Questions:

1. Please provide an overview of the treatment (past and current) of FG practitioners in Ju lin city and Chang Chung city in Ju lin province.
2. Have there been any significant events for FG practitioners in those cities?
3. Anything else of relevance.

RESPONSE

1. Please provide an overview of the treatment (past and current) of FG practitioners in Ju lin city and Chang Chung city in Ju lin province.
2. Have there been any significant events for FG practitioners in those cities?

Changchun is the capital city of Jilin province in north-eastern China. Jilin city is another city 100 km east of Changchun. We will examine both these cities below.

Changchun

Changchun City is a “sub-provincial city” and consists both a city proper (population 2.78 million) and the surrounding region (area 20,571 sq.km. and population 6.83 million). It occupies over 12% of the area and contains over 25% of the population of Jilin province.

Changchun is an important city for the Falun Gong for two main reasons: it was the home city and an important base of the leader of Falun Gong, Li Hongzhi; and Changchun was the scene of one of the most important Falun Gong resistance actions in recent years – the hijacking of TV broadcasts in March 2002.

Home and base of Master Li Hongzhi
Changchun was the city where the leader of Falun Gong, Li Hongzhi (“Master Li”), lived for many years and first taught Falun Gong. It was one of his main bases from 1992-1994 when he was still lecturing in China. James Tong gives this background:

Li Hongzhi founded the movement in May 1992. ... In June 1992, after giving two successful seminars in Changchun, Li went to Beijing and held training sessions as a research group of the China Qigong Scientific Research Society (Zhongguo qigong keyanhuì).... From May 1992 to September 1994, Li taught falun gong through 56 training seminars in Changchun, Harbin and Beijing, from which over 20,000 to 200,000 learnt Li’s unique style of qigong exercise. (pp.639-640) (Tong, James 2002, ‘An Organizational Analysis of the Falun Gong: Structure, Communications, Financing’, The China Quarterly, Vol.171, September – Attachment 1).

According to Tong, Li established a “main station” in Changchun, one of 39 such stations in China, for organising Falun Gong activities in the area. Tong describes the sophisticated organisation of this station, saying it is one of the few on which there is much information (p.645). Tong also commented on the number of professional and intellectuals in Changchun who joined the Falun Gong: “In Changchun, many falun gong adherents were professors, mentors of PhD students and top administrators in more than ten colleges” (p.656 footnote 132).

A report from 2002 states:

A former police official from the region said Changchun remains a hotbed of Falun Gong resistance nearly three years into the government’s crackdown. The group’s posters go up faster than officers can tear them down, and its leaflets are widely distributed. The city is Li Hongzhi’s home town, and many senior officials, including police officials, practiced Falun Gong before it was banned. (Pan, Philip 2002, ‘Falun Gong Seized City’s State-Run TV to Broadcast Message’, Washington Post, 8 March – Attachment 2).

The March 2002 incident

The second reason for Changchun’s significance was the incident of 5 March 2002 when the Falun Gong interrupted a cable television network in Changchun and broadcast pro-Falun Gong programmes for an hour. This incident was reported around the world. This successful resistance action triggered a severe round of repression in Changchun. Zhao describes the incident:

During prime time on March 5, 2002, the eight-channel Changchun municipal cable television network in Northeast China was hacked by practitioners of Falun Gong, a quasi-religious movement that has been the target of massive Chinese state repression since July 1999. For nearly one hour, Falun Gong propaganda replaced state propaganda on the television screens of a major Chinese provincial capital. Two videos were successfully broadcast into more than 300,000 households: One glorified Falun Gong and celebrated its global legitimacy and popularity; the other exposed another exposes Chinese state brutality against the movement, turning state propaganda on its head. Contrary to state propaganda about the attempted self-immolation of Falun Gong extremists in Tiananmen Square, the Falun Gong–produced video deconstructed CCTV footage frame by frame, concluding that the whole spectacle was conspired by the Chinese state in an effort to discredit the group. The whole city, the birthplace of Falun Gong, was stunned. The result was extensive
global media coverage and the Chinese state’s intensified prosecution of Falun Gong members in the city.


Many people were arrested after the event and some were tried and sentenced to long prison terms (‘Falun Gong Cult Members Tried for Cable TV Hijacking’ 2002, People’s Daily, 18 September – Attachment 6; Bodeen, Christopher 2002, ‘Rights group says 2,000 arrested in northern Chinese city’s crackdown on Falun Gong’, Associated Press, 25 April – Attachment 7).

A pro-Falun Gong group, the World Organization to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong, gives a more graphic account of the crackdown:

After Falun Gong practitioners had intercepted cable TV signals in Changchun on March 5, 2002, Luo Gan [head of the “610 Office” responsible for suppressing the Falun Gong] went to Jilin Province to give instructions on how to further persecute Falun Gong practitioners. He gave orders to shoot practitioners on sight. He also made it a rule that every policeman had to fulfill a quota and arrest a targeted number of Falun Gong practitioners. Those who failed to achieve the quota would lose their jobs, and their direct superior would also be dismissed from his position. Not long after, police shot several practitioners in the street. Jiang Honglu was one of them. After March 5, mass arrests took place across the entire province. (p.34) 5,000 practitioners were arrested in the Changchun area alone. Over 6,000 police in that area were mobilized to carry out the mass arrest of practitioners. At the same time, thousands of practitioners from other areas of Jilin Province were also arrested, and the persecution of practitioners in various labor camps also intensified. At least seven practitioners from Changchun City have been verified to have been tortured to death during this round of persecution. (p.41)

(World Organization to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong 2004, Investigation Reports on the Persecution of Falun Gong, 12 June, pp.34-41 – Attachment 8).

Treatment (past and current) of Falun Gong practitioners in Changchun

Falun Gong sources claim that Falun Gong practitioners have been and are subject to arrest, imprisonment and torture. They provide reports on many such individuals in Changchun and all over China. Other sources provide fewer detailed reports, but tend to support the assertion that active Falun Gong practitioners in China are subject to arrest and detention.

Non Falun Gong Sources
The recent US Department of State *International Religious Freedom Report for 2006 – China* gives this assessment of the situation for Falun Gong practitioners in China:

The Government continued its repression of groups that it categorized as “cults” in general and of small Christian-based groups and the Falun Gong in particular. ….

Falun Gong practitioners continued to face arrest, detention, and imprisonment, and there have been credible reports of deaths due to torture and abuse. Practitioners who refuse to recant their beliefs are sometimes subjected to harsh treatment in prisons, reeducation through labor camps, and extra-judicial “legal education” centers, while some who recanted returned from detention. Reports of abuse were difficult to confirm within the country and the group engaged in almost no public activity within the country. Overseas Falun Gong practitioners claimed this was a result of the harsh government campaign, which began with the 1999 crackdown against the group. There were continuing revelations about the extra-legal activities of the Government’s “610 office” including torture and forced confessions, a state security agency implicated in most alleged abuses of Falun Gong practitioners.

After the revised criminal law came into effect in 1997, offenses related to membership in unapproved cults and religious groups were classified as crimes of disturbing the social order. A ban on cults, including the Falun Gong spiritual movement, was enacted in 1999. Under Article 300 of the criminal law, “cult” members who “disrupt public order” or distribute publications may be sentenced to three to seven years in prison, while “cult” leaders and recruiters may be sentenced to seven years or more in prison. Under the new Public Security Administrative Punishment Law, which took effect March 1, 2006. Falun Gong adherents could face five to fifteen days of administrative detention and fines of up to $125 (1,000 RMB) for using superstitious cults or qigong activities to disrupt public order or harm public health. Public security officials said the law would be used against Falun Gong.

There were credible reports of torture and deaths in custody of Falun Gong practitioners in past years and overseas Falun Gong groups claimed that such incidents continued.

According to Falun Gong practitioners in the United States, since 1999 more than 100,000 practitioners have been detained for engaging in Falun Gong practices, admitting that they adhere to the teachings of Falun Gong, or refusing to criticize the organization or its founder. The organization reported that its members have been subject to excessive force, abuse, rape, detention, and torture, and that some of its members, including children, have died in custody. NGOs not affiliated with the Falun Gong documented nearly 500 cases of Falun Gong members detained, prosecuted, or sentenced to reeducation during the period covered by this report. Credible estimates suggested the actual number was much higher. In November 2005 police at the Dongchengfang Police Station in Tunzhou City, Hebei Province, reportedly raped two Falun Gong practitioners. Reliable sources indicated that Zheng Ruihuan and Liu Yinglan were detained in Shandong Province in July 2005 for practicing Falun Gong. In May 2006, Yuan Yuju and Liang Jinhui, relatives of a Hong Kong journalist who works for a television station supportive of Falun Gong, were sentenced to reeducation for using an illegal cult to organize and obstruct justice, relating to their distribution of Falun Gong materials. Some foreign observers estimated that at least half of the 250,000 officially recorded inmates in the country’s reeducation-through-labor camps were Falun Gong adherents. Falun Gong sources overseas placed the number even higher. Hundreds of Falun Gong adherents were also incarcerated in legal education centers, a form of administrative detention, upon completion of their reeducation-through-labor sentences. Government officials denied
the existence of such “legal education” centers. According to the Falun Gong, hundreds of its practitioners have been confined to psychiatric institutions and forced to take medications or undergo electric shock treatment against their will. (US Department of State 2006, International Religious Freedom Report for 2006 – China, October – Attachment 9).

The report notes the following case from Changchun

In December 2005 a Beijing attorney sent an open letter to President Hu Jintao highlighting abuses of Falun Gong practitioners. The letter described the electric shock torture of Zhang Zhikui, a Falun Gong practitioner arrested for repeated petitioning in Beijing, and the October beating death in Changchun, Jilin Province of Liu Boyang and his mother Wang Shouhui.

The Laogai Research Foundation, a prominent NGO which studies prisons and penal camps in China, noted the existence in 2000 of a provincial women’s prison at Heizuizi, Xingfuxiang, Changchun City which housed 3000 Falun Gong practitioners as of March 2000. The entry reads:


Few other non-Falun Gong sources were found which mentioned the situation in for Falun Gong practitioners in Changchun, except for the arrests after the March 2002 incident listed above (‘Falun Gong Cult Members Tried for Cable TV Hijacking’ 2002, People’s Daily, 18 September – Attachment 6; Bodeen, Christopher 2002, ‘Rights group says 2,000 arrested in northern Chinese city’s crackdown on Falun Gong’, Associated Press, 25 April – Attachment 7).

Falun Gong sources

A pro-Falun Gong group, the World Organization to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong (WOIPFG), claimed that Changchun is one of the worst cities in China in the persecution of Falun Gong practitioners:

Changchun in Jilin Province is the first city in China where Falun Gong was introduced to the public. It is also one of the worst cities in China in the persecution of Falun Gong practitioners. It has been confirmed that, by December 22, 2003, 41 Falun Gong practitioners had been persecuted to death in the city (1) (note 1), giving it the second highest death toll of a single Chinese city in the persecution of Falun Gong (note 2). …

In Changchun City, the persecution of Falun Gong practitioners has largely been carried out by the city Chinese Communist Party (CCP) Committee’s “Leadership Team to Deal with Falun Gong Problem” and its affiliate “610 Office.” The Leadership Team also uses the following names: the Leadership Team for Preventing and Handling the Evil Cult Problem of the Changchun city government, the Leadership Team for Maintaining Stability of the City CCP committee.
The WOIPFG compiled two documents relating specifically to Changchun:


The Falun Gong has meticulously documented the persecution of thousands of its members in both Chinese and English. The Falun Gong site [www.clearwisdom.net/](http://www.clearwisdom.net/), which documents the persecution of the organisation, has over 10,000 Google hits for articles about the Falun Gong mentioning Changchun including 1,570 hits for articles from 2006. A selection of these is at Attachment 13:

- [http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2006/4/18/72113.html](http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2006/4/18/72113.html)
- [http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2006/5/22/73621.html](http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2006/5/22/73621.html)
- [http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2006/7/11/75323.html](http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2006/7/11/75323.html)
- [http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2006/10/22/79203.html](http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2006/10/22/79203.html)
- [http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2006/5/10/73076.html](http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2006/5/10/73076.html)
- [http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2006/1/15/69004.html](http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2006/1/15/69004.html)
- [http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2006/5/26/73764.html](http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2006/5/26/73764.html)

There are hundreds of such reports, which are difficult to verify from any other independent source.

Jilin City
Jilin City is a prefecture-level city located in Jilin Province in China. It has a population of 1,955,804 (metropolitan 1,900,751) and an area of 27,100 sq. km. It is about 100 km east of Changchun, the provincial capital.

Although Jilin City does not have the importance of Changchun, it is likely to have a similar profile to nearby Changchun in relation to its treatment of Falun Gong practitioners. For example, Falun Gong site www.clearwisdom.net/, which documents the persecution of the organisation, has over 3,500 Google hits for articles about the Falun Gong mentioning Jilin City including 647 hits for articles in 2006. The articles contain stories similar to those for Changchun above in Attachment 13.

List of Sources Consulted

Internet Sources:

**Topic Specific Links**
- www.clearwisdom.net/ Falun Gong site which documents the persecution of the organisation
- http://www.monitorchina.org/ religious freedom in China website

**Search Engines**
- Google Scholar http://scholar.google.com/
- Google Books http://books.google.com/

**Online Subscription Services**

**Databases:**
- FACTIVA (news database)
- BACIS (DIMA Country Information database)
- RFINFO (IRBDC (Canada) Country Information database)
- ISYS (RRT Country Research database, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, US Department of State Reports)

RRT Library Catalogue
List of Attachments


