

## **Xuezhen Bao**

**Female, Occupation in China - (Engineer) when arrested, Realtor. Occupation now, retired.**

My name is Xuezhen Bao, I was born in Feb.1950 in Shanghai. I am an engineer, university graduated, used to work in a state-owned enterprise sector. I start to practice Falun Gong from 1995 and get great health improvement afterwards. During Chinese communist party's persecution to Falun Gong, I lost my job and was imprisoned from 2001 June 1st for 3.5 years due to not give up my belief.

I was detained in Shanghai women's

prison. Below is my experience:

Around the first half year in 2003, all Falun Gong practitioners were requested to go through full body medical check. We saw 4 huge buses at the prison entrance, and full of very advanced imported medical equipment.

In that prison, there were 5 detaining sectors, all Falun Gong practitioners in each sector were forced to line up and get on the bus one by one to go through all checks.

Wardens followed us everywhere to make sure we went through the checks. We have to go through all sorts of checks, from height, weight, eye check, blood test, urine analysis, gynecology check, ultrasound diagnosis, check on internal organs fx heart, liver, kidney, etc. The syringes they were using to take blood were much larger than normal blood test ones. When I got to ultrasound diagnosis, the doctor looked very surprised; he called for other doctors and wardens and checked with them. I heard a few sentences: "this one is useless" "it is a mess, full of stones, everywhere, she is useless". Then they asked if I feel any pain at my, I told them it felt alright, then they became quiet.

During the test, the warden in charge of Falun Gong, Lei Shi said, 'see how well the government treat you Falun Gong, this test is only for you people, to check everything. Only you Falun Gong people are treated like this, not even us as police (to get this kind of checks)'.

Such medical test went for several days, there were around 100 Falun Gong practitioners were detained in that prison. The doctors came with the bus, no one knew which hospital them belong to. And we were also not allowed to ask where the doctors came from. If anything came up, the doctors would talk to the warden instead of us. Everything from Falun Gong practitioner was restricted; we were not even allowed to speak to anyone.

At that time, we knew nothing about forced organ harvesting. After that check, quite several Falun Gong practitioners disappeared; most of them only had a number as they refused to give their names. At that time, we

thought they were moved to another place, but now when we know about forced organ harvesting, they maybe got killed for their organs.

Another time, I was called out by the warden in the morning, they insist to have my eyes check. I felt quite strange, as there is no reason to do such check, and I felt perfectly fine with my eyes. When I asked why, they told me the check was due to my request, but in fact I did not make any request. I told them I do not need such check as I am feeling fine, and I did not make any check request, they wouldn't say anything anymore.

They managed to bring me out of the prison and wait for their car. But after a long time, the car still did not come. I kept asking what the purpose for such test is, my eyes are fine. But they just wouldn't give my any reason. After another 20 minutes or so they still did not get the car and had no other choice but sent me back to the cell.

### The experiences during the detention

Being held in detention center, other Falun Gong practitioners and I received inhuman treatment, and detained together with criminals of theft, robbery, pocket picker, drug addicts and murderers. Some 20 people were squeezed into an eleven- or-twelve-square meter (including toilet) cell and there are no benches or bed inside. Sleeping at night, one can only lie on your side not on your back, and everyone can only sleep on the wet floor very close to the toilet. Things to eat are usually the vegetable to be discarded in the markets, or the rotten vegetables or the vegetable leaves worth no more than several dimes or pennies per kilogram. What was used is a dirty iron lunchbox, in which rice mixed with vegetables, no matter whether you want to eat it or not. The police also instructed other criminals to watch us, forbidding us to doing exercises and to say that Falun Gong is good and forbid us to tell the truth of persecution.

Being held for more than one year in the detention center, (because of insufficient evidence), the trial was repeatedly delayed. I was not allowed to see my family or the lawyer. In order to sentence me to prison, the "610 office" conducted the evil and sowed dissension, created lies, induced a confession, forced confessions and defrauded me of the so-called oral statements. This was to swindle the so-called confession. In the trial, under the circumstance of absence of any witnesses and evidence at all, the authority illegally sentenced me to three and a half years in prison just using perjury.

(Appendix three: Indictment, written judgment, written award)

I was later transferred to the Shanghai Female Prison. In going through the formalities because I did not admit I was a criminal, I suffered physical punishment from the first day onwards and I was locked up in a tiny dark cell, a three-square-meter-small cell room, dining, drinking and excreting inside. Because there are no windows in the cell, it is humid and uncomfortable inside. Such humiliation is beyond any description. Later I

was transferred to a slightly larger prison cell, however you have to eat, drink and excrete inside this cell as well. Going to the toilet is at scheduled times. The total amount of water for daily wash and use is only two bowls.

And no toilet is permitted even if you have a period, bathing was not allowed either. Because the weather was hot, there was bad smell.

The police in the jail in turn would slander Falun Gong practitioners about their hygiene. In prison, the Falun Gong practitioners are usually "teamed" with 3 or 4 other criminals (that is close-up watching). Speaking to other Falun Gong practitioners was forbidden. Even eye contact will be reported to the police by other prisoners, and the police will find some excuse to question and admonish you. Sitting in small stool with legs bending in 90 degree angles, crossing and stretching your legs are not permitted. After (sitting for) one day, your body becomes stiff all over. There was not even a little bit of personal freedom, the mental pressure was particular large. In winter, the cells are extremely cold without heating. Iron bars simply cannot stop the wind.

The police in the Shanghai Female Prison persecuted Falun Gong practitioners extremely sinisterly and maliciously. They did not show this openly, but in secret all means were employed including beating, luring and cheating were used. In addition, (police) scold you sarcastically, ridiculing and humiliating you. (Police) instructed other prisoners to play dirty tricks on Falun Gong practitioners, push the table to hit Falun Gong practitioners (and use all the force to push the table to hit your body again, you will be hit until black and blue). In order to persecute Falun Gong practitioners, they picked holes in Falun Gong practitioners deliberately, and punished us by forced standing or by hand copying prison regulations and other means to achieve the goal of persecution.

I was made to stand for long periods of time just because I did not fulfil their requirements to place the thing at the so-called right location. For example, in the cell room all the daily necessities can only be placed in a about 40-square - centimeter -small cupboard. It was not allowed to place them anywhere else. I once placed the hanger below the mattress (I saw others doing the same thing). The other prisoners assigned to me turned over my quilt and mattress and pointed to the hanger and said that I had violated the regulations. They deducted my points and forced me to stand until 11 pm (even when I could not physically stand any longer). My whole body and mind have been harmed tremendously.

In the jail, we must withstand the strong physical labor daily for over ten hours. For example, daily requests to weave two coarse-weave shirts or three vests manually with needles (Appendix 4. photographs of similar clothing samples) or to make 400 to 500 strings of 20-centimeter-long beads accessories or bead jewellery with the needlework and beads (if you are even a little absent-minded you can easily stick the needle into your hand and cause bleeding). Or to make over a dozen pairs of uppers for shoes (the

kind shoes with bead piece decoration), or to make more than one hundred plush toys and so on. (Appendix 5: so-called result and fruit). After one day's work, two blood blisters appear on both hands due to friction. On the second day you shoulder cannot not be lift up, but still you must continue to work. In the evening your whole-body aches and feels as if it will fall apart. Sleep was deprived if we were unable to fulfil the production target, but also you will be punished by forcing to stand for long time.

Apart from the physical punishment and the intensive labor, the more brutal manner is the mental or spiritual torture of Falun Gong practitioners. This is more devastating than the physical torture. While in custody, the police in order to transform me, subjected me to over 10 hours of the "endless repetitive wheel war". This consists of uninterrupted forced brainwashing of Falun Gong practitioners in various forms daily. Uninterrupted compelled watching of various videos or other materials slandering Falun gong and Mr. Li Hongzhi.

Everyone was forced to write their thoughts and impressions afterwards. Continuous loudspeakers broadcasting, exerting pressure, forced conversion etc., are unceasing unless you are transformed. I originally recovered from illness due to cultivation but was once again became seriously ill after the persecution. My weight suddenly dropped down to less than 50 kg. Under such high pressure, one practitioner who was imprisoned with me could not stand it and was driven insane. She was already pregnant before her detention. (According to the Chinese law, pregnant female detainees were not allowed to be detained. In reality there is an exception for Falun Gong practitioners).

But the police used the physical examination as an excuse to cheat her and aborted her baby; afterwards she was sentenced to four years in prison. After all of this they still forced her to transform. After being cheated and coerced many times, she became insane. It is only a cover that the police let you go a home after being transformed. They will never let you go even after you are transformed, because they receive a big bonus after arresting a Falun Gong practitioner. Outwardly, they claim that Falun Gong practitioners are sentenced to prison because they refuse to be transformed. Actually the truth is not like this. Seeing her being driven insane, my heart felt particularly heavy. I repeatedly warned myself, I should not become mad, I should hold on. So I had to bear all kinds of inhumane torture. Life in such an inhumane environment for over one thousand and two hundred days, it is truly like experiencing one minute like a year, one hour like a year.

- sentencing paper (attached)
- persecution experience (attached)
- OH experience (attached)