

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 official 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 CCCCP 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/zwqk/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 sentencings, 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>