



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION of the USA
San Diego Chapter
in consultative status with the United Nations

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Item 13 of the 61st Session of the UN Human Rights Commission

Statement on People's Republic China's Violation of the Rights of Child

United Nations Association – San Diego reiterates its strong support for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Rights of the Child declared in many United Nations declarations, resolutions and treaties.

In this context, we ask the independent expert on the study of violence against children to pay a close attention to the plight of children in China. The People's Republic of China, in its reply to the questionnaires to governments, and its statement in this item, has enlisted many laws and rules it has established to safeguard the Rights of the Child. Laws and rules, however, do not come alive and apply themselves on their own. When law enforcement is instructed to ignore and violate these laws and rules, they became only the masks and a defense for the PRC to deflect international criticisms, rather than genuine move towards rule of laws.

The PRC's outrageous treatment of children of Falun Gong practitioners is a particularly shocking example. The violent persecution against tens of millions of Falun Gong practitioners has gone on for five years, breaking millions of families by police killings, abductions, arbitrary detentions, and enslavement in forced labor camps, and causing countless children to lose their parents, in many cases both of them.

The Chinese police do not stop there, however. With the instruction from the central government stating that "No measure is too excessive against Falun Gong," children have become direct targets of police violence. Our information indicates at least five children, as young as 8-months-old, have died from police mistreatment, dozens have been incarcerated, tortured, or subjected to forced labor, and hundreds have been expelled from schools. Quite a few such cases have been reported to the Commission by the Special Rapporteurs of various thematic mandates. In particular, the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, the Special Rapporteur on torture have sent a joint urgent appeal to the PRC on June 10, 2004, concerning a four-years-old girl whose parents are Falun Gong practitioners. This girl was abducted by the police on January 1, 2004, and her whereabouts are still unknown at this time.

UNA – San Diego strongly protests the continued violation of the letter and spirit of UDHR by PRC. We urge the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights to act within its power to take action in this grave situation, including assigning a Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in China.