

Refugee Review Tribunal

AUSTRALIA

RRT RESEARCH RESPONSE

Research Response Number: CHN17582
Country: China
Date: 18 October 2005, Updated 19, 21 & 25 October 2005

China – Henan Province – Falun Gong – Pingdingshan Concrete Slab Sleeper Factory – Demonstrations

This response was prepared by the Country Research Section of the Refugee Review Tribunal (RRT) after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the RRT within time constraints. This response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum.

Questions

- 1. Is there any information available about a special section of the hospital attached to the Pingdingshan Concrete Slab Sleeper (or ‘railway’) Factory having been set up to accommodate Falun Gong practitioners in early 2004?**
- 2. Are there any reports of Falun Gong prisoners having been poisoned secretly by the mixing of anaesthetic in their drinking water, resulting in injury and a death in July 2004?**
- 3. Is there any information about two large-scale protest demonstrations, involving in the latter case about 500 people, at the hospital in January 2005 to demand the release of Falun Gong practitioners who were held there as patients?**
- 4. Whether or not there are reports of such demonstrations, is it possible to say whether the police, including the PSB, would have been likely to allow large demonstration in support of Falun Gong to take place without making arrests?**

List of Sources Consulted

Internet Sources:

Government Information & Reports

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada http://www.irb.gc.ca/cgi-bin/foliocgi.exe/refinfo_e

UK Home Office <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk>

US Department of State <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk>

United Nations (UN)

UNHCR <http://www.unhcr.ch/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home>

Non-Government Organisations

Amnesty International <http://www.amnesty.org/>

Human Rights Watch <http://www.hrw.org/>

International News & Politics

BBC News <http://news.bbc.co.uk>

Epoch Times <http://english.epochtimes.com/index12.html>

Region Specific Links

Australia Falun Information Centre <http://www.falunau.org/index.jsp>
Clear Harmony – Falun Dafa in Europe <http://www.clearharmony.net/>
Dafa Falun Dafa Clearwisdom.net <http://clearwisdom.net>
Falun Dafa in Australia <http://www.falundafa.org.au/>
Falun Dafa Information Center <http://www.faluninfo.net/>
Falun Gong Human Rights Working Group <http://www.falunhr.org/>
Pure Awakening <http://www.pureawakening.net/pa/index.html>
Pure Insight <http://www.pureinsight.org/>

Search Engines

Google <http://www.google.com.au/http://www.falundafa.org>

UNHCR	<i>REFWORLD</i>	UNHCR Refugee Information Online
<u>Databases:</u>		
Public	<i>FACTIVA</i>	Reuters Business Briefing
DIMIA	<i>BACIS</i>	Country Information
	<i>REFINFO</i>	IRBDC Research Responses (Canada)
RRT	<i>ISYS</i>	RRT Country Research database, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, US Department of State <i>Country Reports on Human Rights Practices.</i>
RRT Library	<i>FIRST</i>	RRT Library Catalogue

RESPONSE

1. Is there any information available about a special section of the hospital attached to the Pingdingshan Concrete Slab Sleeper (or ‘railway’) Factory having been set up to accommodate Falun Gong practitioners in early 2004?

No information on a hospital attached to the Pingdingshan Concrete Sleeper Factory was found amongst the sources consulted.

The Laogai Research Foundation, which documents prisons and labour camps in China, was contacted in regards to this matter on 6 October 2005 (RRT Country Research 2005, Email to the Laogai Research Foundation ‘Request for Assistance from the Refugee Review Tribunal, Sydney Australia: CHN17582’, 6 October – Attachment 1). The Assistant Director of the Laogai Research Foundation replied on 12 October 2005 advising that they did not have any information on a hospital attached to the Pingdingshan Concrete Sleeper Factory (Reger, Amy 2005, Email ‘Re: Request for assistance from Refugee Review Tribunal, Sydney Australia (RRT ref: CHN17582)’, 12 October – Attachment 2).

John Deller, President of the Falun Dafa Association of NSW INC, was contacted in regards to this matter on 6 October 2005 (RRT Country Research 2005, Email to John Deller ‘Request for Assistance from the Refugee Review Tribunal, Sydney Australia: CHN17582’, 6 October – Attachment 3). John Deller replied on 6 October 2005 advising that he had no knowledge of the situation but that he would make enquiries on the matter (John Deller 2005, Email ‘Re: Request for Assistance from the Refugee Review Tribunal, Sydney Australia: CHN17582’, 6 October – Attachment 4).

John Deller, President of the Falun Dafa Association of NSW INC, replied on 19 October 2005. The information is as follows:

Please refer to the website below

<http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2004/1/6/43839p.html>

This report is on the prisons and labor camps in Henan Province. It mentions the Third Henan Provincial Labor Camp is located on the road from Xuchang City to Pingding Mountain. “Shan” can mean mountain – so Pingdingshan can be Pingding Mountain and this could be the labor camp in question.

Also the following website has info on the 69 or so “Laogai” (forced labor camps) also called RTL (Re-education Through Labor) camps in Henan.

<http://www.laogai.org/hdbook/henan.htm>

It refers to No 61 as being in Pingdingshan.

At this stage it is the best related info we can find.

...Also we can not confirm a special section being set up in the hospital attached to the Pingdingshan Concrete Sleeper Factory in Henan in early 2004 to accommodate Falun Gong practitioners – but this is also quite possible as the communist regime has gone to extraordinary lengths to facilitate their mass-brain washing and capture of hundreds of thousands of practitioners (John Deller 2005, Email ‘Request for assistance from Refugee Review Tribunal, Sydney Australia (RRT ref: CHN17582)’, 19 October – Attachment 18).

John Deller, President of the Falun Dafa Association of NSW INC, also replied on 21 October 2005. The information is as follows:

Here is a report on persecution in the forced labor camp in Pingdingshan City Henan province

<http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2003/3/22/33618p.html>

Sorry, but we can’t find anything more specific (John Deller 2005, Email ‘Re: Request for assistance from Refugee Review Tribunal, Sydney Australia (RRT ref: CHN17582)’, 21 October – Attachment 19).

John Deller, President of the Falun Dafa Association of NSW INC, contacted the World Organization to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong in regards to this matter. The Organization to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong replied on 22 October 2005. The information is as follows:

Q: Do you have any information about a special section being set up in the hospital attached to the Pingdingshan Concrete Sleeper Factory in Henan in early 2004 to accommodate Falun Gong practitioners?

A: We don’t have any information on that hospital. Pingdingshan Concrete Sleeper Factory is a state owned factory with 700 employees. There is a hospital attached to it with about 20 employees at the peak. The head of the hospital said that she had never treated Falun Gong practitioners in the hospital. According to the person who answered the phone in the transportation division, the hospital mostly accepts the employees as the patients. Our investigator talked to the director of the 610 Office of Xinhua district of Pingdingshan City.

The director said that the factory belongs to the Ministry of Railways. It's impossible to send Falun Gong practitioners to work there. Besides, the factory is laying off employees due to not having enough work to do. He hasn't heard of the hospital being used to detain Falun Gong practitioners (World Organization to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong 2005, 'Henan Pingdingshan', 22 October – Attachment 20).

2. Are there any reports of Falun Gong prisoners having been poisoned secretly by the mixing of anaesthetic in their drinking water, resulting in injury and a death in July 2004?

No reports of Falun Gong prisoners being secretly poisoned by mixing anaesthetic in their drinking water was found amongst the sources consulted. Reports of Falun Gong practitioner's food and drink being drugged or poisoned were found amongst the sources consulted. (Please note that there are numerous examples of Falun Gong practitioners being force fed drugged or poisoned food or drink and being injected with drugs or poison. Examples of this are not included here).

The Laogai Research Foundation, which documents prisons and labour camps in China, was contacted in regards to this matter on 6 October 2005 (RRT Country Research 2005, Email to the Laogai Research Foundation 'Request for Assistance from the Refugee Review Tribunal, Sydney Australia: CHN17582', 6 October – Attachment 1). The Assistant Director of the Laogai Research Foundation replied on 12 October 2005 advising that they did not have any information on Falun Gong prisoners being secretly poisoned by mixing anaesthetic in their drinking water (Reger, Amy 2005, Email 'Re: Request for assistance from Refugee Review Tribunal, Sydney Australia (RRT ref: CHN17582)', 12 October – Attachment 2).

John Deller, President of the Falun Dafa Association of NSW INC, was contacted in regards to this matter on 6 October 2005 (RRT Country Research 2005, Email to John Deller 'Request for Assistance from the Refugee Review Tribunal, Sydney Australia: CHN17582', 6 October – Attachment 3). John Deller replied on 6 October 2005 advising that he had no knowledge of the situation but that he would make enquiries on the matter (John Deller 2005, Email 'Re: Request for Assistance from the Refugee Review Tribunal, Sydney Australia: CHN17582', 6 October – Attachment 4).

John Deller, President of the Falun Dafa Association of NSW INC, replied on 19 October 2005. The information is as follows:

Although we can not confirm reports of Falun Gong patients in Chinese hospitals being secretly poisoned by mixing anaesthetic (or other poisons) in their drinking water, this is quite possible (John Deller 2005, Email 'Request for assistance from Refugee Review Tribunal, Sydney Australia (RRT ref: CHN17582)', 19 October – Attachment 18).

John Deller, President of the Falun Dafa Association of NSW INC, replied on 21 October 2005 advising that he was unable to find anything more specific (John Deller 2005, Email 'Re: Request for assistance from Refugee Review Tribunal, Sydney Australia (RRT ref: CHN17582)', 21 October – Attachment 19).

John Deller, President of the Falun Dafa Association of NSW INC, contacted the World Organization to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong in regards to this matter. The Organization to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong replied on 22 October 2005. The information is as follows:

Q: Are you aware of any reports of Falun Gong patients in Chinese hospitals being secretly poisoned by mixing anaesthetic (or other poisons) in their drinking water, resulting in injury and death?

A: There are two reports on Minghui net about the mixing poisons in the drinking water. Please see the translation of the relevant parts in the reports:

(Clearwisdom.net July 30, 2005) For a long time, the 610 Office in Bazhou City has used all kinds of means to persecute Dafa practitioners in order to “transform” them. The most commonly used means include the use of poisonous drugs and poison injections. They would mix such drugs into food when force-feeding practitioners, mix drugs into their food and drinking water or give them injections under armpit. If the dose is not very large, the victims would gradually become confused and be in a haze. With large dose, the victims would suffer extreme pains. Usually they would have severe headaches, feel dizzy and confused; in severe conditions, the victims would lose memory for a period of time, their tongue would become rigid, and their mind blank, accompanied with severe headaches. They would either fall into unconsciousness or could not sleep at all. They are in extreme agony every minute of the day. Some practitioners had to be sent to hospital for emergency treatment, some even became insane as a result. (From <http://www.minghui.ca/mh/articles/2005/7/30/107300.html>)

“...a few vicious policemen cuffed me to the chair. They poured some water into a disposable cup and put in some drugs to confuse my mind. Then they pretended to be kind and asked me to drink some water. After I drank the water, my mouth felt very dry and my tongue became rigid. At that time my mind was very confused and I did not know what they were writing or saying...” (From <http://www.minghui.ca/mh/articles/2004/10/1/85506.html>) (World Organization to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong 2005, ‘Henan Pingdingshan’, 22 October – Attachment 20).

An article by a Falun Dafa practitioner in China and posted on the Falun Dafa Clearwisdom.net website on 21 December 2004 reports that labour camp guards and prison guards murder Falun Gong practitioners by poisoning their food (Falun Dafa practitioner in China 2004, ‘The Ways Used to Torture and Kill in China’s Forced Labor Camps and Prisons’, Falun Dafa Clearwisdom.net website, 21 December <http://clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2005/2/19/57708.html> – Accessed 6 October 2005 – Attachment 5).

What follows is a selection of specific instances of Falun Gong practitioner’s food or drink being drugged or poisoned causing injury and/or death between 1999 and 2004. These reports are found on Clearwisdom.net and Falun Dafa Information Center website.

- October 1999 Qi Xia was arrested and sentenced to four years in Henan Province No. 5 Women’s Prison:

The wicked people in the prison secretly put drugs in her food. These drugs made Ms. Qi dizzy and absentminded, and they made her unable to bend down, made her nauseous, and caused her stomach to bloat (‘Summary of Other Articles and News – April 6, 2004’ 2004, Falun Dafa Clearwisdom.net website, 17 April <http://clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2004/4/17/47133.html> – Accessed 6 October 2005 – Attachment 6);

- 5 March 2000 Feng Xiaomei (Laura Castner) was detained for eight months:

On top of these tortures, they also hid drugs in my food to create mental and physical suffering (Castner, Laura 2001, 'The Detention and Psychological Abuse of Feng Xiaomei', Falun Dafa Information Center website, 11 April <http://www.faluninfo.net/DisplayAnArticlePrint.asp?ID=4285> – Accessed 12 October 2005 – Attachment 7);

- 8 March 2000 Li Shouqiang was arrested and taken to Changping Detention Center. He died on 20 March 2000:

Police plotted to murder him and added a large dose of drugs that affect the central nervous system to Li's Coca Cola.

...Li could not speak clearly and said disjointedly: "They (police) fed me drugs, they put drugs in my coke... They did not allow me to drink water... when I drank, I could not spit it out. They said it would make me die in two days... They ask you to pick me up and have me die at home... So they don't have any responsibility... I should not have gone home, I should die there!" ('Li Shouqiang, Male, 37, Beijing' 2000, Falun Dafa Information Center website, 24 November <http://www.faluninfo.net/DisplayAnArticlePrint.asp?ID=2722> – Accessed 6 October 2005 – Attachment 8);

- October 2000 Ms. Cui Yulan was sent to Kaiping Forced Labor Camp, Tangshan City and died in the spring of 2001:

It is not known what drugs were added to her food. After they ate the food, Cui Yulan and others began to suffer from diarrhea. Later details are not known ('Labor Camp Covers up Evidence of Torture with Cremation' 2003, Falun Dafa Information Center, 19 December <http://www.faluninfo.net/displayAnArticle.asp?ID=8183> – Accessed 6 October 2005 – Attachment 9);

- Before Chinese New Year 2001 Shang Shuichi was arrested and taken to Chaoyang District Detention Centre. He died on 20 February 2001:

Police then began to mix some chemicals into the steamed buns that were given to the inmates. At that time, Shang was still on a hunger strike. The police sent in an agent who pretended to be a practitioner. He talked Shang out of the hunger strike, and got him to eat the buns.

Two days after he began eating the buns, Mr. Shang started to feel dizzy, so he stopped eating on day three. But it was too late; he had already been poisoned. His cheeks turned a greenish color. Other practitioners who were more severely poisoned had dark finger nails ('Additional Details Regarding the Death of Dafa practitioner Mr. Shang Shuichi from Yuzhou City, Henan Province' 2004, Falun Dafa Clearwisdom.net website, 14 March <http://clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2004/3/14/46011.html> – Accessed 13 October 2005 – Attachment 10);

- 26 February 2001 Yang Baochun was sent to Handan City's Ankang Mental Hospital. He was released on 28 December 2001:

The doctors put drugs in his food that were harmful to his central nervous system and tricked him into injecting them unaware. After eating, the drugs made Yang salivate profusely, tremble and feel as though he had no strength in his body, become mentally disoriented and his movements would become slowed, like that of an old man. He eventually discovered that the cause for these symptoms was the drugs that the doctor had secretly put in his food. Yang

strongly protested to the hospital several times. They finally stopped using these harmful drugs. It was then that Yang's health started to show signs of recovery ('After Having Both Legs Amputated as a Result of Repeated Torture, Practitioner Yang Baochun Drags Himself By His Hands to Appeal to Officials in Beijing' 2003, Falun Dafa Clearwisdom.net website, 31 December <http://clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2003/12/31/43646p.html> – Accessed 13 October 2005 – Attachment 11);

- 10 June to 10 July 2002 at Qiaokou District Brainwashing Centre:

Those in charge secretly added drugs to the food at each meal. After practitioners ate the food they became very drowsy, but the staff would not permit them to sleep. ...Some practitioners spotted them adding drugs to the food and interrogated them, but the evil ones lied, saying they were only adding medicine to treat hypertension. Actually these practitioners do not have hypertension at all ('Qiaokou District Brainwashing Center Uses Drugs to Confuse Dafa Practitioners' 2002, Falun Dafa Clearwisdom.net website, 22 August <http://clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2002/8/27/25836p.html> – Accessed 13 October 2005 – Attachment 12);

- December 2003 Cui Xinxiang was held at Zhangjiakou City Brainwashing Center until released on 29 April 2004:

After the hunger strike ended, the people at the brainwashing center secretly added some unknown drugs into her food and drink, which caused her to have physiological abnormalities. She was swollen from head to foot and was unable to care for herself. She was tortured until near death (Dafa Practitioner Jingsi 2004, 'Dafa Practitioners Brutally Persecuted at the Zhangjiakou City Brainwashing Center', Falun Dafa Clearwisdom.net website, 4 August <http://clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2004/7/4/49845p.html> – Accessed 13 October 2005 – Attachment 13); and

- 4 July 2004 Hou Qingyou was arrested in Taian City and sentenced to nine years in prison:

They tried to deceive her into drinking water that was mixed with some poison ('Police in Taian City Subjected Ms. Hou Qingyuan to Toxic Vapors that Left Her in a Coma for over Forty Days' 2004, Falun Dafa Information Center website, 17 November <http://www.faluninfo.net/displayAnArticle.asp?ID=9050> – Accessed 12 October 2005 – Attachment 14).

3. Is there any information about two large-scale protest demonstrations, involving in the latter case about 500 people, at the hospital in January 2005 to demand the release of Falun Gong practitioners who were held there as patients?

No reports of two demonstrations at the Pingdingshan Concrete Sleeper Factory hospital, involving about 200 people in January 2005 and 500 people in March 2005, were found amongst the sources consulted. The large number of protests in China may be one reason why the demonstration in Pingdingshan was not reported. The demonstration may also have been reported in Chinese rather than English.

The Laogai Research Foundation, which documents prisons and labour camps in China, was contacted in regards to this matter on 6 October 2005 (RRT Country Research 2005, Email to the Laogai Research Foundation 'Request for Assistance from the Refugee Review Tribunal, Sydney Australia: CHN17582', 6 October –Attachment 1). The Assistant Director of the

Laogai Research Foundation replied on 12 October 2005 advising that they did not have any information on the Pingdingshan demonstrations (Reger, Amy 2005, Email 'Re: Request for assistance from Refugee Review Tribunal, Sydney Australia (RRT ref: CHN17582)', 12 October – Attachment 2).

John Deller, President of the Falun Dafa Association of NSW INC, was contacted in regards to this matter on 6 October 2005 (RRT Country Research 2005, Email to John Deller 'Request for Assistance from the Refugee Review Tribunal, Sydney Australia: CHN17582', 6 October – Attachment 3). John Deller replied on 6 October 2005 advising that he had no knowledge of the demonstrations but that he would make enquiries on the matter (John Deller 2005, Email 'Re: Request for Assistance from the Refugee Review Tribunal, Sydney Australia: CHN17582', 6 October – Attachment 4).

John Deller, President of the Falun Dafa Association of NSW INC, replied on 19 October 2005. The information is as follows:

It also may be true that there were large scale protest demonstrations at this hospital in March 2005, to demand the release of the Falun Gong practitioners who were being held there. There are more and more people in China waking up to the atrocities being committed against innocent Falun Gong practitioners (John Deller 2005, Email 'Request for assistance from Refugee Review Tribunal, Sydney Australia (RRT ref: CHN17582)', 19 October – Attachment 18).

John Deller, President of the Falun Dafa Association of NSW INC, replied on 21 October 2005 advising that he was unable to find anything more specific (John Deller 2005, Email 'Re: Request for assistance from Refugee Review Tribunal, Sydney Australia (RRT ref: CHN17582)', 21 October – Attachment 19).

John Deller, President of the Falun Dafa Association of NSW INC, contacted the World Organization to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong in regards to this matter. The Organization to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong replied on 22 October 2005. The information is as follows:

Q: Are you aware of any reports of two large scale protest demonstrations at this hospital, involving about 200 people in January 2005 and 500 people in March 2005, to demand the release of the Falun Gong practitioners who were being held there?"

A: We haven't heard about these incidents (World Organization to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong 2005, 'Henan Pingdingshan', 22 October – Attachment 20).

The large number of protests in China may be one reason why the demonstration in Pingdingshan was not reported. An article dated 29 September 2005 in *The Economist* reports that there were some 74,000 protests in 2004 in China involving more than 3.7 million people:

THE Chinese government is getting increasingly twitchy about what officials say is a rapid growth in the number and scale of public protests. In its latest bid to quash them, this week it announced a sweeping ban on internet material that incites "illegal demonstrations".

...Quashing unrest has ever been a priority for the Communist Party. But over the past year or so it has put even more emphasis on tackling "mass incidents" as it calls the protests. These include a wide range of activity, from quiet sit-ins by a handful of people to all-in riots

involving thousands. Almost always, they are sparked by local grievances, rather than antipathy to the party's rule. Yet China's most senior police official, Zhou Yongkang, has said that "actively preventing and properly handling" mass incidents was the main task for his Ministry of Public Security this year.

According to Mr Zhou, there were some 74,000 protests last year, involving more than 3.7m people; up from 10,000 in 1994 and 58,000 in 2003. Sun Liping, a Chinese academic, has calculated that demonstrations involving more than 100 people occurred in 337 cities and 1,955 counties in the first 10 months of last year. This amounted to between 120 and 250 such protests daily in urban areas, and 90 to 160 in villages. These figures are likely to be conservative. Chinese officials often try to cover up disturbances in their areas to avoid trouble with their superiors.

Under Mr Zhou's orders, police forces around the country this year have been merging existing anti-riot and counter-terrorist units into new "special police" tasked with responding rapidly to any mass protests that turn "highly confrontational". Police officials say the existing units were too sluggish, too poorly trained and ill-coordinated to handle the upsurge in disturbances. The special police are to form small "assault squads" to tackle incidents involving violence or terrorism.

Only a few years ago, news of specific incidents seldom filtered out to foreign journalists. Now, thanks partly to a freer flow of information helped by the internet, by mobile telephony and, more rarely, by a slightly less constrained domestic press, hardly a week goes by without some protest coming to light.

...It is becoming increasingly common to encounter small-scale protests in Chinese cities that only a few years ago would have horrified order-obsessed cadres.

...In August last year, President Hu Jintao appointed a high-level team, headed by Mr Zhou, to supervise the handling of protests and petitions. Official sources say Mr Hu dwelt on protests in a speech to party leaders in September 2004 and at the party's annual economic planning meeting in December. Late last year the party issued a document to senior officials telling them how to deal with unrest.

According to these sources, Mr Zhou's speeches are laced with warnings that political dissidents might try to manipulate local protests to put pressure on the party itself. This fear explains why the party has further squeezed non-governmental groups and dissidents in recent months ('The cauldron boils' 2005, *The Economist*, 29 September http://www.economist.com/displaystory.cfm?story_id=4462719 – Accessed 12 October 2005 – Attachment 15).

4. Whether or not there are reports of such demonstrations, is it possible to say whether the police, including the PSB, would have been likely to allow large demonstration in support of Falun Gong to take place without making arrests?

It is not possible to definitively say whether the police or PSB would have allowed a large demonstration in support of Falun Gong to take place without making arrests.

The most recent US Department of State *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2004* provides the following information on freedom of peaceful assembly in China.

The Constitution provides for freedom of peaceful assembly; however, the Government severely restricted this right in practice. The Constitution stipulates that such activities may not challenge "Party leadership" or infringe upon the "interests of the State." Protests against

the political system or national leaders were prohibited. Authorities denied permits and quickly moved to suppress demonstrations involving expression of dissenting political views.

At times, police used excessive force against demonstrators. Demonstrations with political or social themes were often broken up quickly and violently. The vast majority of demonstrations during the year concerned economic and social issues such as land, housing, health, and welfare. Land disputes, industrial disputes, and anti-government protests were the three main causes of civil disturbances, according to a 2004 study of publicly reported protests.

...The Government continued to wage a severe political, propaganda, and police campaign against the Falun Gong movement. The sustained government crackdown against the movement, which the Government banned in 1999, continued, and there were no reports of public protests during the year. In many cases, Falun Gong practitioners were subject to close scrutiny by local security personnel, and their personal mobility was tightly restricted, particularly at times when the Government believed public protests were likely (US Department of State 2005, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2004 – China*, 28 February, section 2b – Attachment 16).

On 19 August 2005, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) provided advice on 2003 and 2004 protests by farmers in Chongqing and Chengdu. DFAT were asked whether there were any arrests. DFAT provided the following answer which may be relevant to the current case:

We do not know if there were any arrests in the case of particular demonstrations. Authorities often detain, without proceeding to formal arrest, the leaders of public demonstrations and sometimes detain those who are robust in making complaints to the authorities (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade 2005, *DFAT Report 399: RRT Information Request: CHN17444*, 19 August – Attachment 17).

List of Attachments

1. RRT Country Research 2005, Email to the Laogai Research Foundation 'Request for Assistance from the Refugee Review Tribunal, Sydney Australia: CHN17582', 6 October.
2. Reger, Amy 2005, Email 'Re: Request for assistance from Refugee Review Tribunal, Sydney Australia (RRT ref: CHN17582)', 12 October.
3. RRT Country Research 2005, Email to John Deller 'Request for Assistance from the Refugee Review Tribunal, Sydney Australia: CHN17582', 6 October.
4. John Deller 2005, Email 'Re: Request for Assistance from the Refugee Review Tribunal, Sydney Australia: CHN17582', 6 October.
5. Falun Dafa practitioner in China 2004 'The Ways Used to Torture and Kill in China's Forced Labor Camps and Prisons', Falun Dafa Clearwisdom.net website, 21 December. (<http://clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2005/2/19/57708.html> – Accessed 6 October 2005)
6. 'Summary of Other Articles and News – April 6, 2004' 2004, Falun Dafa Clearwisdom.net website, 17 April. (<http://clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2004/4/17/47133.html> – Accessed 6 October 2005)

7. Castner, Laura 2001, 'The Detention and Psychological Abuse of Feng Xiaomei', Falun Dafa Information Center website, 11 April.
(<http://www.faluninfo.net/DisplayAnArticlePrint.asp?ID=4285> – Accessed 12 October 2005)
8. 'Li Shouqiang, Male, 37, Beijing' 2000, Falun Dafa Information Center website, 24 November. (<http://www.faluninfo.net/DisplayAnArticlePrint.asp?ID=2722> – Accessed 6 October 2005)
9. 'Labor Camp Covers up Evidence of Torture with Cremation' 2003, Falun Dafa Information Center, 19 December.
(<http://www.faluninfo.net/displayAnArticle.asp?ID=8183> – Accessed 6 October 2005)
10. 'Additional Details Regarding the Death of Dafa practitioner Mr. Shang Shuichi from Yuzhou City, Henan Province' 2004, Falun Dafa Clearwisdom.net website, 14 March
(<http://clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2004/3/14/46011.html> – Accessed 13 October 2005)
11. 'After Having Both Legs Amputated as a Result of Repeated Torture, Practitioner Yang Baochun Drags Himself By His Hands to Appeal to Officials in Beijing' 2003, Falun Dafa Clearwisdom.net website, 31 December.
(<http://clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2003/12/31/43646p.html> – Accessed 13 October 2005)
12. 'Qiaokou District Brainwashing Center Uses Drugs to Confuse Dafa Practitioners' 2002, Falun Dafa Clearwisdom.net website, 22 August.
(<http://clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2002/8/27/25836p.html> – Accessed 13 October 2005)
13. Dafa Practitioner Jingsi 2004, 'Dafa Practitioners Brutally Persecuted at the Zhangjiakou City Brainwashing Center', Falun Dafa Clearwisdom.net website, 4 August.
(<http://clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2004/7/4/49845p.html> – Accessed 13 October 2005)
14. 'Police in Taian City Subjected Ms. Hou Qingyuan to Toxic Vapors that Left Her in a Coma for over Forty Days' 2004, Falun Dafa Information Center website, 17 November.
(<http://www.faluninfo.net/displayAnArticle.asp?ID=9050> – Accessed 12 October 2005)
15. 'The cauldron boils' 2005, *The Economist*, 29 September.
(http://www.economist.com/displaystory.cfm?story_id=4462719 – Accessed 12 October 2005)
16. US Department of State 2005, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2004 – China*, 28 February.
17. Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade 2005, *DFAT Report 399: RRT Information Request: CHN17444*, 19 August.
18. John Deller 2005, Email 'Request for assistance from Refugee Review Tribunal, Sydney Australia (RRT ref: CHN17582)', 19 October.

19. John Deller 2005, Email 'Re: Request for assistance from Refugee Review Tribunal, Sydney Australia (RRT ref: CHN17582)', 21 October.
20. World Organization to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong 2005, 'Henan Pingdingshan', 22 October.