Testimony of Chen Yonglin

At the United States Congress Committee on International Relations

Falun Gong and China's Continuing War on Human Rights: How the Overseas Missions of the P. R. China implements a policy of persecuting Falun Gong practitioners

July 21, 2005

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. Thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is CHEN Yonglin, former Consul for Political Affairs (First Secretary rank) of the Consulate-General of the P. R. China in Sydney. I worked in the Chinese Consulate-General in Sydney in the period from April 26, 2001 to May 26, 2005. Before I came to Sydney, I had worked in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China for about 10 years, and in the period from August 1994 to August 1998 I was posted in the Chinese Embassy in Fiji. I would like to testify how the Chinese Missions abroad and specifically in Australia implement a policy of persecuting Falun Gong practitioners.

According to my knowledge, the persecution on the Falun Gong by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is a systematic campaign. All the authorities especially of public security, state security and Foreign Affairs are involved in the persecution. Since the CCP declared a war against Falun Gong practitioners in June 1999, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of China set up an office called "The Office of the Falun Gong Issue" operating under the General Office of the MFA as a part of "The Central 610 Office" system. The Office of Falun Gong Issue of the MFA changed its name to "The Department of External Security Affairs" in July 2004 whose function also includes dealing with the Eastern Turkistan groups and other "non-traditional security affairs." Other ministries of the Central Government, Provincial and various levels of governments and state-run institutions and companies established their own 610 offices as well, though the office may be called a slightly different name. In each Chinese mission overseas, there must be at least one official in charge of the Falun Gong affairs, and the head and the deputy head of the mission will be responsible for the Falun Gong affairs. I am aware there are over 1000 Chinese secret agents and informants in Australia, who have played a role in persecuting the Falun Gong, and the number in the Unites States should be higher.

I. The War on the Falun Gong in China

I was told by Mr. WANG Xiaoxiang, Deputy Director of "The Central 610 Office" who visited Sydney on December 21 to 23, 2001: The CCP Central Office of Handling the Falun Gong Issue was established on June 10, 1999, which was later changed into "The Office of Preventing and Handling the Evil Cult Problem of the State Council," and the insiders always used the name "The Central 610 Office." Massive and extremely harsh measures have been taken against the Falun Gong since early 2001 on account that there are still a huge number of Falun Gong practitioners demonstrating at the Tiananmen Square and practicing the Falun Gong on the public place every

day. Mr. WANG said, "Normally the practitioners number visiting the Tiananmen Square every day reaches several dozens, and sometimes over 1000. These people were very strange. The Security guards had to drag them into the coach waiting nearby. However, some of them were cooperative. The police just invited them to get on the coach. We sent them to the suburbs gathering centers or stadiums and asked the police of each relevant local government to escort them back to their homes. The village and street committee have the responsibility to strictly monitor them and control their movement. If they flee away again, all the officials in that province are held responsible."

I was briefed about the recent development of the war against the Falun Gong by Mr. YUAN Yin, Deputy Director of "The Central 610 Office" who visited Sydney on December 16 to 18, 2003, accompanied by nine officials from both his office and the MFA Office of Falun Gong Issue: The war against the Falun Gong has achieved "momentous victory," the number of the Falun Gong practitioners has dropped dramatically after "skillfully exposing some Falun Gong suicide cases." The Falun Gong practitioners demonstrating at the Tiananmen Square have decreased because the majority of them have been controlled and are under strict surveillance. To control each Falun Gong practitioner, the Chinese Communist Government needs to spend an average of 150,000 Chinese Yuan (approximately US\$18,300) each year. There are now still over 60,000 Falun Gong practitioners in China, and half of them are in prisons and labour camps, and another half are under control. "The cost [on fighting against the Falun Gong] is very worthy. If we allow their existence without control, then our [Communist] Party will be facing a giant enemy, and our society will not be stable," said Mr. YUAN.

When I was in the Chinese Consulate-General in Sydney, about one hundred delegations headed by senior officials, whose ranks are above vice minister, toured Sydney at the Chinese taxpayers' expenses. I often looked after these corrupted officials, and had the chance to hear from them many inside stories about how they managed to catch the Falun Gong practitioners by resorting to all resources. While in the Consulate, I have read a lot of confidential background materials about the Falun Gong death cases, and these Falun Gong practitioners were always accused of "being uncooperative" or "committing suicide" but actually died of inadequate management or police brutality.

II. The War on the Falun Gong in Australia

The war against Falun Gong is one of the main tasks of the Chinese missions overseas. In February 2002, the Chinese Consulate-General in Sydney set up "The Special Group for Struggling against the Falun Gong" headed by the Consul-General and Deputy Consul-General, consisting of representative from all sections in the Consulate including Political Research Section, Culture Propaganda Section, Overseas Chinese Affairs Section, Trade and Commercial Office and Education Office. The Special Group held a meeting once every two weeks. In 2002, as I took over the responsibility as the coordinator, such a meeting was held once every two months, and in the next two and a half years once every quarter. The Falun Gong issue is the priority of the Consulate's job, and it is a daily, long-term job. The Special Group is a part of the "610" office system of persecuting the Falun Gong.

The Australian model for "the war on the Falun Gong" is exactly the same in the United States and other countries where the Falun Gong is active. The Falun Gong policy of the central CCP for the overseas missions is "To fight eyeball to eyeball, to attack voluntarily and aggressively".

Some of the measures taken to squeeze the "living space" of the Falun Gong include:

1. Carrying on a large-scale anti-Falun Gong propaganda campaign in foreign countries including Australia and the United States. In the first half year of 2002, the missions in Australia successfully held an anti-Falun Gong Pictorial Exhibition respectively. The Chinese Consulate-General in Sydney held it in the name of "Promoting Chinese healthy Culture and Opposing the Cult." The Consul-General preaches the CCP's policy on the Falun Gong whenever he hosts or attends any functions. The Consulate staff frequently sends anti-Falun Gong letters, news bullets, notes and other printed materials to various governmental officials or do it through some "friends", whenever it is considered necessary. Every year, the Consulate has distributed countless bundles of anti-Falun Gong materials to all levels of the NSW governments, non-governmental organizations, libraries, schools, and visitors to the Consulate. When the Consulate staff visits remote areas of New South Wales (NSW), anti-Falun Gong materials will be brought to distribute. The website of the University of Wollongong displayed a photo of the Falun Gong stall in 2004, however after a complaint from the Chinese Students Friendship Association controlled by the Consulate, the photo was eliminated in several hours.

The China Central Television (CCTV) paid the Sydney Chinese Television (service offered by Channel 31) for renting the prime time to broadcast a series of footages recorded from the CCTV "Focus Interview" on opposing the Falun Gong. Some local Chinese media in Sydney such as former 2AC Chinese Daily, Singtao Daily, Australian Express Daily and the website "Chinatown Online" are all pro-CCP on the news report with regard to the Falun Gong. Once, there is a Falun Gong practitioner who won a bidding for "Half-an-hour Interview at Your Will" by 2AC mandarin radio, and the Consulate official who attended the function immediately asked the radio to lay some restrictions on the interview and forced that Falun Gong practitioner to give up the interview.

2. Putting pressure on the officials of the various Australian governments and exchange for political benefits by economic means. These officials include the NSW state Government, the state Parliament, the City Councils, the state Labour Party and the Liberal Party. Facing huge pressure, Bankstown, Rockdale, Hurstville, Burwood and some other cities councils voted down the motions in support of the Falun Gong or took some actions in favour of the CCP policy on the Falun Gong. The Consulate's work has been very successful, and as a result only a handful NSW Parliamentarians and councilors are willing to meet the Falun Gong practitioners or speak on their rally and no more city councils dare to issue any appreciation letter to the Falun Gong.

The economic means are quite successful. The CCP leaders decided to give the Guangdong LNG contract to North West Shelf in 2002 as a part of China's "Grand Border Concept" strategy for obtaining both Australia's natural resources and its political compromise. The Consulate in

Sydney has cultivated intimate relations with a lot of federal and state officials by inviting them to visit China, promoting their individual business ties with China and hosting dinners for them.

Each year, there are numerous Chinese officials visiting Australia. They have the task to use all the official occasions to denounce the Falun Gong. Mr. Wu Bangguo, Chairman of the National People's Congress of the Chinese Communist Party regime visited Sydney in May 2005 and did not forget to denounce the Falun Gong as an "evil cult" in his speech to some pro-CCP people of the Chinese community though there is no Falun Gong demonstration during his visit.

3. Carrying out the policy "To Fight eyeball to eyeball" with the Falun Gong. The Consulate has successfully defeated the attempt of the Falun Gong to participate in the Chinese Spring Festival parade. The Consulate has consecutively forced the NSW Railway Authority and Sydney International Airport Company to take down the large lamp billboard with the words "Truth, Forbearance and Tolerance." In order to prevent Sydney Minhui School (whose principal is a Falun Gong practitioner) from being sponsored by the NSW Department of Education and Training, the Consulate has put enormous pressure on the Department of Education and Training, and the case is still there. After talking with the Fairfield City Council, the initial plan of establishing a "Truth, Forbearance and Tolerance" stele was forced to cancel. There is a broad "black list" of Australia Falun Gong practitioners used for border checking and surveillance in Australia.

However, not all complaints are successful. In May 2003, the Consulate's representation to the NSW Government and the Sydney Council against a Chinese Cultural Performance Evening Party hosted by some Falun Gong practitioners resulted in vain. A lot of Chinese community organizations were mobilized to write letters to or call the Mayor and councilors. The Consulate prepared the content of the letter and asked them to sign and deliver to the Council. The Council stated that it would not send any official to attend the Evening Party, but insisted that the Falun Gong practitioners had the right to rent the Sydney Town Hall under a commercial contract.

- 4. Mobilizing the force of the Chinese community, Chinese students and Chinese companies in NSW to squeeze the Falun Gong's living space. Each year the Consulate officials will attend hundreds of functions held by the local Chinese community, each time the Consulate shall demand the host to guarantee that no Falun Gong practitioners will be present. The Consulate has held a number of talks with the Chinese community on opposing the Falun Gong, and initiated a campaign of signing to complain about the Falun Gong. The Consulate paid certain Chinese scholars the fee for their trips to China to encourage them to speak against the Falun Gong on TV or write articles for the newspapers. Some visa applicants were asked to swear at the Falun Gong demonstrators in front of the Consulate.
- 5. Strictly controlling and monitoring the Falun Gong activities. The Consulate has informed the Russian Consulate-General in Sydney twice about the main list of the Falun Gong practitioners, and the latter helped to intercept a number of the Falun Gong practitioners who wanted to enter Russia in the period while Jiang Zemin were visiting Russia. All the Chinese language schools in NSW are allowed to use the textbook issued by the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the State

Council except Sydney Minhui School with the Falun Gong background. Each year, there are over 20 Falun Gong practitioners intercepted by the Chinese Consulate, who want their visas or Chinese passports to be renewed. For those Chinese nationals who want to extend their passports, the Consulate normally confiscates their passports. There are some local Chinese and Chinese students encouraged to mix with the Falun Gong practitioners for the purpose of collecting information, and the award will be some cultural performance tickets, dinners, gifts and cash.

These are just a few examples of the persecution on the Falun Gong that the CCP organizes and engages in the state of NSW, Australia. Activities in the same nature are also carried out in other countries wherever the Falun Gong is active.

III. The Chinese people need the freedom of beliefs

There are 4.8 billion people having religious beliefs taking about 80 % of the world population. In China, under the persecution of the CCP, there are only 0.1 billion Chinese having certain beliefs taking less than 8 % of China's population. Obviously, there is no freedom of religion and beliefs under the dictatorship of the CCP. The CCP should be stopped from persecuting the Falun Gong and other religious groups.

Thank you.

Appendix 1 The Profiles of the Members in the Special Group for Struggling against the Falun Gong (the Chinese Consulate-General in Sydney)

Appendix 2 Reference Materials for Envoys Conference in Beijing: Overseas Battle on Falun Gong Issue (5)

Appendix 3 A telegraphic fax from Embassy of the PRC in Australia which contains approximately 300 names of Falun Gong practitioners in Australia

Appendix 4 The Australia Falun Gong Organization Chart given by an informant to the Chinese Consulate-General in Sydney

The Profiles of the Members in the Special Group for Struggling against the Falun Gong (the Chinese Consulate-General in Sydney)

Section	Work Assignment				
(person in charge)					
Political Research RUAN, Dewen	 Relations with state and city governments and with major English media. This assignment should include drafting and distributing relevant letters, news bulletins and other writing for the Consulate-General. This assignment should also include lobbying government officials and parliament members to visit China. Writing or compiling anti-Falun Gong materials in Chinese as well as in English. Recommending to the Chinese-language media the anti-Falun Gong articles published by the <i>People's Daily</i> or by Xinhua News agency. For the special circumstance in Sydney, writing or rewriting some articles to criticize Falun Gong, and publishing them on the local Chinese-language media in the name of spokesperson for the Consulate-General. Briefing the reporters our media agencies in Sydney of news-worthy information and big cases (about the Falun Gong). Coordinating with all the sections in the Consulate in collecting all the materials that Falun Gong is distributing. 				
	7. Analyzing and reporting in summary to Beijing about the work done by				
Culture and Propaganda LONG, Yanping	each section and the information collected.1. In charge of the propaganda bulletin board set up in the yard of the Consulate.				
	 Distributing to the state and city governments, and to the media, the anti-Falun Gong materials that are sent to us from Beijing. Expanding positive propaganda by strengthening cultural exchange activities in Sydney and the nearby area and by using the opportunities of visiting Chinese cultural, sports and performance teams. Supply anti-Falun Gong video, audio, and text materials to local Chinese-language television, radio, and SBS Chinese broadcasting. 				
Visa JU, Jinghu	 Safeguarding the Visa application, compiling names and personal information of Falun Gong practitioners who come to apply for visa but been intercepted by us. Interview such intercepted Falun Gong practitioners and gather 				
	information.3. Through interviews with acquaint Chinese, gathering information about Falun Gong, about any law-violating cases or family-damaging cases that involving Falun Gong.				
Overseas Chinese Affairs XU, Quan	 Distributing anti-Falun Gong materials to Chinese associations; Pushing overseas Chinese to hold anti-Falun Gong forums, news briefings, or to make declarations and fact-rectification announcements, etc. Pushing overseas Chinese to write letters to the State and local 				
	governments, and to the parliament, to criticize Falun Gong. 3. If practical, in some special days, organizing overseas Chinese to engage in eyeball to eyeball fight with Falun Gong.				

	4. Gathering information through the channel of overseas Chinese about
	Falun Gong, including law-violating cases or family-damaging cases that
	involving Falun Gong.
Trade and Commerce	1. Voluntarily and actively revealing the "evil cult" nature of Falun Gong to
ZHANG, Zhandong	all the Chinese-owned businesses, and urge the Chinese-owned
	businesses to take care of their employees (against Falun Gong).
	2. Providing to the Chinese-owned businesses the related anti-Falun Gong materials in text, audio, and video format.
	3. Finding out the advertisement spending of the Chinese-owned
	businesses, asking them to re-allocate spending according to each
	media's attitude (towards Falun Gong).
	4. Organizing the Chinese-owned businesses to help us gathering
	information (about Falun Gong).
Eduation	1. Voluntarily and actively telling the Chinese overseas students the "evil
AN, Yufeng	cult" nature of Falun Gong, and asking them to seek opportunities to
	work on their schools (over anti-Falun Gong issue).
	2. Showing anti-Falun Gong video programs as inserts when showing
	movies or videos for the Chinese overseas students.
	3. Providing to the Chinese Student and Scholars Associations in each
	university our anti-Falun Gong materials in text, audio, and video
	format.
	4. Identifying a few reliable Chinese students to gather information for us.
	5. If practical, on some special days, organize overseas Chinese to engage
	in eyeball to eyeball fight with Falun Gong. Helping them and
	overseas Chinese to make anti-Falun Gong banners and display boards.

The Consulate-General of the P. R. China in Sydney

07/02/2001

Confidential Doc No. 106

Reference Materials for Envoys Conference in Beijing: Overseas Battle on Falun Gong Issue (5)

(Consulate-General in Sydney)

1. Falun Gong Activities in the Sydney Area

There are about 3,000 Falun Gong followers in Australia, with more than half of them concentrated in the Sydney area. Since April of this year, Falun Gong elements have frequently protested in front of the Consulate-General in Sydney. On June 3, as many as 200 Falun Gong elements made trouble in front of the Consulate. From July 20 to 21, after the news that our Government was going to ban the Falun Gong was spread to the outside, more than 100 Falun Gong elements demonstrated in front of the Consulate in an attempt to deliver a protest letter. Since July 25, when we formally announced the Falun Gong as an illegal organization, a few Falun Gong followers and some jobless people hired by the Falun Gong have been sitting in front of the Consulate every day for more than 4 months up to now. When President Jiang visited Australia in early September, Falun Gong elements, collaborating with Tibetan Separatists, Taiwan Pro-independence force, Uygur Separatists, and Pro-democracy activists, protested around the hotel where our delegation stayed. That created a situation of an assembly of "Five Poisonous Groups". Falun Gong elements also surrounded and attacked the Chinese newspapers that have published articles of criticizing the Falun Gong. They used the internet to communicate, organize their activities attempting to expand their influence. Additionally, under the excuse of "fighting for freedom and human rights," they tried to lobby the Australian local government officials and members of the Parliament. The situation of the battle against Falun Gong in the State of New South Wales where Sydney is located is quite severe.

8

2. The Work done by the Consulate at the Early Stage

The Consulate's main counter-strategy in the battle against the Falun Gong is to actively respond, take the initiative to strike, work to create the inner dispute, to convert some soft elements and "disinfect" the existing bad influence. (1) Strengthen the investigation and research on the Falun Gong related information and trends. The Consulate, through media, the internet, and friends in all walks of life, should get to know the Falun Gong organization and gather information about their key activists. Learn in advance about the large-scale events organized by Falun Gong, so as to be well-prepared. (2) Strengthen monitoring. Our Consulate has put all the Falun Gong key activists we know onto an internal monitoring list. Because of our tight control, we found many Falun Gong elements when doing paper work. We immediately invited them to have a meeting, to persuade them to separate from Falun Gong organization, (3) Conduct propaganda work through multiple channels. Use diplomatic activities to introduce our related policy, disclosing Falun Gong's nature as an evil cult; send propaganda materials to major government bodies and officials in the State of New South Wales; link the Consulate webpage to the webpage of the State Council's Press Office, and open a special column to expose and criticize Falun Gong; download critical articles from the internet, rewrite them according to the local situation, and send them to local Chinese media to publish; take the initiative to contact the Sydney Chinese language television station to play video tape that exposes and criticizes Falun Gong; organize forums for overseas Chinese community leaders, celebrities from all segments of society, Chinese people, overseas Chinese students and scholars to criticize the evil and warped theories of Li Hongzhi. (4) Try to work on local government officials. Focus on the state government of the State of New South Wales, as well as parliament members, police, and cities and counties in the suburban areas of Sydney where Falun Gong elements concentrate by sending materials, introducing information and facts, and spreading our related policy. At the same time, keep contact with the State of New South Wales Office of the Ministry of Australian Foreign Affairs and Trade and Police Department of the State of New South Wales, urging them to promptly solve the problem of Falun Gong elements' sitting in front of the Consulate. After negotiations, recently the Police Department of the State of New South Wales has taken some restrictive measures toward the protestors.

3. Work Plan for Next Stage

(1) Strengthen our leadership of the battle against Falun Gong. The leading team will be headed by the Consul General, and staffed by the Vice Consul General and person-in-charge in offices of the community, education, culture, and research. There will be a clear division of work, and each person will take his/her responsibility. The battle against the Falun Gong will be our top task and will continuously carry it on as a long-term operation. We will also be forward-looking and take more aggressive initiatives to strike. (2) Step up the investigation and research on Falun Gong. Continue to follow and understand the trend of Falun Gong through the internet, friends in all circles of the society, and other channels; promptly share information with the our other diplomatic and consular missions in Australia, and do our work with a clear target. (3) Actively work to split Falun Gong elements into several parts. Continue to maintain tight control over visa and passport issuance, put newly found Falun Gong elements onto an internal monitoring list, and promptly inform the related authorities in China and other Embassies and Consulates in Australia, Educate Falun Gong elements, differentiate them according to their attitudes. For ordinary elements that formally denounce the Falun Gong organization and show a willingness to repent and write pledges no longer to get involved in the Falun Gong and anti-government activities, if they apply to enter China, we will report to Beijing for review; for key elements, we need to have tight control and forbid their entrance into China. Additionally, our Consulate will seek some volunteers in the local Chinese community and students to work for us in dealing with Falun Gong elements. At the same time, to do an active work on Falun Gong practitioners in some friendly Chinese community groups, so as to open a breach to facilitate a split in the Falun Gong organization. (4) Strengthen our propaganda: Continue to provide critical articles to local media; on some occasions, organize press conferences, lectures, media interviews, and issue press releases. Encourage the Chinese nationals, the Australian Chinese, and our students and scholars in Australia to write hard-hitting critical articles for the Chinese language media. For Falun Gong elements that show a willingness to repent, encourage them to criticize the Falun Gong with their own experiences. Actively lobbying the media to interview local anti-Falun Gong activists. (5) Continue to work on Australian local government officials. Place emphasis not on format, but on effect. Try our best to get their understanding and support. At the same time, raise serious representations with some officials of the Australian local governments who viciously support the Falun Gong with their remarks and actions, and take reasonable, effective, and proper measures to fight with these officials.

December 8, 1999

A telegraphic fax from Embassy of the PRC in Australia which contains approximately 300 names of Falun Gong practitioners in Australia:

I. Telegraphic Fax of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Australia

Embassy of the People's Republic Of China

15 Coronation Drive, Yarralumla, Canberra, A.C.T. 2600, Australia Telephone: (61-2) 62734782 Fax: (61-2) 62734235

To:	Sydney, Melbourne	Level of Importance:	Very Urgent	Pages: 6	
Receive	er's number:	Sender: 0061 2 62734235			
Drafted	by: Ji Ningfeng	Approved by: Zhou Wenzhor	g (hand written:	23/12)	
(Transle	ator's note: Zhou We	nzhong used to be the Chine	ese Ambassador	for Australia. H	He is now the Chinese
Ambass	ador for USA)	_		-	

RE: (No Title)

Sydney, Melbourne Chinese Consulate,

Please find a copy of the name list.

From Australia Chinese Embassy 23 December, 1999

(Translator's note: The name list attached is the details of approximately 300 Falun Gong practitioners which is not translated.)

(Handwritten) This letter is sent by the organisation written on the back of the envelope. Please provide to Yan and Chen to read (Translator's note: "Yan" - Yan Qingwen who is the person in charge of overseas Chinese communities. "Chen" - Chen Yonglin is the person in charge of political issues). After double checking, we can put them into the controlling list.

Initialized by Du (Translator's note: "Du" – Du Wei is the Deputy Consul-General). February 8, 2004

"Australia Falun Gong Organisation Chart"
Li Hongzhi
originally the Falun Dafa Research Association
Australia contact person (originally Ye Mingyan)
Australia Falun Foxue Association
Wei Xibin Wei Junling (Holly, female) Meng Li (female) Tao Yanwen Li Qizhong Ma Hengjun Liao Xiaoqing (female) Michael Lin (Lam) Carol Lam (female) Tony Dai Zhao Liqi (the above are Sydney members)
Simon Warsharka Des Ford Fan Huiqiang Zhen Qingcheng (Grace Chen, female) Wang Youfeng (female (the above are Melbourne members)
Li Junsheng (Joseph, Canberra member) William Luo (Luo, Brisbane member) Huang Fan Jirong (Wang, female, gold coast member) Wang Ping (female, Adelaide member) May Chen (female, Tasmania member)
Sydney Instructor Centre Melbourne Instructor Centre Canberra Instructor Centre Queensland Instructor
Centre South Australia Instructor Centre Western Australia Instructor Centre
Note: 1. Melbourne Instructor Centre also looks after the Tasmania organisation 2. There may be differences in some of the above mentioned people's names and pronunciations.

3. Falun Gong's website in Australia, http://www.falundafa.org.au/

Australia Chinese Radio News broadcaster: Fan Huigiang

5. Falun Gong's radio station programs in Australia:

4. In Australia, Falun Gong has the newspapers: Da Di Cang Sheng and Da Ji Yuan

Melbourne Chinese Radio Station (3CW) every Sunday 5pm – 7pm Chat About Life host: Jing Yi

12