

Forced Divorce and Coerced Family Violence



Photo overleaf: Ms. Lu Shuqiu with her daughter.

For appealing to the authorities not to persecute Falun Gong, Ms. Lu was imprisoned and tortured for eight months in Heizuizi Women's Labor Camp. Frequent force-feedings and electric shocks destroyed her health and damaged her stomach and heart muscle.

The labor camp released Ms. Lu to avoid responsibility for her death. She managed to recover, but was then rearrested and tortured to death in Jilin City's liaison office in Beijing.

(For the full story, please go to page 36)

Husband Sent Wife to Mental Hospital for Psychiatric Torture

Lu Hongfeng,¹ female, 37, vice-principal of the No. 1 Elementary School, Lingwu City, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region.



Ms. Lu Hongfeng

In March 2000, the Education Bureau of Lingwu City, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region suspended Ms. Lu because she signed an appeal letter to the government opposing the persecution of Falun Gong. As a result, she was dismissed from her position as vice-principal.

Ms. Lu's husband, Qin Yuhuan (Secretary General of the Communist Party Committee of No. 1 Construction Company in Lingwu City), took part in persecuting her. On May 6, 2000, he beat her and kicked her out of their home. On June 7, 2000, Qin Yuhuan, Dong Yun, head of the Hospitalization Department of the Lingwu City Mental Hospital, and Nurse Tao Zhijun abducted Ms. Lu and took her to the Lingwu City Mental Hospital. In the hospital, Ms. Lu was tied to a bed and forcibly injected and force-fed with large amounts of nerve-damaging chemicals. One doctor later revealed that one of the drugs was imported from Germany, and a single tablet was enough to cause an average person to lose consciousness for three days; however, Ms. Lu was forced-fed 24 tablets every day. Ms. Lu was tortured in the mental hospital for over 50 days, and by the time she was sent home in July 2000, her central nervous system had already been severely damaged. However, her husband continued to beat her and feed her large doses of nerve-damaging drugs. On September 6, 2000, she eventually died from the mental and psychological abuses.

To cover up his crime of murder, Qin blamed Ms. Lu's death on Falun Gong. The local government spread the fabricated story about Ms. Lu's death through newspapers and on TV, instead of reporting the true situation.

Heavy Fines Broke Ms. Wang's Family, and She Died from Persecution

Wang Xiuyun, female, 47, resident of Huadian City, Jilin Province

Since July 20, 1999, Ms. Wang Xiuyun had been arrested and detained many times for going to Beijing to appeal to the government for an end of the persecution of Falun Gong. The police had extorted over 30,000 Yuan from Ms. Wang's family. Ms. Wang's husband could not endure the persecution and divorced her. To avoid further arrests and persecution, Ms. Wang had been living on the streets.



Ms. Wang Xiuyun

On June 3, 2002, Ms. Wang and eight other Falun Gong practitioners were kidnapped and incarcerated at the Political Security Division of the Huadian City Police Department. The police beat Ms. Wang savagely, hung her up, shocked her with electric batons, forced her to sit still on an iron stool for long periods of time, and suffocated her by pulling a plastic bag over her head.

On October 9, 2002, the Huadian City Court staged a secret trial for Ms. Wang and sentenced her to 12 years in prison. Ms. Wang filed an appeal to challenge the sentencing and went on a hunger strike for 49 days, but the police continued torturing her. As a result, she developed pulmonary edema and pleural effusion. For three months, she had difficulty breathing and had to sit upright all day and night because of the orthopnea. She was hospitalized at the end of November 2002.

After three days in the hospital, Ms. Wang's condition remained critical. However, the police forcibly took her back to the detention center against the doctor's warning. On December 7, 2002, Ms. Wang had to be returned to the hospital because of her worsening condition. Four days later, despite her critical condition, and despite the pending appeal, the police took her from the hospital and sent her to the Heizuizi Prison in Changchun City, Jilin Province. She died ten days later.

1. Radio Free Asia: "Three More Falun Gong Practitioners Died Abnormally"

Forcibly Divorced and Tortured in Jail Hospital

Sun Yuncheng, female, an employee of a satellite-tracking center, Xi'an Province.

In December 2000, Ms. Sun Yuncheng was illegally sentenced to one and a half years in jail for going to Beijing to appeal for Falun Gong. Her husband, a military officer with the rank of divisional commander, was forced to quit his job because Ms. Sun practiced Falun Gong. Ms. Sun was further threatened that if she did not give up her Falun Gong practice, both she and her husband would lose their jobs. When Ms. Sun refused to denounce Falun Gong, they were both dismissed from their jobs. Under the intense pressure, her husband was coerced to. Ms. Sun lost her family, her job, her apartment, and became a homeless person. On September 12, 2002, police from the Beilin Police Station illegally arrested Ms. Sun and confiscated 41,700 Yuan. They interrogated her for two days and nights with her hands cuffed behind her back, with one hand pulled over her shoulder and the other one pulled up from the waist. The handcuffs broke the skin and cut into her flesh. Later, her arms were hung up over her head and she was forced to squat down for over ten hours. At the same time, police used sticks to twist her arms.

To protest and resist the persecution, Ms. Sun went on a hunger strike, and was sent to the Jail Hospital in Ankang City, where she continued the hunger strike. Police doctors tortured her in various ways and injected her with unknown drugs. Each time before she was injected, she would be bound to a bed for about ten hours, causing her hands to bruise. She was left to sleep on a bare bed with no quilts or sheets. She was not allowed to use the toilet, and had to urinate in her pants. During her hunger strike, she frequently vomited yellow fluids, and her urine was a red color. Some nights, she could not go to sleep. Even in such a situation, she was force-fed; the prison police would forcibly insert the tube into her mouth. Sometimes the tube was inserted into her windpipe. Almost every time, her nose or mouth would bleed because of the tube insertion. Once, after the police failed to insert the tube into her mouth after more than ten tries, the angry head nurse, Liu Qi, forcefully struck Ms. Sun's mouth. In the end, the police could not break her will, and released her. She is currently homeless.

Father Forced to Send Daughter to a Mental Hospital

Cheng Weihong, female, resident of Yanshan District, Jinan City, Shandong Province.

In April 2000, Ms. Cheng Weihong went to Beijing to appeal to the government to stop persecuting Falun Gong. She was arrested and sent to the Shandong Provincial Mental Hospital by the police from Heping Road Police Station in Lixia District. In the mental hospital, she was forced to take drugs and given injections that caused muscle spasms in her neck and severe loss of her mental faculties. After Ms. Cheng was released from the hospital, the police ordered her parents to monitor her. The local police also monitored her parents' house every day. Later, the local authorities ordered her father to send Ms. Cheng to the mental hospital again, or else lose their house and suffer arrest and jailing of other family members. Ms. Lu's father pleaded to the Secretary of the District Political and Legal Committee. However, nobody cared about his appeal because persecuting Falun Gong was the national policy. Under the pressure, Ms. Lu's father sent his daughter back to the mental hospital against her will.

The Tribulations of Disabled Bo Minghua and Her Family

Bo Minghua, female, over 50, resident of Huainan City, Anhui Province. She is blind.

Ms. Bo Minghua is a Falun Gong practitioner who has been blind since birth and cannot care for herself. On August 21, 2000, merely for her practice of Falun Gong, the police interrogated her at the Huainan City Panji District Police Station for three days and nights, without allowing her to sleep. Then they sent her to the Hefei City Women's Labor Camp. The labor camp did not accept her because of her blindness.

At around midnight on August 21, 2001, Wang Huajing and Xu Hong from the Politics and Security Section of the Huainan City Panji District Police Station, Huainan City, Anhui Province again ransacked Ms. Bo's home, this time sending her husband for brainwashing in Huainan City. Ms. Bo and her daughter were separately detained at the Huainan City Panji District Police Station. On the third day, Ms. Bo was sent for brainwashing because she refused to give up Falun Gong. She was forced to write a so-called "transformation statement." The second day after her release she immediately wrote a solemn declaration that the "transformation statement" was invalid. This both exposed and shocked the police. They tried to arrest her again, so she had to leave home. Ms. Bo is now living on the streets.

Under Intense Pressure, Ms. Zhang's Husband Divorced Her

Zhang Yufen, female, an instructor at the Changchun Technology and Engineering University in Jilin Province

Ms. Zhang Yufen was an excellent young instructor at the Changchun Technology and Engineering University. However, she was persecuted simply because she refused to stop practicing Falun Gong. In 2001, Ms. Zhang scored the second-highest grade on the admissions exam and was accepted to a PhD program at the university. However, the director of the Office of Graduate Studies removed Ms. Zhang's name from the PhD program because Ms. Zhang was a Falun Gong practitioner.

At the end of April 2002, the university's Party Secretary, Wang Guozhong, cut off Ms. Zhang's salary. The university authorities also forced Ms. Zhang's husband to send her to a brainwashing center. They deceived Ms. Zhang's husband, telling him that everything would be fine in the brainwashing center, and that all of Ms. Zhang's withheld salary would be returned to the couple. Under pressure, Ms. Zhang's husband cooperated with the university authorities, enabling them to kidnap Ms. Zhang and force her to attend the Xinglongshan brainwashing center in Changchun City.

While Ms. Zhang was detained in the brainwashing center, the authorities further forced her husband to divorce her. In the brainwashing center, Ms. Zhang was persecuted in various ways. She was locked in a solitary confinement room and forced to read government propaganda materials slandering Falun Gong. Ms. Zhang tried to escape from the brainwashing class, but fell from the fourth story of a building. She broke her neck during the fall, and her present condition is extremely serious.

Forced to Divorce and Tortured in a Psychiatric Hospital

Hu Keling, female, a teacher at the Shiyan Middle School of Laixi City, Shandong Province.

On December 28, 2001, Ms. Hu Keling was arrested simply because she visited the home of another Falun Gong practitioner. Ms. Hu's husband, Gao Ruibo, was a Communist Party leader in Diabu Town. Because he was under pressure and wanted to protect his position, Gao divorced Ms. Hu. The Municipal Court cooperated with the Laixi city authority to expedite the process and "legalize" the divorce on the second day. The court not only gave all of their property to Gao, but also ordered Ms. Hu to pay 400 Yuan per month in child support for their daughter.

Because he cooperated with the authorities, Gao was promoted, and became a Communist Party leader in Laixi City. Gao proudly intensified his persecution of his ex-wife. He beat Ms. Hu many times, causing her head and body to become very bruised. Her legs and feet were swollen. When Ms. Hu practiced the Falun Gong exercises, he would urinate on her. Gao even tried to forcibly send Ms. Hu to a mental hospital, but Ms. Hu managed to escape. While Ms. Hu was forced to become homeless, Gao deceived their daughter, causing her to develop hostility toward her mother.

When Ms. Hu was forced to flee from her home, Gao cooperated with the Laixi City "610 Office" to have Ms. Hu arrested. Eventually, Gao's information led to Ms. Hu's second arrest in late September 2002. Gao then signed documents to send Ms. Hu to the Laixi City Mental Hospital, although he was Ms. Hu's ex-husband and had no legal right to do so.

Ms. Hu suffered vicious psychiatric torture in the mental hospital. She was tied to a bed, beaten, shocked, forcibly injected, and fed nerve-damaging drugs. According to a witness, Ms. Hu's entire body is swollen, and her life is in imminent danger.

Wang Xingui Forced to Leave Home

Wang Xingui, female, farmer from Hejiadian, Shandan Village, Wushan County, Gansu Province.

Ms. Wang Xingui, her husband, Mr. Huang Yuanyi, and their two children are all Falun Gong practitioners. Since the July 1999 banning of Falun Gong in China, they have been arrested, detained, beaten, and fined many times. Their home has also been ransacked frequently and they have become destitute. On November 23, 2000, to avoid being detained, the couple was forced to leave home and live on the streets. On December 22, 2000, they went to Beijing to appeal to the government to stop persecuting Falun Gong. Mr. Huang's mother and two of his children also went to Beijing to appeal in early January 2001. Mr. Huang, his mother, and the children were arrested and escorted back to Wushan County. Police released only the 10-year-old daughter. Mr. Huang, his mother, and the 18-year-old son are still being detained. Mr. Huang's 66-year-old father could not bear the persecution of his family and committed suicide; the family was not permitted to hold a funeral for him.

In Beijing, Ms. Wang was detained at the Xuanwu District Detention Center, where she was forced to sleep on the cement floor without any covers. She refused to give her name and address and was beaten by three prison guards. In protest, Ms. Wang began a hunger strike. Fearing that she would die from the hunger strike and the cold, the police dragged her out of the detention center and left her on a street in Beijing on the evening of the 19th day of her hunger strike. She was on the verge of death. She cannot return to her home because she would most likely be arrested again, and so she must live in exile in other provinces.

Ms. Wang's grandmother-in-law, who is over 80 years old, lives alone with no one to take care of her. Ms. Wang's 15-year-old son is having a very difficult time working on the farm to support two families, and Ms. Wang's 10-year-old daughter is in foster care.

Forcibly Divorced and Dead from Torture in a Labor Camp

Hou Youfang, female, 48, a physics teacher at Xipo Village Middle School of Jinchang City, Gansu Province.

Ms. Hou Youfang went to Beijing to appeal for an end to the persecution of Falun Gong. As a result, she was dismissed from the school and fined more than 9,000 Yuan (the average monthly income of an urban worker is 500 Yuan). Her family could not afford such a large sum of money. Under the pressure, her husband divorced her, thereby keeping his job secure. In August 2001, Ms. Hou was sent to Ping'antai Labor Camp in Lanzhou City, Gansu Province because she practiced Falun Gong. On November 29, 2002, Ms. Hou was tortured to

death at the labor camp. Her ribs and pelvis were severely fractured, her internal organs were badly injured, and her body had hemorrhaged internally. Shortly after her death, the police sent her body to be cremated.

Yu Ruiying and Her Husband Became Homeless to Avoid Further Persecution

1. **Yu Ruiying**, female, 47, resident of Haiyang City, Shandong Province
2. **Qi Xuekuai**, male, Yu Ruiying's husband, resident of Haiyang City, Shandong Province

On July 21, 1999 Ms. Yu Ruiying went to Beijing to appeal to the central government to stop persecuting Falun Gong practitioners. Ms. Yu was arrested and escorted back to Haiyang City, and detained at an anti-Falun Gong Brainwashing Class. After her release, she wrote a letter to the local political department explaining how she had benefited from practicing Falun Gong. Once again Ms. Yu was sent to the brainwashing class. On February 4, 2000, Ms. Yu was held in custody just for having stepped outside of her house. The next day, she practiced Falun Gong exercises outdoors and was detained for fifteen days.

Through her husband's workplace the police tried to pressure Ms. Yu to renounce Falun Gong. They told her husband Mr. Qi Xuekuai that he had three options: he would have to prevent her from appealing or practicing Falun Gong or they would suspend his salary, he would have to pay for someone to keep surveillance on her, or they would send her to the mental hospital and he would have to pay for the drugs used on his wife.

Her husband chose the first option. Therefore, he had to report to the work place everyday about his wife. Mr. Qi was unable to work for a month due to the mental pressure. Yet the police of the Haiyang City Police Station kept on threatening him. Finally Mr. Qi could not bear the pressure any more and left, leaving Ms. Yu and their daughter at home.

On July 20, 2000, Ms. Yu went to visit her mother. The police from the Haiyang Police Station with camera in hand came to arrest her, fortunately, she had already left for her younger sister's house. Then, the police headed her sister's house immediately, but Ms. Yu managed to escape, however, she could not return home anymore. The police constantly threaten Ms. Yu's daughter, a high school student. This younger girl's performance at school is adversely affected by the aggravating situation.