



● CHINESE STORY

story collected in 2005

I left the army and was sent to work at Fushun City Department of Justice in 1994. One year later, I transferred to the Fushun City Labour and Re-education Centre. My job was a managerial educator. In 1998, I got a contract with a shop in this Centre. Since then, I started having good income and enjoying my life.

Since 1999, the Chinese government claimed that Falun Gong was an illegal organisation. Lots of Falun Gong practitioners were arrested and kept in the Labour and Re-education Centre. Some of my friends were detained. Their family came to me and asked, since they were beaten up in the centre and injured, whether I could help to arrange a bail for out of centre medical treatment. I promised to try my best to help them for this bail. The next day, I contacted our Director-General to discuss this matter. I used to drive

for him. After negotiation, every person gave him RM 20,000 and also RM 30,000 to the centre. They were all released and required to report to the Re-education Centre once a month.

Around January, one of them was detained while he was reporting to the centre. His family asked me for help. I contacted the Director-General. He said it was the order from the higher level authority. Then I asked him about the RM 20,000 Yuan and also RM 30,000 to the centre. He denied he had ever received the RM 20,000. He said he could not return the RM 30,000 bail before the release of the person. He also said, the money was to guarantee him not to practice Falun Gong. These words were not the same as when the money was paid. It was to guarantee the person not running away. It was not mentioned that the money was to guarantee the person no longer practised Falun Gong.

Therefore I went to the Department of Justice and reported this matter. I was told to go back and wait for further contact. I believed that through this, I had offended quite a lot of people. One day, there were 4 people went to my house and used knife to cut my arm and leg. They broke my door, furniture and other stuff in the house. They told me not to get involved in the matter any more, else they would take my life. I reported this to the police and my working place. I was told to rest in the house for my injuries and wait for messages.

Around June, another of my friends went to report in the centre. The Director-General was speaking to a staff member at that moment. I was at the Re-education Centre. I was there for the matter of my friend being beaten up and I being beaten up. When I was about to leave, I heard someone shouting. So I went over to take a look. My friend was

being beaten up there. I ran over to stop them. Then I sent my friend to a hospital. It was too late. He died from internal bleeding. His family planned to report this matter and prosecute the murderers. The family asked me to be a witness. I agreed to do it.

The Director-General got the message. He contacted me and told me that if I would not be a witness, he could do something nice to me and he would give me some money. I refused this.

Later, I was arrested and was told I had defended and spoiled Falun Gong members. I was abused in the Re-education Centre. I was beaten up and starved. I got stomach-ache. My family and the staff sent me to the hospital. I stayed in the hospital and needed an operation. I was kept under watch by a staff from the centre every day. One day I ran away during the moment they switched shifts. Some were my old colleagues. We used to have a very good relationship. Till today, these people are still detained.

I left my city. I was in wanted list. During this moment, the case of my friend's murder was still going on. My house telephone line was bugged. The centre questioned my father for my information. An electric truncheon was used on him. My father was old and had heart disease. He did not survive from these tortures. He died in the centre.

I was caught later. I was beaten up. I was about to be taken to the Director-General. When I disagreed, they beat me. There were injuries on my head, back, arms and legs. One of my arteries was cut and I was bleeding seriously. I was left alone because I was thought to be dead. I survived. However, I have never been able to use my arms to do any works after that attack. Till now, I still don't dare to contact my family.

I got to know a snakehead by the introduction from my friend. I told the snake head I want to leave the country as soon as possible and I said I did not care which country it would be. I left the country with other nine people in a shipping container. I could not tell whether it was day or night. I did not know where we were. We arrived to a port after 20 days. We were taken away by a car. Two hours later, we arrived to a big house. The other people left. I was told that I had arrived in the United Kingdom. Because it took my family 2 months to pay my smuggling fee which was RM 30,000 Yuan, to the snakehead, I was kept in the house for those 2 months. I did not know what I should do.

After those two months, I was sent to NICEM front door. I was told I could apply asylum here. From then on, I have been received lots of help. I felt very grateful. I did feel worry at first. I worried that the Chinese authorities would know I was here. I felt better later on. However, I am in very bad circumstances now. My asylum application was refused. I have no more chance to appeal. I don't have permanent accommodation. Everything is hard for me.

Generally, Chinese politic system is all right but there are no human rights. Anything can be done with money and power. There is no justice. Public can only obey whatever the authority wants them to do. Anything can happen to those who do not obey.

I believe Falun Gong can make a person kind and willing to help those who need help. I am not a Falun Gong member, but I know it. Some of my friends are practising it, and give good comments. Since so many people practice it, I believe it's good. There were so many members in this group. Therefore the government gave it a blow. In China, a group might get trouble if it is expanding quickly.

Chinese government is full of darkness, bribery and corruption. Every government staff is rich. They send their children to study abroad. Their relatives have good jobs. Even purchasers in a factory are rich. These rich people and some businessmen all have some certain society relationship. Without these kinds of relationship nothing can be done.

This matter has affected me so much. I used to have a very good family, parents and friends. But my wife married someone else now. My father passed by. My old mother is looking after my ten-year son. It is very hard for her. The child can't go to school. Because of me, his father, a 'bad man', he is not allowed to go to school.

Every one here is very nice to me, particularly the staff in NICEM. They are nice to every one. I am learning English and I am enjoying it. I don't know what help I should ask at this moment because now I need every little help. Because I can't work and I have no house, I need help for everything.

Fushun City Labour and Re-education Centre. In China, a Labour and Re-education Centre is a detention centre. The people detained are those who are arrested by Department of Public Security. They have never been through any court justice. They are forced to do labour work.

Falun Gong is a religious belief. There were a great amount of people practising Falun Gong. The number of practitioners was extending so fast, that the Chinese authorities were frightened this organisation would become a threat to the government. The authorities declared that Falun Gong was illegal.

A snakehead is a member of a people smuggling gang.

NICEM Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities.

RM 20,000 This is Chinese currency and is equivalent to around £1300

RM 30,000 This is Chinese currency and is equivalent to around £2000