

Dear Members of the Independent Tribunal into Forced Organ Harvesting from Prisoners of Conscience in China,

I am the Director of China Policy at Human Rights Law Foundation (“HRLF”). I write first to commend the Tribunal on the Draft Findings and, second, to introduce myself to you should you decide to extend your mandate to include the overall persecutory acts carried out against Falun Gong believers and other dissident groups in China.

Human Rights Law Foundation was established in 2005 to hold human rights abusers accountable before courts of law; strengthen the legal framework through the key precedents we establish; and enable our clients to experience a sense of justice and find greater meaning connected to their struggles and courageous stances. For over a decade, HRLF has defended the Chinese religious and dissident communities through direct litigation in the United States and through global partnerships in Argentina, Australia, Belgium, France, Japan, Peru, Spain, the United Kingdom, as well as within China – to seek accountability for genocide, torture and other crimes against humanity. Our domestic and extraterritorial litigation continues to create a record of evidence, raise public awareness, and empower our clients. To date, many of these cases have been litigated successfully, including *Zhang et. al. v. China Anti-Cult World Alliance*, where Plaintiffs prevailed at the summary judgment phase in a case alleging religious-based attacks against Falun Gong practitioners by Chinese Communist Party-affiliated agents in the United States 311 F. Supp. 3d 514, 526 (E.D.N.Y. 2018);¹ *Doe v. Jiang Zemin and Chen Kuiyan*, where HRLF was instrumental in securing an indictment against former Chinese President Jiang Zemin and Party Chief of the Tibet Autonomous Region Chen Kuiyan for their role in the persecution of Tibetan Buddhists in China; and *Doe v. Liu Qi*, where the district court held the former Beijing City Mayor liable for torture and arbitrary arrest and detention of Falun Gong practitioners.² 349 F.Supp.2d 1258 (N.D. Cal. 2004).

As the Director of China Policy at HRLF, I have been responsible for research, investigation and reporting of the structure of the persecutory apparatus in China within the Chinese government and Chinese Communist Party systems. I have authored multiple reports on the role of ideological conversion through torture in extracting confessions from Falun Gong practitioners as part of a Chinese Communist Party policy that has been carried out largely by Chinese security forces in China. I have studied the operation of the clandestine Office 610,³ the use of propaganda and brainwashing in China, the role of the judicial branch of government in the persecution of Falun Gong, and others. These reports are available upon request.

I have also collected and analyzed evidence of torture as part of and in preparation for litigation filed against, for example, Li Lanqing, former Vice Premier and member of the Politburo Standing Committee, and Luo Gan, former member of the Politburo Standing Committee and Secretary of the Central Political and Legal Affairs Commission, both of whom Jiang appointed to run the Gestapo-like security apparatus, Office 610. I have also read hundreds of official secret documents that detail the well-orchestrated persecution of Falun Gong in China including the names of the major perpetrators, significant chains of command, and the impact specific perpetrators have had on victims who have filed suit against them. Some of these files have been sent from China by Falun Gong practitioners and other activists, at grave risk to their safety and liberty in China. Many are now serving lengthy prison terms as a result. These documents are an important basis of my expertise because the Chinese Communist Party conducts most of its business behind closed doors, in particular the persecution of Falun Gong, and is very careful not to leave a paper trail to avoid liability in China and abroad.

¹ 311 F. Supp. 3d 514, 526 (E.D.N.Y. 2018).

² 349 F.Supp.2d 1258 (N.D. Cal. 2004).

³ For a discussion of Office 610, see Exhibit A.

I have testified at the European Parliament Subcommittee on Human Rights, Congressional-Executive Commission on China (“CECC”), and the Ontario Superior Court of Justice as an expert on these issues.

Based upon the cases we have filed and/or coordinated abroad, which have included interviews with Falun Gong believers, review of witness testimonials and evidence related to the role and conduct of many of the main perpetrators of the overall persecutory campaign, I offer the following statements in support of the Tribunal’s Draft Findings:

1. Background Information

The Chinese Communist Party (the “Party”) has a decades-long history of launching “*douzheng*” campaigns against particular groups, characterized by their systematic suppression and ostracism from society as well as subjection to various acts of Party-sponsored violence without due process of law. The word *douzheng* has taken on a specialized meaning in connection with the carrying out of such campaigns against an identified target.⁴ While the word is also used in non-persecutory contexts, this semantic flexibility does not detract from its use for the purposes of political suppression campaigns. As a parallel, simply because the word “offensive” can be used to characterize either a hurtful comment or a violent military operation does not mean that it is unclear which is meant in any given context. Similarly, the term *douzheng* has acquired a specific meaning in the context of China’s established practice of crackdowns and political suppression campaigns against identified groups. That process is generally characterized by the following progression:

The decision to target any specific group as an enemy is always made by the highest levels of the Party. This practice extends from early suppression campaigns such as the Anti-Rightist campaign in 1957, which targeted at least 550,000 “rightists,” through the Cultural Revolution of the 1960s and 1970s, the crackdown on “Spiritual Pollution” in the 1980s, the Tiananmen Square crackdown of 1989, and the targeting of Falun Gong and other religious groups from the 1990s through today, including the ongoing campaigns against Tibetan Buddhists and Uyghur Muslims.

Following such a decision, the group to be targeted is identified in official Party media and by Party affiliates with carefully crafted rhetorical language, branding the target as an enemy of both the Party and the “People,” and as opposed to Party ideology as well as to social welfare in general. The initiation of the crackdown is signaled and implemented through society via the use of escalating hostile language by the Party, with the term “*douzheng*” being perhaps the most important such signal. Other persecutory terms like “*jiēpī*” (to expose and criticize) and “*zhuānhuà*” (to ideologically “transform”) are also commonplace phrases used by the Party to single out groups and their members for exceptional aggression and abuse.

Flagship media in China, such as the People’s Daily newspaper, the China Central Television evening news broadcast, and Party ideology journals, continually spread the word to inflame the masses and ensure that the designated group is broadly known to be a Party enemy.

Special and general security forces are mobilized to identify, round up, arbitrarily detain, and physically and mentally abuse individual members of the “group.” The ideal aim is to force these so-

4 While the word is also used in non-persecutory contexts, this semantic flexibility does not detract from its use for the purposes of political suppression campaigns. As a parallel, simply because the word “offensive” can be used to characterize either a hurtful comment or a violent military operation does not mean that it is unclear which is meant in any given context. Similarly, the term *douzheng* has acquired a specific meaning in the context of China’s established practice of crackdowns and political suppression campaigns against identified groups.

called “enemies” to renounce their group identity and beliefs and “join forces” with the Party to attack other members of the targeted group, using the same methods.

The near-final step is what is referred to as “*zhuanhua*” or “forced conversion” (literally to ideologically “transform”). Individuals refusing to be converted are subjected to ever increasing violence and torture. At minimum, the term *zhuanhua* as used in the context of the Party’s attempts to suppress Falun Gong signifies the call for members of the targeted group to be “re-educated” via coercion of various forms that extend from intense psychological pressure to physical abuse and torture. While the conditions for usage of the term are different overseas from those in China, widespread use of torture and arbitrary detention, and total lack of due process protections against or legal checks on the Party’s use of such methods, is clearly understood to be a key feature of Party-initiated attempts to “*zhuanhua*” targeted groups or individuals.

2. The Prevalence of Torture

Notwithstanding international and Chinese legal prohibitions against torture, torture has been the Chinese Communist Party’s “instrument” of choice in the persecutory campaigns it has waged against dissent. Since its inception it has implemented persecutory campaigns against members of groups that have appeared to undermine Party “rule.” As noted, targets have ranged from entire social classes or professions (e.g. wealthy businesspeople, landlords) to individual Party members considered to have compromised their allegiance to the Party, and, as in the case of Falun Gong, Tibetan Buddhists, and Uyghur Muslims, to religious movements. Members of these and other disfavored groups have been and continue to be subjected to ideological conversion through torture and other forms of torture by Party agents. These agents operate with impunity, outside of and above the constraints of statutory law or precedent or government regulations largely due to the conspicuous absence of a rule of law in China and especially for politically sensitive cases such as Falun Gong.⁵

Torture is especially widespread and severe in politically sensitive, dissident cases due to the routine reliance on confession as evidence of “criminal conduct.”⁶ Coerced confessions are admissible at trial, and thus the application of torture at the pre-trial phase is especially widespread. A well-known housing activist, Ye Guozhu, who was sentenced to four-years in prison after he applied for permission to hold a demonstration against forced evictions in Beijing immediately prior to the Olympic Games, was suspended from the ceiling by the arms and beaten repeatedly by police in Dongcheng district detention center.⁷ He was also repeatedly tortured in Qingyuan prison because he still refused to admit his “guilt.”

Lawyers can do little to curtail incidents of torture. In fact, many lawyers who have filed complaints or attempted to protect their client’s right to be free from torture under the Torture Convention

5 Indeed, after the establishment of the People’s Republic of China and up through 1979, there was not even a criminal code, criminal procedure code, or comprehensive set of criminal laws and criminal procedure laws. Even now, twelve years after China’s entry into the World Trade Organization in 2001, the Party used sham trials to appear as if to afford dissidents the due process rights they are routinely denied. Thus, as Amnesty International noted in its [4th periodic report Nov 2008], “the criminal justice system remains highly vulnerable to political interference. The police, procuratorate and courts are not independent and [deliberately kept] ... under the supervision of the Chinese Communist Party.” See, e.g., Amnesty International, *Against The Law: Crackdown on China’s Human Rights Lawyers Deepens*, June 2011, Index: ASA 17/018/2011. This lack of independence makes it impossible for torture victims and survivors to submit complaints with regard to allegations of torture without being subjected to persecutory retaliation that always includes torture.

6 Chinese Human Rights Defenders, *A Civil Report on China’s Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment*, October 10, 2008, page 5.

7 Amnesty International, *Briefing for the Committee against Torture in advance of their consideration of China’s fourth periodic report*, at page 3.

that China has signed and ratified have themselves been subjected to persecution.⁸ Notable examples include many once prominent members of the legal bar in China, such as Gao Zhisheng, Tang Jitian, Jiang Tianyong, Li Heping, and many others, who have been subjected to beatings, imprisonment, threats, disbarment, torture, and/or the shutting down of their law firms based on their (failed) attempts to advocate legally on behalf of dissidents in China.

3. Falun Gong

As a politically sensitive group targeted for persecution in China, Falun Gong believers are subjected to the same (and in many cases more intense) mistreatment meted out to Tibetan Buddhists and other politically sensitive groups. The authorities continue to use broad and vaguely defined provisions of Chinese law relating to social stability or state security as a political tool to silence dissent and restrict freedom of belief. Such basic due process rights as access to legal counsel, the right to a hearing, to freedom of appeal are similarly not available to Falun Gong believers in China.⁹

Lawyers representing Falun Gong practitioners are forced to discuss their cases with the relevant judicial departments and actively assist the persecutory authorities' use of the legal system to create the veneer of justice.¹⁰ Indeed, lawyers in China have a duty to assist the authorities to promote solutions that are amenable to the Party. The courts in China are required to punish Falun Gong believers more severely than others. The courts are also required to dismiss all civil lawsuits filed on behalf of Falun Gong believers, curtailing their due process and other rights.¹¹

The reports and testimonies of thousands of Falun Gong believers who have been persecuted in China illustrate how routine is the reliance on confession as evidence of "criminal conduct."

Chen Gang, an accomplished musician, was placed in a forced-labor camp for 18 months for practicing Falun Gong. While imprisoned, he was forcefully deprived of sleep by guards who punched or kicked him as soon as he closed his eyes. This sleep deprivation at one point extended for a duration of fifteen days. The police also shocked sensitive parts of his body (e.g., head, neck, and chest) using several high-voltage electric batons simultaneously. These electric shocks burned his skin black. The police even ordered more than ten other prisoners to beat Mr. Chen so savagely that his face became disfigured. Mr. Chen was also 'hog-tied' where his hands were tied behind his back and his neck to his legs behind him with tension. These and further atrocities were conducted by the police to force Mr. Chen to renounce his belief in Falun Gong until Mr. Chen could no longer bear the torture and gave in.¹²

The devastating effects of conversion through "brainwashing classes," which often also use torture is also well exemplified in James Ouyang's account – an electrical engineer who was forced by guards to stand facing a wall for nine days and then sent to a brainwashing camp.¹³ He stated, "I am a broken man. I have rejected Falun Gong. ... Now, whenever I see a policeman and those electric truncheons, I feel

8 *See, supra, Against The Law: Crackdown on China's Human Rights Lawyers Deepens.*

9 *See, e.g., Wang Bo's Defense: The Supreme Authority of the Constitution and Freedom of Belief, Li Heping, Li Xiongbing et al., The Epoch Times, March 27, 2007.*

10 *See, Statement of NYU Law Professor, Jerome Cohen, CECC Hearing: "Human Rights and Rule of Law in China," September 2006), available at: <http://www.cecc.gov/pages/hearings/2006/20060920/cohen.php>.*

11 *See Lu Botao's speech delivered at a meeting attended by heads of all Intermediate Courts in Guangdong Province on September 2, 1999 available at https://web.archive.org/web/20041214020535/http://www.gdcourts.gov.cn:80/fynj/1999/7/1/t20040816_5992.htm).*

12 Testimony available upon request.

13 John Pomfret, Torture is Breaking Falun Gong, Washington Post, Aug. 5, 2001 at A01.

sick, ready to throw up.”¹⁴ Falun Gong practitioners are forced to remain in these classes until they renounce their beliefs in writing and then on videotape.

As Jennifer Zeng, an Australian Falun Gong believer featured in a recent documentary titled Free China noted, those who refuse to “confess” are subjected to further and more intense torture, those who have confessed are forced to share the names of other Falun Gong believers with the authorities and, in many instances, assist in their ideological conversion through torture.¹⁵

These findings are consistent with direct reporting from sources in China to the Minghui website,¹⁶ that has named 1,680 Falun Gong adherents tortured during 2010, suggesting that a minimum of 7,000 to 8,000 Falun Gong practitioners were tortured between 2009 and 2013. Given the difficulty of reporting such incidents in China’s censorship environment, the actual numbers are undoubtedly higher, reaching at least several million. These findings are also consistent with reports by other human rights observers and the U.N. Special Rapporteur for Torture.¹⁷ In March of 2006, UN Special Rapporteur Dr. Manfred Novak reaffirmed findings that torture remained widespread.¹⁸ UN Special Rapporteur, Sir Nigel Rodley, has reported that “[p]ractitioners are subjected to public humiliation for their membership in Falun Gong . . . [m]any are said to have suffered torture or ill treatment.”¹⁹

The United States Department of State has similarly described the widespread use of torture to coerce Falun Gong believers to renounce their religious beliefs. According to the US Department of State 2006 Human Rights Country Report,²⁰ “[t]he government continued its use of [torture] . . . to force practitioners to renounce Falun Gong.”

Several United States courts have indicated that torture is a widespread ongoing measure used against Falun Gong believers. For example, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals has made clear that membership in Falun Gong is a basis for fear of future persecution if deported to China. In particular, the Seventh Circuit found that “the [U.S.] government acknowledges that China persecutes adherents to Falun Gong . . . [and that] the Chinese government’s determination to eradicate its root and branch is mysterious, but undeniable.”²¹

U.S. courts have even found high-ranking Chinese officials liable for widespread persecutory campaigns that deprived Falun Gong practitioners of their right to be free from torture in China. In *Doe v. Liu Qi*, 349 F.Supp.2d 1258, 1334 (N.D. Cal. 2004), a case that HRLF led, the court concluded that “the People’s Republic of China appears to have covertly authorized but publicly disclaimed the alleged

14 *Id.*

15 The documentary, Free China, is available upon request.

16 Minghui is considered and treated as a reliable source for factual information relating to the persecution of Falun Gong by major human rights organizations and governmental research agencies; information available upon request.

17 Manfred Nowak, “Report of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, Mission to China,” March 10, 2006, E/CN.4/2006/6/Add.6, pgs. 12-14

18 See March 10, 2006, “Mission to China” Report, available at http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?m=103. See also 2001 Report, United Nations Economic and Social Council, Commission on Human Rights Report, “Integration of the Human Rights of Women and the Gender Perspective: Violence Against Women,” 57th Sess., E/CN.4/2001/73/Add.1 (13 February 2001) (reporting that Falun Gong practitioners are subjected to physical abuse, shocked with electric batons, including on the breasts and genitals of female practitioners, detained in solitary confinement and assigned intensive labor); 2001 Report of the Special Rapporteur of the UN, in issues of violence against women, Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights, 57th Session, document number E/CN.4/2001/73/Add.1 at ¶¶ 15-16 (expressing grave concern at reported use of violence against women in China and in particular female Falun Gong practitioners (the vast majority of Falun Gong practitioners are women).

19 UN Special Rapporteur, Sir Nigel Rodley, E/CN.4/2001/66, January 2001, at ¶¶ 237, 238, ¶ 246.

20 Available at <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78771.htm>.

21 See *Iao v. Gonzales*, C.A. 7, 2005 (No. 04-1700).

human rights violations caused or permitted by Defendants . . . Defendants Liu and Xia are responsible respectively for violations of the rights of [plaintiffs] to be free from torture . . . cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment . . . [and] arbitrary detention.” Similarly, in *Wei Ye et al. v. Jiang Zemin et al.*, 383 F.3d 620 (7th Cir. 2004), the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed plaintiffs’ widespread allegations of torture and ill treatment at the hands of Jiang Zemin. Although the court ultimately dismissed the case on head-of-state immunity grounds, it made several findings of fact supporting plaintiffs’ allegations: “On June 10, 1999, President Jiang established, as part of the Party’s apparatus, the Falun Gong Control Office. The office is known as ‘Office 6/10’ after the date of its creation. In July 1999, President Jiang issued an edict outlawing Falun Gong. This edict was followed by mass arrests . . . torture, ‘re-education,’ and the killing of members.”²²

On July 15, 2008, the Israeli Rabbinical Council likewise found that “on the basis of the accumulation of the various testimonies and indirect evidence . . . there were unnumbered cases of killing of innocent Falun Gong practitioners through torture.” Indictments issued by courts in Spain and Argentina have reached similar conclusions.²³

Official third-party reports provide further support. In 2006, former U.N. Special Rapporteur on torture, Manfred Nowak, following a mission to China, reported that, of the cases of alleged torture he received in China, 66% involved the torture of Falun Gong practitioners.²⁴ Mr. Novak further noted that methods of torture were reported to include, among others: use of electric shock batons; cigarette burns, submersion in pits of water or sewage, suspension from overhead fixtures with handcuffs, “tiger bench” denial of medical treatment and medication.²⁵ Specific measures of torture widely used on Falun Gong practitioners have been summarized by a Minghui correspondent in Liaoning Province, China.²⁶ These findings were consistent with the statements of previous Special Rapporteurs that had addressed the issue. The previous Special Rapporteur on torture, Nigel Rodley, reported in 2001 that many Falun Gong practitioners “are said to have suffered torture or ill treatment.”²⁷ The Special Rapporteur on violence against women likewise expressed concern about the use of violence against female Falun Gong practitioners.²⁸ The findings of international non-governmental organizations, such as Amnesty International, provide further evidence of the torture of the Falun Gong. For example, Amnesty International has reported that Falun Gong practitioners have been tortured in labor camps by fellow inmates, acting at the behest of camp guards, for attempting to practice their religion.²⁹

These findings are also consistent with HRLF’s review of Falun Gong believers’ response to a questionnaire that specifically inquired as to their subjection to torture and interviews of Falun Gong believers in preparation of legal cases.³⁰

HRLF lacks specific expertise in the area of organ harvesting per se. That said, in light of the goal of the widespread crackdown, to force targets to abandon their deeply held beliefs and align themselves instead with the Party’s *douzhen* campaign, and the application of torture to virtually all detained Falun

22 Id. at 622.

23 Available upon request.

24 See footnote 3, supra.

25 Id. ¶ 46.

26 Minghui.org, is a news platform run by Falun Gong believers who investigate on-the-ground conditions especially from China.

27 Commission on Human Rights, Report of the Special Rapporteur, Sir Nigel Rodley, U.N. ESCOR, 57th Sess., UN Doc. E/CN.4/2001/66 (2001).

28 Commission on Human Rights, Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, Yakin Erturk, U.N. ESCOR, 61st Sess., UN Doc. E/CN.4/2005/72/Add.1 (2005).

29 Amnesty International, Annual Report 2010, available at URL: <http://www.amnestyusa.org/research/reports/annual-report-china-2010>.

30 Available upon request.

Gong believers, it would be an odd phenomena if those subjected to organ harvesting in various sorts of detention centers, were not also subjected to severe bouts of torture prior thereto. Or to put it differently, these operations appear to be the final stage of an ongoing systemic pattern of torture inflicted upon Falun Gong practitioners. As such, they would constitute the same international crimes, as is torture, including crimes against humanity.

In addition, insofar as the persecutory campaign has been described as inclusive of genocide by, among others, Professor Leisbeth Zegveld, a look at a translation of the body of the complaint she filed on behalf of Falun Gong believers, might be useful in sorting out the ways in which the practice of organ harvesting meets the definition of genocide in and of itself and as part of a larger genocide.³¹

Thank you for your attention and interest, and I look forward to providing whatever support I may. Please find enclosed a copy of the April 2018 Opinion of the Honorable Judge Weinstein, which Dr. Terri Marsh, the Executive Director of HRLF, asked that I include. It concludes *inter alia*, that the beliefs and practice of Falun Gong meet the definition of a religion under the test of the Circuit Courts of Appeals in the United States.

/s/ Yiyang Xia

Sincerely,

Yiyang Xia

Human Rights Law Foundation

Washington, D.C.

³¹ Available upon request.

Exhibit A

The “610 Office” is an extrajudicial chain of command established for persecuting Falun Gong

Yiyang Xia, HRLF

Jiang Zemin’s preparations for the persecution of Falun Gong began as early as Falun Gong’s peaceful appeal in Beijing on April 25, 1999. Since Falun Gong practitioners did not break any existing laws, Jiang could not use the legal system to target Falun Gong practitioners. Instead, Jiang Zemin decided to initiate a political campaign. Since it was a political campaign—outside of the laws—Jiang established an extrajudicial chain of command to carry out the persecution. On June 7, 1999, Jiang Zemin, then Secretary General of Chinese Communist Party Central Committee (CCPCC), declared the establishment of a leadership group to handle Falun Gong issues during a Politburo meeting. Three days later, on June 10, “the Leading Group for Handling Falun Gong Issues” was established.³² The same leadership groups were established throughout the entire Party apparatus from the central to all local Party committees. Under the Leading Group, an office was set up to carry out daily operations. This office is formally known as “The Office of the Leading Group for Handling Falun Gong Issues”, also known as “the 610 Office” after the date that it was established. A “610 Office” was established at the Party committees at each level of the Chinese government. Since September 2000, it has sometimes also been referring to under the name of “The Office for Preventing and Handling Cult-Related Issues of the State Council”.³³

Since 2003, “The Leading Group for Handling Falun Gong Issues” at all levels of the Party formally changed its name to “The Leading Group for the Prevention and Handling of Cult-Related Issues” of the CCPCC. Usually, the officially government name is no longer used except at the State Council level. However, the name “610 Office” continues to be formally used both internally and externally. Even though it has existed for more than a decade, the Leading Group and its 610 Office were mostly kept secret until officially exposed to public in December 2013. When the Central Commission for Disciplinary Inspection of the CCPCC announce its investigation into Li Dongsheng, it announced Li’s formal title as Deputy Chief of “The Leading Group for Preventing and Handling of Cult-Related Issues” of the CCPCC and the head of its office, aka, 610 Office.³⁴

Since its establishment, the "610 Office" has acted as the main chain of command for the persecution of Falun Gong nationwide, coordinating all party and governmental organizations as well as

32 □ *Beijing Spring*, June 2001 “Comrade Jiang Zemin’s speech at the meeting of the Politburo of CCCCPC regarding speeding up the dealing with and settling the problem of ‘FLG’” (June 7, 1999) “The central committee has already agreed to let comrade Li Lanqing be responsible for establishing a leadership group that will deal with problems of ‘FLG’ specifically. Comrade Li Lanqing will be the director and comrades Ding Guangen and Luo Gan will be vice directors, comrades in charge of related departments will be the members of the group. (The group) will study the steps, methods and measures for solving the problem of ‘FLG’ in a unified way.
<http://beijingspring.com/bj2/2001/60/2003727210907.htm>

33 People’s Republic of China Government Website, State Council Notice Regarding Institutional Arrangements (Guofa Notice No. 14 (2013). The Office of the Leading Group for Handling Falun Gong Issues and The Office for Preventing and Handling Cult-Related Issues of the State Council are two names of the same organization; this Office falls under the direct supervision of the CCPCC. http://www.gov.cn/zwgc/2013-03/21/content_2359435.htm

34 Central Commission for Disciplinary Inspection Website, Li Dongsheng Suspected of Severe Violations of the Law and Has Accepted the Organization’s Investigation. http://www.ccdi.gov.cn/ajcc/201312/t20131220_15574.html (Li Dongsheng, Deputy Chief of The Leading Group for Preventing and Handling of Cult-Related Issues, Chief of its Office, Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of Public Security Party Committee and Deputy Minister, is suspected of severe violations of the law and has currently accepted investigations by the organization). See also *Xinhuanet* China investigates vice minister of public security. BEIJING, Dec. 20 (Xinhua) -- China’s Vice Minister of Public Security Li Dongsheng is under investigation for "suspected serious law and discipline violations," the Communist Party’s discipline watchdog said on Friday. Li is also vice head of a central leading group for the prevention and handling of cult-related issues, said a statement from the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection of the Communist Party of China. http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2013-12/20/c_132984818.htm

all activities directly or indirectly related to the persecution of Falun Gong, including supervising the Ministry of Public Security, the Supreme Court, the Supreme Procuratorate, the Ministry of Justice and its affiliated prisons and labor camps, the Ministry of State Security, the Central Propaganda Department and its mouthpieces, the Ministry of Education and its affiliated schools, from elementary schools to universities, the Ministry of Culture, etc. All forms of extrajudicial activities, including arbitrary detention, labor camps, show-trials and sentencing, brainwashing, torture and killings have all been carried out under the direct command, supervision and participation of the “610 Office”. Since 1999, the “610 Office” has been tasked with increasing power and authority, and its jurisdiction has extended to family churches, other religious groups, and qigong organizations that are seen as threats to the Chinese Communist Party. Although the responsibilities of the Central 610 Office appeared to have been incorporated into the Central Political and Legal Affairs Committee during the Party’s internal institutional restructuring in March 2018, through the end of 2018, 610 Offices at all other levels, including the provincial levels, have remained active.

In addition to domestic activities, the 610 Office has also infiltrated Western countries. At least one case was brought to court by the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution (BfV) of Germany.³⁵ According to French author Roger Faligot’s book “The Chinese Secret Service, from Mao to the Olympic Games”, prior to the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, the “610 Office”, led by then hard-liner Luo Gan, swarmed the world with agents to fight the “Five Poisons” to prevent any so-called “terrorist attack” in Beijing.³⁶

35 *Spiegel* A Chapter from the Cold War Reopens: Espionage Probe Casts Shadow on Ties with China By Sven Röbel and Holger Stark Jun 30, 2010 <http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/a-chapter-from-the-cold-war-reopens-espionage-probe-casts-shadow-on-ties-with-china-a-703411.html>

36 The Chinese Secret Service, from Mao to the Olympic Games, by Roger Faligot. Chapter 10. Fighting the ‘Five poisons’ around the world. <http://intellibriefs.blogspot.com/2008/03/chinese-secret-service-from-mao-to.html>