

# How does 610 Office Works through Chinese Legal System

## The Power Source of the Newly Established Central 610 Office

The superior of the Central 610 Office is the Leading Group for the Handling of Falun Gong Issues of Chinese Communist Party Central Committee, CCPCC (later renamed the Leading Group for the Prevention and Handling of Cult-related Issues of CCPCC, it will be called the Leading Group here after). The Leading Group was established by Jiang Zemin and was only responsible to Jiang Zemin. Li Lanqing, the first leader of the Leading Group, was a member of the Politburo Standing Committee. This is the rank of the Leading Group. The Leading group had two deputy heads. The first ones were Luo Gan and Ding Guangen. Luo Gan was in charge of the political and legal system. Ding Guangen was in charge of propaganda.<sup>1</sup> This ensured that the judicial and propaganda within the party and the government are all incorporated into the new chain of command in the persecution of Falun Gong.

The Central 610 Office had the same setting. The first director is Wang Maolin, the former secretary of Hunan Provincial Party Committee, indicating that the rank of the Central 610 Office is provincial and ministerial level (member of CCPCC). Two deputy directors were Liu Jing, deputy director of the Ministry of Public Security (MPS), and Li Dongsheng, deputy director of CCTV (later became deputy director of the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television, and deputy director of the Central Propaganda Department of CCPCC), commanding violent suppression and propaganda in the persecution, respectively. Liu Jing was not from public security system. He was the Chinese Customs Commissioner. He was appointed as the Deputy Minister of MPS only because he was appointed the director of the Central 610 Office. Similarly, Li Dongsheng has been in the propaganda department until he was confirmed in 2009 to replace Liu Jing as the director of the Central 610 Office. At the same time, he was appointed as the deputy Minister of MPS so that he could command MPS, the most powerful task force in the Chinese judicial system, to participate in the persecution of Falun Gong.

## The Orders through the CCP System

China's political power structure has two parallel systems, the Chinese Communist Party and the government. Each level has both chiefs of the Party committee and the government. At the state level, they are the General Secretary of CCP Central Committee and the Premier of State Council. At the provincial level, they are the secretary of provincial party committee and the governor. The Party chief

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<sup>1</sup> Beijing Spring 2001(6): A speech at the meeting of the CCP Politburo on how to swiftly handle and solve the "Falun Gong problem." by Jiang Zemin. (June 7, 1999)

ranks higher than the executive, and the chief executive is the deputy secretary in the party committee, which ensures that the party's decision becomes an executive order.

The directive documents of the Central 610 Office can only directly order the subordinate (provincial, municipal, district/county) 610 offices from the chain of command. They cannot directly order subordinate party committees. Therefore, many 610 Office documents are forwarded through the Office of the Communist Party Committee. Once forwarded by the Party Committee Office, it becomes the Party official document and must be carried out by the subordinate Party Committee and the government. For example, a letter, an instruction and a speech by Jiang Zemin between April and June for the persecution of Falun Gong were forwarded by the General Office of CCPCC as the official directives of CCPCC. In 2001, the "Central Leading Group for Handling Falun Gong Issues' Opinion on Current Situation and Next Works against Falun Gong Cult Organization" was also forwarded by the General Office of CCPCC (Central CCP Office [2001]#2).<sup>2</sup> 2017 Working Points of the Leading Group for Prevention and Handling Cult-related Issues of CCP Henan Provincial Committee" was issued and implemented as an official document of the CCP Henan Provincial Committee through the General Office of the CCP Henan Provincial Committee.<sup>3</sup> "Report on the Struggle against 'Falun Gong' and Other Cult Organizations in 2003 and the Suggestions on the 2004 Work" by Hebei Provincial 610 Office was issued by the Office of the CPC Hebei Provincial Committee, with the document "Hebei Office 【2004】 No.1" to the lower level party committees.<sup>4</sup>

## **610 Office exercises power through the original CPC Political and Legal Affairs Committee system**

The CCP's leadership over the administration is also achieved through leadership of the department counterparts. For example, in the legal system, there are the Ministry of Public Security, the Ministry of Justice, and the Ministry of State Security under the State Council, as well as the Supreme People's Procuratorate and the Supreme People's Court, which are responsible for reporting to the National People's Congress. In terms of party affairs, these institutions are under the leadership of the Central

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<sup>2</sup> 中央610办公室关于加强和改进教育转化工作的意见 The Central 610 Office Opinion on Strengthening and Improving the Work of Education and Transformation. April 9, 2001.

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.adhrrf.org/wp-content/grand-media/application/\\_2017\\_\\_1.pdf](https://www.adhrrf.org/wp-content/grand-media/application/_2017__1.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Available upon request.

Political and Legal Affairs Committee.<sup>5</sup> The Central Political and Legal Affairs Committee was headed by a Politburo Standing Committee member, successively Luo Gan (2002-2007) and Zhou Yongkang (2007-2012). Due to the threat of Zhou Yongkang's power to Xi Jinping, Meng Jianzhu, secretary of the Political and Legal Affairs Committee after 2012, is only a member of the Politburo. It is no longer a standing committee member. Those three PLAC secretaries also served as the leader of the Central Leading Group, which is why the Central 610 Office was set up inside the Central PLAC. Among the above five government agencies related to law, the Ministry of Public Security is the most powerful one. The Minister of Public Security also serves as deputy secretary of the Central PLAC while the heads of other four institutions serve as members of the Central PLAC. The Central PLAC can command the judicial system. And the power can be easily extended to the Central 610 office. In 2000, the Supreme Court and the Supreme Procuratorate issued a secret document requesting that the public security, courts and procuratorates must reach a unified opinion before the trial in Falun Gong cases. If they cannot reach the agreement, they will need the intervene by the PLAC.<sup>6</sup>

## Set up 610 Office within the Ministry of Public Security

China's public security was formed by the suppression counter-revolutionary part of the new government during the establishment of the PRC. At the beginning, the Public Security only had the repressive function. Later, when the CCP's rule became more stable, other functions were added, the original repressive part was retained in the first department (in the Ministry of Public Security, it was First Bureau). The name was changed from the Political Protection Bureau to the Domestic Security Protection Bureau around 2000. This is an institution that only has political and religious repression function. In 2001, Jiang Zemin believed that the public security system worked not hard enough to suppress Falun Gong. Under his order, the 610 office was also established within the public security

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<sup>5</sup> 中共中央印发《中国共产党政法工作条例》2019-01-18 党委政法委员会是党委领导和管理政法工作的职能部门，是实现党对政法工作领导的重要组织形式。政法单位是党领导下从事政法工作的专门力量，主要包括审判机关、检察机关、公安机关、国家安全机关、司法行政机关等单位。 [http://www.xinhuanet.com/politics/2019-01/18/c\\_1124011592.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/politics/2019-01/18/c_1124011592.htm) The Political and Legal Affairs Committee of the Party Committee is the functional department of the party committee to lead and manage the political and legal work. It is an important organizational form for implementing the party's leadership over political and legal work. The political and legal units are specialized forces engaged in political and legal work under the leadership of the party, including the adjudication organs, procuratorial organs, public security organs, state security organs, and justice organs.

<sup>6</sup> 最高人民法院、最高人民检察院《关于当前办理涉及“法轮功”刑事案件有关问题的意见》2000年1月14日。4、关于办理程序问题（6）办理涉及“法轮功”刑事案件要注重社会效果。检察机关应当依法适时介入公安机关的侦查活动。检察机关、法院办理此类案件应当注意沟通，积极配合，必要时，可就案件的事实、证据、罪名等事先统一认识；仍存在重大意见分歧的，应当报请政法委协调，尽量将问题解决在起诉前或者庭审前。 <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BwO5hRHakWdOOHp4ODNSdTBkSTQ/view> Social effects shall be emphasized in handling criminal cases involving Falun Gong. The Procuratorate shall be involved in the investigations conducted by the police in due time according to the law and the Procuratorate and the court shall exchange opinions and cooperate with each other in handling these cases. If necessary, agreement on facts, witnesses, and charges shall be reached beforehand. Different opinions shall be submitted to the committee of law of the Party for coordination to ensure the problems are solved before the prosecution and the trial. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BwO5hRHakWdORjRmSnIPeHAXU00/view>

system. In the Ministry of Public Security, the Domestic Security Protection Bureau (First Bureau) split off its anti Falun Gong part to form a new 26 Bureau (Anti-Cult Bureau). At the provincial and lower level, the 610 offices inside the Public Security are located in the Domestic Security Protection Divisions. For example, the head of the Domestic Security Protection Bureau of the Provincial Public Security Department also serves as the director of the Provincial Public Security Department's 610 Office.<sup>7</sup> In this way, the 610 office can directly use the CCP's most powerful state repressive machine, the public security system. In fact, the vast majority of repression of religious groups and democrats is carried out by the Domestic Security Protection system.

Submitted by Yiyang Xia

Human Rights Law Foundation

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