the Council for a Secure Canada.²⁴² We trust our government will refer to this report in particular and others like it for possible measures to counter these malign activities.

In particular, we highlight the following recommendations as the most essential measures that the Canadian government and its agencies can take to respond to the CCP's interference and repression in Canada:

1. **Provide Public Condemnation and Support:** Take a strong stance and actively issue public statements, across multilateral channels, to condemn and urge an end to the CCP's persecution of Falun Gong in China and its extension to Canada. This public support will not only empower victims but also encourage Canadians, including elected officials, to resist CCP intimidation and manipulation, enabling them to better counter interference imposed by the CCP and its agents.
2. **Include Falun Gong at Hearings:** Invite witnesses from the Falun Gong community to participate in hearings concerning foreign interference and repression in Canada. Parliament should collect and consider the wealth of knowledge and experiences these witnesses have gained over 25 years of being targeted by the CCP in Canada. This valuable input will contribute to Parliament's policy-making efforts in this context.

²⁴² [Combating Transnational Repression And Foreign Interference In Canada](#) (September 2023). Human Rights Action Group and Council for a Secure Canada.

3. Urge Beijing to End Interference and Repression: Directly raise and seek to address the issues of the CCP's foreign interference and repression activities with the Chinese government and continuously request Beijing to cease these operations against Falun Gong and the Canadian public, including Canadian government officials.
4. Ensure Diplomat Accountability: Sanction Chinese diplomats and any mission officials who orchestrate or engage in infiltration and transnational repression activities in Canada. Hold them accountable by, including but not limited to, rendering them inadmissible to Canada, or in appropriate cases, expelling them from Canada.
5. Prosecute for Assault: Vigorously investigate and prosecute anyone who threatens the safety of or assaults Falun Gong practitioners for lawfully exercising their right to free speech in Canada.
6. Enact Countering Foreign Interference Legislation: The Countering Foreign Interference Act, C-70, passed in June 2024. Its implementation is of the utmost importance in Canada's ability to effectively combat foreign interference and transnational repression. This legislation will help identify individuals/organizations working for the CCP and impose sanctions on those who carry out activities on behalf of the CCP without registering or who violate the restrictions imposed on foreign agents by such legislation. Many details still need to be worked out in the regulations under the new act.
7. Investigate and Identify Proxy Organizations and Individuals: Thoroughly investigate and identify proxy organizations and individuals engaged in spreading disinformation or conducting interference, infiltration, and transnational repression activities in Canada on behalf of the CCP. Ensure that those responsible are held accountable and face serious consequences for their actions.
8. Establish and Publicize Secure Reporting Channels: Provide and make available and accessible secure reporting channels to allow the Canadian public, especially the Chinese community, to safely report proxy groups or individuals and media outlets that are acting on behalf of the CCP regime, as well as report their activities that harm Canadians' safety, security, rights, and freedoms.
9. Enhance Transparency: Regularly publish public reports to highlight incidents, penalties, and updates related to the measures taken to combat foreign interference and repression. Ensure public accessibility to these reports to deter malicious activities, particularly those conducted in secrecy.
10. Educate Government Officials: Strengthen efforts in raising awareness and educating all departments and officials within all levels of government about the foreign interference issues raised in this and other relevant reports, emphasizing the severity and threats of CCP's interference operations in Canada. Government and elected officials should have essential background knowledge of the CCP's interference and infiltration operations in

Canada so that they are equipped to discern the regime's manipulation and tactics they may encounter in the course of their work.

11. Recognize and Counter CCP Propaganda: Raise awareness and educate government officials at all levels as well as the general public about the false and propagandistic nature of the CCP's communications, which are calculated to undermine Western values and institutions and to defame and demonize suppressed and vulnerable groups in China. Concrete actions should be taken to minimize the dissemination of CCP propaganda and disinformation in Canada, including investigations and restrictions on CCP-funded media operations in Canada.

Encouraging progress

Since the publication of this *Foreign Interference & Repression of Falun Gong in Canada* report in 2023, there have been several positive developments in Canada in addressing the issue of foreign interference.

The federal government established the Public Inquiry on Foreign Interference in September 2023, led by Justice Marie-Josée Hogue as commissioner. The inquiry has revealed documents from CSIS affirming that China is “the foremost perpetrator,” engaging in sophisticated, pervasive, and persistent foreign interference activities targeting government officials, electoral candidates, political organizations, and diaspora communities.²⁴³ China's expenditure on foreign interference activities far exceeds that of any other country, with billions of dollars budgeted to fund its global operations.²⁴⁴

Although the key mandate of the Foreign Interference Commission is focused on federal electoral processes and democratic institutions, it also addresses the experiences of diaspora communities in transnational repression. A representative of the Falun Dafa Association of Canada presented this report at the inquiry on March 27, 2024, to highlight the CCP’s foreign interference and repression of the Falun Gong community in Canada.²⁴⁵

Another encouraging momentum was the passing of Bill C-70, An Act respecting countering foreign interference, which received royal assent on June 20, 2024.²⁴⁶ Canada now has legislation to intervene in activities carried out by foreign states or their proxies that relate to political or governmental processes in Canada, and to punish transnational repression involving threats, intimidation, and violence. All of the measures and offences stipulated by the act have direct relevance to the Falun Gong community’s lived experiences.

We hope that the new measures to combat foreign interference, especially from China, will be developed and carried out effectively so that the Falun Gong community and other affected groups in Canada can be better protected.

²⁴³ <https://theconversation.com/new-commission-sheds-light-on-how-diaspora-communities-are-impacted-by-foreign-interference-228681>

²⁴⁴ https://foreigninterferencecommission.ca/fileadmin/user_upload/Foreign_Interference_Commission_-_Initial_Report_May_2024_-_Digital.pdf

²⁴⁵ [Day 6 - March 27 \(foreigninterferencecommission.ca\)](https://foreigninterferencecommission.ca/day-6-march-27)

²⁴⁶ <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/news/2024/06/legislation-to-counter-foreign-interference-receives-royal-assent.html>

Appendices

Appendix A: Debunking CCP False Narratives about Falun Gong

Falun Gong (a.k.a. Falun Dafa) is a spiritual practice in the Buddhist tradition practised by 70–100 million people in China prior to July 1999, when the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) launched a violent persecution aiming to eradicate the practice. Accompanying this 25-year-long repression has been a propaganda campaign to demonize Falun Gong to justify the persecution.

The CCP has promoted numerous false narratives. The most damaging is the claim that Falun Gong is a "cult," a label that has at times sown mistrust among the international community and those still largely unfamiliar with the group. These false claims are employed with the sole purpose of dehumanizing a group of people, and in so doing, facilitating horrific atrocities and silencing support to the victims.

This document provides an analysis of each of the core components of the CCP's false—but common—propaganda narratives about Falun Gong. The analysis illustrates that these statements are blatantly untrue and have been spread in China and globally to turn people's opinion against the once-respected practice and to justify the marginalization, torture, killing, abuse, and death of countless innocent people. Outside China, the disinformation contained in these narratives has negatively impacted many people's understanding of Falun Gong, especially preventing government officials from speaking out against the CCP's brutality targeting millions of innocent people.

Amnesty International has raised concerns that "the official campaign of public vilification of Falun Gong in the official Chinese press has created a climate of hatred against Falun Gong practitioners in China which may be encouraging acts of violence against them."²⁴⁷

²⁴⁷<http://web.archive.org/web/20061009071026/http://www.amnesty.org.nz/web/pages/home.nsf/dd5cab6801f1723585256474005327c8/83fba691f912206bcc2571d3001824ed!OpenDocument>

CCP false claim 1: "Falun Gong is a cult." "Falun Gong is anti-humanity, anti-society, and anti-science."

Chinese government websites, including the Chinese embassy in Canada²⁴⁸, and state media reports are replete with references claiming Falun Gong is a cult and is "anti-humanity, anti-society, and anti-science."

Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) has ruled that this "terminology used to describe Falun Gong and its practitioners also constitutes abusive comment" that "render the targeted group [Falun Gong] more vulnerable to hatred or contempt." See below excerpts from the 2006 ruling:²⁴⁹

101. In the Commission's view, Falun Gong is sufficiently like a religion that it should be considered as such for the purposes of assessing whether or not comments on the record of this proceeding are abusive. In this regard, the Commission notes that decisions of the Immigration and Refugee Board and the Federal Court have considered Falun Gong a form of religion.

106. In various CCTV-4 news stories concerning Falun Gong submitted as evidence, the commission considered some of the terminologies used to describe Falun Gong and practitioners constitute abusive comments. In the context of a news story, reporters, news readers, interviewees such as professionals, teachers/ordinary citizens characterize Falun Gong as "anti-humanity, anti-society, and anti-science" and repeatedly describe it as "an evil cult" or "evil doctrine" or having a criminal and homicidal nature, in one case "extending its demon claw."

107. ... These types of comments, made in the context of reporting news, are likely to render the targeted group more vulnerable to hatred or contempt.

The "cult" label was coined by the CCP specifically and retroactively to vilify Falun Gong and to drive the violent persecution of millions. Prior to the persecution, Falun Gong was widely

²⁴⁸ "Remarks of the Spokesperson of the Chinese Embassy in Canada on the Statement by the Canadian Foreign Minister on the International Religious Freedom Day," Chinese Embassy in Canada, October 28, 2020, <https://web.archive.org/web/20201101023834/http://ca.china-embassy.org/eng/sgxw/t1827306.htm>; "Chinese Embassy Spokesperson's Remarks," Chinese Embassy in Canada, April 19, 2020, http://ca.china-embassy.gov.cn/eng/sgxw/202004/t20200419_4614750.htm;

Chapter 4, Hate Incitement and Pressure towards Canadian Government Officials in the report of "Extending the Persecution of Falun Gong to Canada", by WOIPFG, <https://www.upholdjustice.org/node/82>

²⁴⁹ <https://crtc.gc.ca/eng/archive/2006/pb2006-166.pdf>

accepted and promoted by CCP officials at the highest levels, and Jiang Zemin's decision to persecute the practice was controversial among the CCP leadership. According to the Washington Post, "the standing committee of the Politburo did not unanimously endorse the crackdown and that President Jiang Zemin alone decided that Falun Gong must be eliminated."²⁵⁰

Falun Gong wasn't banned by the Chinese regime as a cult, as some journalists carelessly write. A 2017 report by Freedom House notes: "The [cult] label only appeared in party discourse in October 1999, months after the crackdown was launched, as the propaganda apparatus seized on a manipulated English translation of the Chinese term xiejiao. This suggests that the term was applied retroactively to justify a violent campaign that was provoking international and domestic criticism."²⁵¹

The Ontario Human Rights Tribunal in 2006 and again in 2011 found that Falun Gong constitutes a protected creed under Ontario's Human Rights Code. "Western scholars of religion would characterize Falun Gong as a new religious movement. The essence of Falun Gong is spiritual elevation. Falun Gong practitioners believe in the existence of gods and divine beings in the cosmos. Its leader, Li Hongzhi, has written a form of 'scripture.' His message is profoundly moral," ²⁵² states an Ontario Human Rights Commission news release that summarized expert evidence on Falun Gong.

The Hate Crimes Unit of the Edmonton Police Service (EPS) has also recognized Falun Gong as an identifiable group to be protected under the category of religion. In 2005, the unit identified anti-Falun Gong materials distributed by staff members of the Chinese consulate in Calgary— which, among other things, called Falun Gong "a cult,"—as constituting a breach of the Criminal Code, which bans the wilful promotion of hatred against an identifiable group. ²⁵³

Moreover, learning Falun Gong is completely free. All books and videos are freely downloadable on the Internet, and soliciting donations is prohibited within the Falun Gong community. With no binding membership, everyone feels free to come and go. Today, Falun Gong is practised by tens of millions of people in over 100 countries around the world.

²⁵⁰ John Pomfret, "Cracks in China's Crackdown," *The Washington Post*, Nov 12, 1999, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/WPcap/1999-11/12/062r-111299-idx.html>

²⁵¹ Sarah Cook, "Falun Gong," *The Battle for China's Spirit*, Freedom House, 2017, https://freedomhouse.org/report/2017/battle-china-spirit-falun-gong-religious-freedom#footnoteref22_n3lo3a1.

²⁵² <https://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/background-tribunal-finds-falun-gong-protected-creed-under-ontarios-human-rights-code>

²⁵³ Appendix 8. Edmonton Police Report of Wilful Promotion of Hatred by Chinese Consular Officials against Falun Gong https://organharvestinvestigation.net/report0701/report20070131.htm#_Toc158023101

CCP false claim 2: "Falun Gong is political and anti-China."

In its propaganda efforts to undermine the credibility of Falun Gong and documentation of rights violations suffered by the group, especially to stir hatred in the Chinese community, the Chinese government labels Falun Gong as being "anti-China" or among a wider array of "foreign hostile forces." It clearly intends to confuse people, especially Chinese people, to have them believe that human rights advocacy is "political" and that exposing the CCP's atrocities targeting Chinese people is being "anti-China."

On the contrary, in response to the CCP's brutalities, Falun Gong practitioners have only carried out non-violent activities to resist the persecution, such as producing and giving out materials about the true facts of the practice and the persecution. These activities are to counter the disinformation and are for the good of China and the Chinese people.

Falun Gong is primarily a discipline whose aim is spiritual fulfillment. Falun Gong as a group has no political aspirations. Falun Gong's teachings require practitioners to strive to let go of worldly attachments and concern for fame, reputation, and gain, including political power.

In response to abuses in China, Falun Gong practitioners have sought to document and disclose the crimes against humanity^{254 255} they have been subjected to. Over time, they have found it useful to educate Chinese people also on the broader crimes and brutal history of the CCP. This activism is aimed at helping the Chinese people see through the CCP's lies and deceit, and by doing so, avoid becoming complicit in persecuting innocent people. These activities are also to seek freedom and a good future for China. The ultimate goal is to end the persecution, not for any political power.²⁵⁶

CCP false claim 3: "Falun Gong is illegal", "The persecution of Falun Gong is in accordance with Chinese law."

China's legal system has become a tool for implementing the persecution. Labelling Falun Gong as illegal serves to disguise the crackdown as legitimate.

²⁵⁴ <https://chinatribunal.com>

²⁵⁵ https://www.researchgate.net/publication/325891443_Cold_Genocide_Falun_Gong_in_China

²⁵⁶ "Turning Political' in China?" Falun Dafa Information Center, <https://faluninfo.net/misconceptions-turning-political/>.

The persecution of Falun Gong not only contradicts international laws and human rights standards but is in fact a breach of China's own laws, namely the Constitution of the People's Republic of China and the Criminal Law of the People's Republic of China.

China's Constitution ostensibly protects the freedoms of speech, press, assembly, association, procession, and demonstration, as well as religious belief. However, Falun Gong practitioners are repeatedly sentenced for their faith or for disseminating information combating the CCP's anti-Falun Gong propaganda, exposing rights abuses suffered by Falun Gong practitioners, or raising awareness of the CCP's history of rights abuses more broadly.

The legal justification most commonly used in sentencing Falun Gong practitioners is Article 300 of China's Criminal Law: "using a heretical organization to undermine implementation of the law." Aside from the fact that this law contradicts Article 36 of China's Constitution that supposedly ensures freedom of religious belief, Chinese lawyers have pointed out issues with the application of this law to persecution of Falun Gong practitioners.

In an open letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau by four Chinese lawyers representing a Canadian citizen sentenced to 8 years for practising Falun Gong, the lawyers explain: "[Article 300] cannot form the basis for prosecuting Falun Gong practitioners, as there has been so far no basis to identify Falun Gong as a heretical religious organization in the Chinese legal system." Moreover, it is not indicated which law Falun Gong practitioners are apparently undermining.²⁵⁷

In a speech given in the European parliament, regarding the "illegality of China's Falun Gong crackdown—and today's rule of law repercussions,"²⁵⁸ Yiyang Xia, Senior Director of Policy and Research at the Human Rights Law Foundation, made three points:

- 1) Falun Gong was never legally banned in China.
- 2) The CCP has developed various tactics for carrying out the persecution absent a legal basis.
- 3) These tactics are now being applied against a broader set of targets, further impacting human rights conditions in China.

He stated: "The Chinese government never legally banned Falun Gong and there is, in fact, no law on the books prohibiting this religious practice. In 2007, six prominent Chinese lawyers defended Falun Gong practitioner Wang Bo and her family. The defense statement was later

²⁵⁷ Chinese Lawyers Yanyi Xie, Hanzhong Huang, Chengcai Gao, and Dongmei Xiong in an open letter to Canadian prime minister Justin Trudeau. <https://www.theepochtimes.com/article/lawyers-of-canadian-citizen-detained-in-china-write-open-letter-to-trudeau-2486174>

²⁵⁸ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2009_2014/documents/droi/dv/506_yiyangxia_/506_yiyangxia_en.pdf

posted online under the title 'The Supremacy of the Constitution, and Freedom of Religion.' Some observers have called it a historic document. Following extensive analysis, the attorneys concluded: 'it is clear that the punitive actions carried out at present against Falun Gong believers have no constitutional legal basis, and they should be suspended forthwith.'²⁵⁹ Since that case, a growing number of human rights lawyers have begun taking on Falun Gong cases and have discovered how the persecution is being carried out without any legal basis."

The means [Chinese leaders] used show . . . that they wanted to thoroughly discredit Falun Gong in the process of dismantling it and that they employed rule of law and justice rationales as a cover and as an excuse. – Human Rights Watch

CCP false claim 4: "Falun Gong is racist."

Understanding that many in Western democracies value pluralism and diversity, the CCP has sought to paint Falun Gong as being in contradiction with those values. The narrative on multiple Chinese consulate websites falsely frames the spiritual practice and its founder as racially discriminatory.²⁶⁰ Some Western news outlets have problematically echoed this framing, often by quoting Falun Gong spiritual teachings out of context. In fact, a cursory examination of the Falun Gong community will show that it is in fact incredibly diverse, with practitioners hailing from across all ethnicities and over 100 countries, and including many interracial marriages and children.²⁶¹

The teachings of Falun Gong are not only fundamentally incompatible with racism or discrimination, they are respectful and empowering toward each race. Also, countless people who practise Falun Gong have intermarried and have mixed-race children. This itself shows the reality of what Falun Gong practitioners believe.

CCP false claim 5: "Falun Gong is anti-science and prohibits taking medicine."

A common trope in the CCP's propaganda is that Falun Gong is "anti-science" and that it prohibits believers from taking medicine, thereby leading to deaths. In fact, Falun Gong does

²⁵⁹ Teng Biao, Li Heping, et al., "The Supremacy of the Constitution, and Freedom of Religion," *A Sword and a Shield: China's Human Rights Lawyers*, ed. Stacy Mosher and Patrick Poon, Chinese Human Rights Lawyers Concern Group, 2009; pg 84

²⁶⁰ "Background on Falun Labels," *The Persecution of Falun Gong: Key Trends from 2022 and What to Watch for Ahead*, Falun Dafa Information Center, 2023, <https://library.faluninfo.net/the-persecution-of-falun-gong-key-trends-from-2022-and-what-to-watch-for-ahead/>

²⁶¹ "Intolerant?" Falun Dafa Information Center, <https://faluninfo.net/misconceptions-intolerant/>; "Who practices Falun Gong?" Falun Dafa Information Center, <https://faluninfo.net/who-practices-falun-gong/>.

not prohibit practitioners from taking medicine. While Falun Gong does teach, similar to Buddhism's views on illness, is that suffering created by illness helps to remove negative elements from one's body. The teachings also clearly state that hospitals and medicine are indeed effective, and people should go to the hospital if necessary.²⁶²

Moreover, Falun Gong practitioners—especially those outside of China—are highly educated and include many doctors of both Chinese and Western medicine, as well as other professionals with graduate or doctoral degrees in scientific and medical research. They certainly affirm the efficacies of medicine. Especially in modern alternative medicine, more avenues are being explored to heal illness and promote one's well-being other than purely relying on medicine.

CCP false claim 6: "Falun Gong is dangerous."

Chinese government websites and Chinese state-run media have published numerous articles of fake stories of Falun Gong practitioners committing suicide or murder. This has included a well-known manipulated television broadcast of alleged practitioners setting themselves on fire on Tiananmen Square in 2001, footage that has been debunked as staged by the CCP from multiple angles by experts and investigative journalists.²⁶³

Actually, Falun Gong's teachings strictly prohibit killing or violence of any kind. The idea that the practice is dangerous is simply baseless. However, the fabricated propaganda has been very effective among some parts of the Chinese public—along with the risk of persecution for openly associating with Falun Gong practitioners—in generating fear among many Chinese citizens, including some in Canada.

In March 2000, Amnesty International published a report titled PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA Crackdown on Falun Gong and other so-called "heretical organizations", which examined the claim by the CCP that Falun Gong had caused 1,400 deaths:

The government banned Falun Gong on 22 July 1999 and launched a massive propaganda campaign to denounce its practice. ... According to information published by the government, Falun Gong 'caused over 1400 deaths,' most of which concerned people who died from illnesses allegedly because they refused medical treatment due to their Falun Gong beliefs. In the current climate of censorship and repression in China, this allegation cannot be

²⁶² "Avoiding Medicine?" Falun Dafa Information Center, <https://faluninfo.net/misconceptions-avoiding-medicine/>.

²⁶³ "CCP Propaganda and Censorship," Falun Dafa Information Center, <https://faluninfo.net/propaganda-and-censorship-in-china-falun-gong-persecution/>.

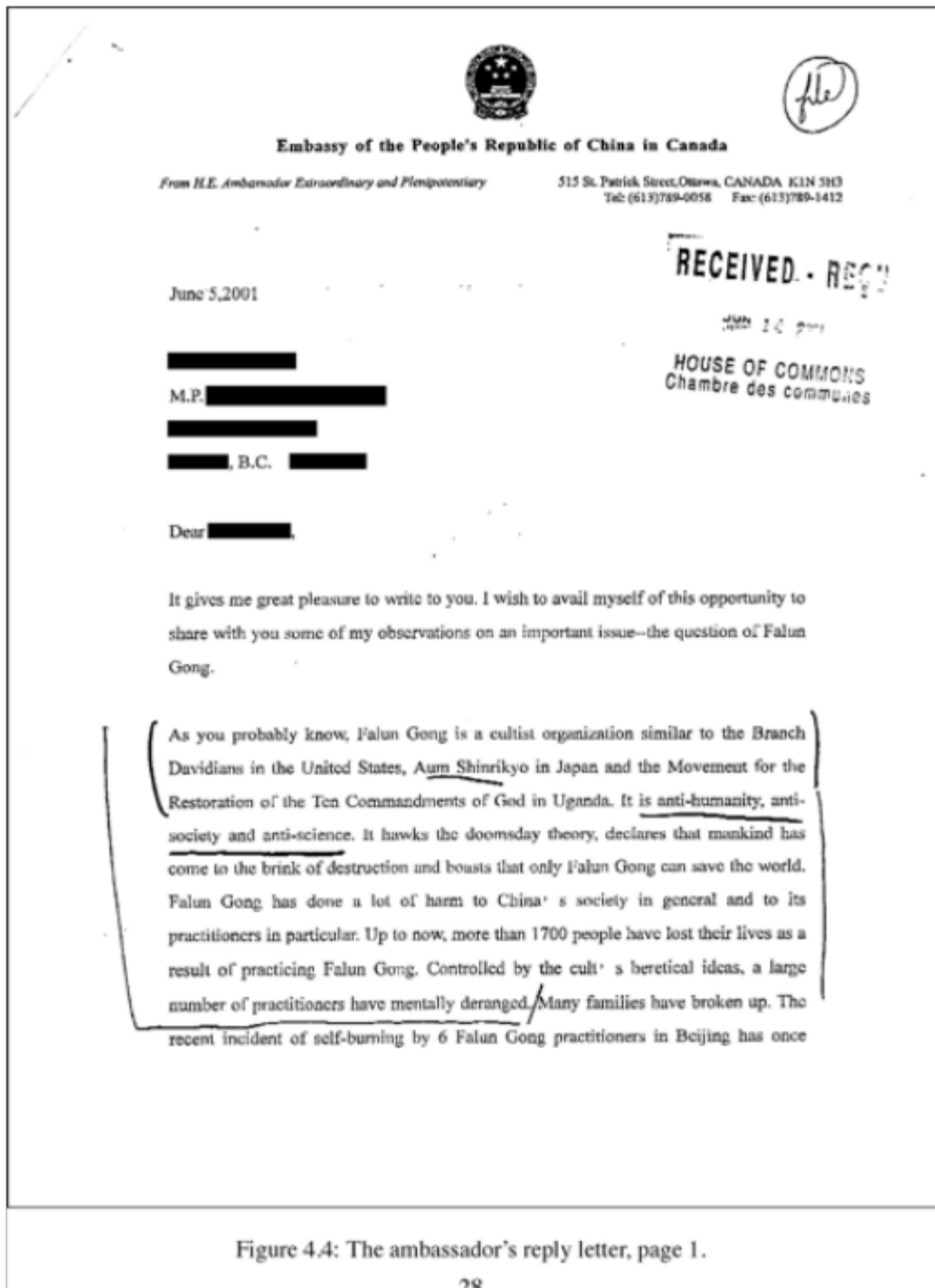
independently verified. In view of the government's political crackdown and massive propaganda campaign against Falun Gong, the impartiality of the government's information is questionable.

The government has not presented evidence of a direct link between the alleged deaths and the defendants. ... In the context of the political crackdown on the movement, it instituted a presumption of guilt against those to be prosecuted. The official documents issued for the crackdown in themselves show that the judicial process was biased from the outset against the defendants. This violates international standards in several respects, notably the right of detainees to be presumed innocent until proven guilty through a fair and open trial by an independent tribunal.

"The charge that Falungong threatens the stability of China does not hold up. Its claim that belief in Falun Gong is a public health menace is equally bogus. The danger to health comes from the treatment its practitioners receive at the hands of the police and prison officials."
– Human Rights Watch

The appendices below contain copies of letters sent from the Chinese embassy and consulates to various Canadian elected officials providing disinformation on Falun Gong and seeking to dissuade support for the spiritual practice.

Appendix B: Re 3.1.1.2 Chinese ambassador's package sent to British Columbia MP



again revealed the cultist nature of Falun Gong. Falun Gong propagates "Truthfulness, Benevolence and Forbearance" every time and everywhere. But what it says is contrary to what it does. Besides, slandering the Chinese government is a usual practice used by Falun Gong.

In response to people's demand and in accordance with China's anti-cult law, the Chinese government has banned Falun Gong since July 22, 1999. Still, the Chinese government has been handling the Falun Gong issue with great caution. Only a few key members of Falun Gong who cause social disorder have been punished according to relevant laws and regulations. As for the overwhelming majority of the deceived followers, the Chinese government has made every effort to win them over through education and persuasion. Consequently, to this day more than 98% of the followers in varying degrees have seen through the nature of Falun Gong and have broken away from the cultist organization. The allegation made by Falun Gong and some Western mass media that the Chinese government "oppresses" and "persecutes" Falun Gong practitioners is totally groundless.

Some people say that by outlawing Falun Gong, the Chinese government has violated human rights. It is not true. Outlawing cult groups and banning their illegal activities is a universal practice of any responsible government in the world. Being fully aware of the responsibility for the 1.2 billion population of the nation, the Chinese government has always attached great importance to the protection and improvement of human rights for all the citizens. That is one of the main reasons why the Chinese government has banned Falun Gong cult. As a matter of fact, China's human rights situation has never been better in its history.

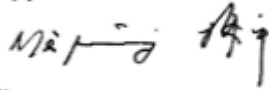
In China, Falun Gong is banned according to the international practice and the law adopted by our legislature, the National People's Congress. I sincerely hope that as a

Figure 4.5: The ambassador's reply letter, page 2.

legislator in Canada, you will understand and respect the position of our government and make contributions to the friendly relations between China and Canada.

Finally, I herewith send you some materials about Falun Gong in the hope that they will help you make your own judgement free from Falun Gong's propaganda and rumours.

Sincerely yours

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mei Ping', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mei Ping
Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary of the People's
Republic of China to Canada

Figure 4.6: The ambassador's reply letter, page 3.

Appendix C: Re 3.1.1.3 Chinese embassy's package sent to Ontario MP

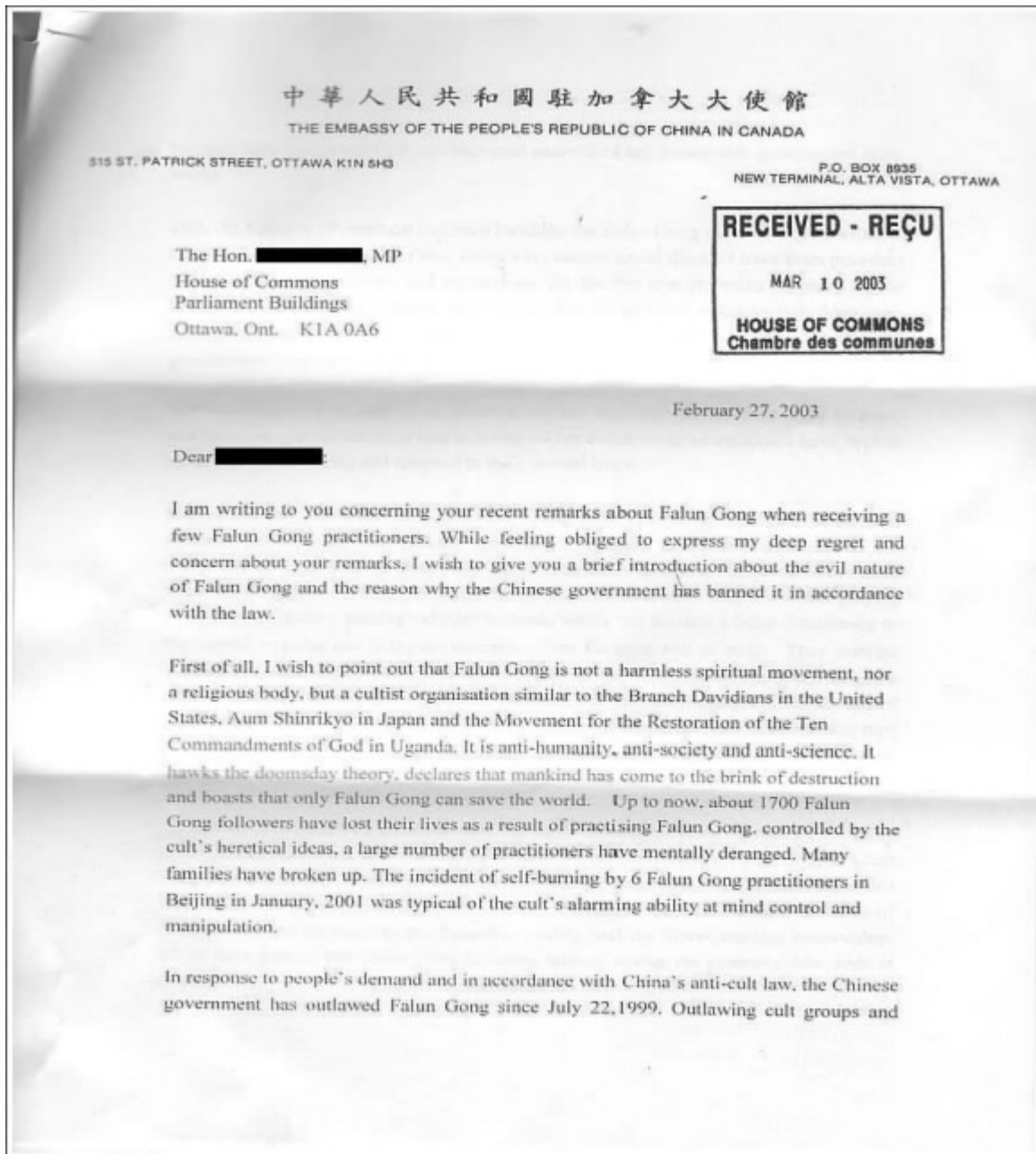


Figure 4.7: The embassy's letter, page 1.

banning their illegal activities is a universal practice of any responsible government in the world.

Still, the Chinese government has been handling the Falun Gong issue with great caution. Only a few key members of Falun Gong who caused social disorder have been punished according to relevant laws and regulations. As for the overwhelming majority of the deceived followers, the Chinese government has made every effort to win them over through education and persuasion. The allegation made by Falun Gong that the Chinese government "oppresses" and "persecutes" Falun Gong practitioners is totally groundless.

With disclosure of its evil nature, Falun Gong has been rejected and cast aside by more and more people. In China, a vast majority of the Falun Gong practitioners have broken ranks with Falun Gong and returned to their normal lives.

However, after repeated failures, Falun Gong now resorts to spreading slanderous remarks and rumours and making sensational incidents to deceive and mislead the overseas public. In Ottawa, since May 28, 2001, a few of Falun Gong practitioners have been camping right opposite the Embassy. For nearly two year, they have kept playing noisy music, inviting passing vehicles to honk, which has become a huge disturbance to the normal working and living environment of the Embassy and its staff. They even go overboard to move beyond the designated area to the front of the Embassy, dogging passers-by, people coming for visa and business and vehicles waiting for the change of traffic light to hand out their propaganda materials. They have harassed the Embassy staff and countless number of people by making them stop involuntarily to listen to their sayings.

As an old Chinese saying goes, the evil will never triumph over the virtuous. According to the polls by CFMT-TV, more than 70% interviewees believed that Falun Gong is a cult. More than 100 local Chinese associations in Ottawa, Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal and other cities have sent petitions to the Canadian Government to disclose the cult nature of Falun Gong and its harm to the Canadian society and the Sino-Canadian relationship. These have proven that Falun Gong is losing support among the general public even in Canada.

Figure 4.8: The embassy's letter, page 2.

Dear [REDACTED], China and Canada have enjoyed very good relations over the past dozens of years. Recent years in particular have seen steady growth of our bilateral relations and expanded cooperation in various fields. The Chinese government have on many occasions expressed its position and policy towards Falun Gong, and advised the Canadian government of the sensitivity of the issue in the overall bilateral relations. I hope you and your city government will understand our position and be vigilant against any attempt of Falun Gong to jeopardise our bilateral relations.

ENCLOSED INCLUDE SOME MATERIAL AND A CD ABOUT FALUN GONG WHICH I HOPE WILL BE USEFUL TO YOU WITH OUR COMMON INTERESTS AND A CD ABOUT FALUN GONG WHICH, I HOPE, WILL help you get more knowledge about the true feature of Falun Gong.

Sincerely yours



Chu Guangyou
 Charge' d'affaires ad interim
 Embassy of the People's
 Republic of China to Canada

Figure 4.9: The embassy's letter, page 3 (slightly distorted through faxing and corrected by hand).

Appendix D: Re 3.1.1.6 Chinese consulate's mailings to federal and provincial officials



Figure 4.2: The letter accompanying *Poppies*, page 1.

way,

2. Why does Falun Gong harm the interests of Canada?

China and Canada enjoy very good relations and cooperation in many fields. China is Canada's No.3 trade partner. Each year, many Chinese delegations visit Canada in order to promote economic, scientific and cultural cooperation which are beneficial to Canadian interests. But Falun Gong followers don't like to see this happen and try very hard to disrupt our sound relationship. They harass visiting Chinese guests by following their movements, making threatening calls to their hotel rooms and generally disrupting their lives.

3. How popular is Falun Gong in GTA?

Falun Gong has a relatively small number of followers, most of whom are Chinese Canadians. In the GTA, there are about half million Chinese Canadians. Because Falun Gong is considered as a cult, it is notorious and therefore unwelcome in Chinese communities.

4. Why does Falun Gong ask you to support it?

By making false accusations, Falun Gong is trying to create mischievous and negative feelings towards China in the Canadian public. It tries to entice Canadians to "publicly condemn China for persecuting Falun Gong". This could lead to confrontation and ill feelings between our countries and sabotage our good relations.

Dear friends, we think you have enough wisdom to see through the nature of Falun Gong and not support such a cult. We welcome all your valuable advice and comments on the Falun Gong issue. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact us at 416-324-6451/2 (tel), 416-324-6468 (fax) or send your email to pressoffice@rogers.com.

Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Toronto

Enclosure:

Poppies of Modern Society, Stories of Falun Gong

Figure 4.3: The letter accompanying *Poppies*, page 2.

Appendix E: Re 3.1.2.6 Consular general pressuring Port Alberni city hall

中华人民共和国驻温哥华总领事馆

Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Vancouver

3380 Granville Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6H 3K3

Tel: 604-731-6967
Fax: 604-736-4343

May 15, 2008

Mr. Ken McRae
Mayor
City of Port Alberni

Dear Mayor McRae,

It was a pleasure to meet with you and your colleagues in the beautiful City of Port Alberni last March. I hope this letter finds you having a happy and healthy summer season.

Recently, I heard that an organization named "Falun Gong" or "Falun Dafa" is sending applications to different municipalities of British Columbia for the issuance of proclamation to support the so called "Falun Dafa Month" or "Human Rights Torch Relay". I would like to take this opportunity to share with you the true nature of Falun Gong.

It is known to all that the cult of "Falun Gong" appeared in China in the early 1990s. It has been deceiving people by concocting and spreading superstitious fallacies, making use of people's longing for good health and enticing them to join it under the disguise of curing diseases and keeping fit. Since its establishment, Falun Gong has stage-managed numerous extreme tragedies in flagrant violation of Chinese laws and human rights.

Countless facts have demonstrated that Falun Gong is a cult against the human race, science and society. First, it is against all religions. It claims itself superior to all religions in the world, vilifying religions such as Christianity and Buddhism as inferior. Second, Falun Gong is anti-science. It defames science and deceives people by preaching that only Falun Gong can cure their illness, asks Falun Gong practitioners not to see doctors nor take any medicine when they are ill, so that they can go to heaven after they die. As a

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P. 01

FAX NO. 250 723 6395

MAY-27-2008 TUE 03:53 PM ALBERNI VALLEY NEWS

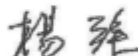
result, over 1,500 Falun Gong practitioners in China have died by refusing medical treatment for their illness. Third, Falun Gong does not cherish people's lives. It advocates that the doomsday is coming and people should sacrifice their lives to achieve "fulfillment". Many followers committed suicide due to this absurd fallacy.

Based on the facts of damages that Falun Gong had brought to the society, on 22 July 1999, the Ministry of Civil Affairs of the People's Republic of China issued a notice declaring that the "Research Society of Falun Dafa" and the "Falun Gong" organization under its control had been deemed illegal, and were therefore banned according to law.

Regardless of the city by-law of Vancouver, Falun Gong has been lodging a 24-hour protest against the Chinese Government in front of the Chinese Consulate for almost seven years. The courtyard wall of our consulate on Granville Street is completely covered by the protest board set up by Falun Gong, which tarnishes the beautiful image of Vancouver City. Their so-called protesting activities aroused the righteous indignation from the public. The Vancouver City Government took legal action against Falun Gong in 2006. At present, this case is processed in the Supreme Court of British Columbia.

I hope that, in light of the spirit of humanity and the good relations between our two countries, you won't support the Falun Gong's so called "Falun Dafa Month" or "Human Rights Torch Relay" and won't issue proclamation to or personally attend the relevant events. I would be very happy to hear from you if you have any questions in this regard.

Sincerely Yours,



YANG Qiang
Consul General of the People's Republic of China

Reference:
www.facts.org.cn

2

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p. 02

FAX NO. 250 723 6395

MAY-27-2008 TUE 03:53 PM ALBERNI VALLEY NEWS

Appendix F: Re 3.2.8 Bogus email sent to minister containing concocted image of minister and false claims about Falun Gong

From: 何合 [mailto:sydfh1978@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 21, 2017 6:57 AM
To: Freeland, [Chrystia](#) - M.P.
Subject: Thank you for your support as permit of your poster

Dear [Chrystia](#) Freeland:

You must have known something about the [Shenyun Performance Arts](#) which reflects the beautiful Chinese culture. [Shenyun](#) is sponsored by [Falun Dafa](#) which is also known as Falun Gong. The people who practice Falun Gong can go to heaven after his/her death, even the dead people can live happily in the heaven. They can avoid of suffering every torture with the help of our master – Mr. Li [Hongzhi](#). Master Li has a lot of law bodies which can protect you all the time, and the audiences who watch the performance can get the influence of Mr. Li.

In September, the Shen Yun Symphony Orchestra opened a new season tour, the sound of God in turn echoed in New York Carnegie Hall, Washington, Kennedy Art Center and other art halls. This season tour for the first time out of North America, set foot on Asian land in Tokyo, Japan and 12 cities in Taiwan debut.

I heard that you have watched the show and you HAVE SPOKEN HIGHLY of the show and [spoken](#) highly of Falun Gong as well.

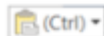
I hope you can do something to the troupe because there are some people who don't want to watch the splendid show. I have made a poster using your photograph to show how you support the fine arts and Falun Gong. I am sure your constituents are happy to see it and you will be the God among them under the help of our master.

Again, thank you for your support for "Falun Dafa". I suppose that you would be glad to see the posters around the world. All those billions of decent people would appreciate your support for "Falun Dafa" and welcome you as staunch advocate of our coalition aiming at overthrow the communist regime. We should make a joint effort in establishing the divinity world!

The poster is in the attachment for you to look into.

Sincerely yours

Brian !



Appendix G: Re 3.3.3 Letter to Ontario MPP to dissuade support for Falun Gong

