

Human Rights Without Frontiers Int'l

China: Democracy, Rule of Law and Human Rights

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China officials indicted for genocide and torture by Spanish court

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By John Nania,

The Epoch Times (19.11.2009) - HRWF (26.11.2009) - Website: www.hrwf.net - Email:

info@hrwf.net - Five high-ranking Chinese officials have been indicted in Spain for genocide and torture of Falun Gong practitioners.

As reported by The Epoch Times online and in Monday's print edition, the five officials of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) include Jiang Zemin, the former top man in the Party, and Luo Gan, head of the notorious 610 Office, a nationwide secret police task force that has led the violent campaign against Falun Gong.

Additional details were announced Wednesday in a press release by the Falun Dafa Information Center, on behalf of the Human Rights Law Foundation (HRLF), which is heading the legal effort in Spain. Carlos Iglesias is the HRLF attorney on the case in Spain.

"When one carries out the crime of genocide or torture, it is a crime against the international community as a whole and not only against Chinese citizens," Iglesias said.

For committing the crime of genocide, the defendants face imprisonment for up to 20 years and may be economically liable to the victims for damages. Based on the magnitude of the crimes committed by the defendants, they are likely to face the maximum 20-year penalty for their crimes.

According to the press release, the defendants have 4-6 weeks to reply and could subsequently face extradition if they travel to a country that has an extradition treaty with Spain. The decision was taken under the legal principle of universal jurisdiction, which allows domestic courts to hear cases of genocide and crimes against humanity regardless of where they occur.

Falun Gong is a traditional Chinese spiritual discipline that was practiced by 100 million people in China before it was banned in July 1999 by the CCP. It was initially supported by the CCP as promoting health and social harmony, but was suddenly declared illegal and subsequently violently persecuted, largely on the decision of Jiang Zemin, one of the defendants in the case in Spain.

The court also took a historic step in being the first to legally recognize the persecution against Falun Gong as amounting to genocide.

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These experts can be contacted to participate in conferences as guest-speakers or for interviews.

Advocacy in July - October

Participation in the OSCE/ ODIHR Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Freedom of Religion or Belief in Vienna on 8-10 July

Participation in the seminar preparatory to the EU-Tajikistan Human Rights Dialogue in Dushanbe (10-13 July)

Proposals about religious intolerance and discrimination for the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (2 September)

Participation in the briefing of NGOs to prepare the human rights dialogues between the EU and Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. Contribution the agenda with files on religious freedom in Tajikistan (20 p) and in Kazakhstan (10 p) + Recommendations (10 September)

Participation in a meeting about human rights in Eritrea at Human Rights Watch/ EU Office and raising awareness about religious persecution (10 September)

Participation in a reception at the embassy of Tajikistan in Brussels and raising awareness about religious persecution in this country (10 September)

Participation in a luncheon organized by the Swedish Presidency of the EU with heads of diplomatic missions accredited in several states of Central Asia: Networking and followup (15 September)

Participation in the OSCE/ODIHR HDIM in Warsaw and presentation of a paper about "Freedom of Religion in Central Asia and South Caucasus" (29 September)

Participation in the OSCE/ODIHR HDIM in Warsaw and presentation of a paper about "Hate crimes, hate speech and discrimination based on religion or belief" (5 October)

Participation in the debriefing of the EU Human Rights Dialogues with Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan (7 October)

Participation in the briefing for the EU - Russia Human Rights Dialogue (12 October)

Roundtable with a delegation of the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (13 October)

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