

The National People's Committee,

Dec 5, 2004

My name is Wu Ze-heng and I am the Official Representative of Beijing Hua-Zang Center. I was arrested July 1999 for political and religious reasons. (I submitted a written proposal in 1998 to the Chinese Communist Party Central Community for the transformation of the Chinese social system and the founding of the Hua-zang Mind- Dharma.) On Nov 2001, I was given a term of imprisonment of eleven years by Beijing First Intermediate People's Court for the crimes of conducting "illegal business operations" and participating in the "illegal issuance of Hua-zang stock." The number of persons involved in the case, the level of importance attached to it, and the amount of time the People's Court spent resolving the matter, ranks the case among the most important judicial actions in China.

The significance of the case is complicated by the unusual political implications it had, the interest groups it affected, and the uniqueness of the social period that contributed to the bizarre judgment in the case. After the overturn of my appeal, in consideration of my desire to submit to my situation and maintain peace, I decided to obey the court decision, admit guilt and accept punishment.

It has been three years since my imprisonment commenced. During such period, I suffered "special treatment" under a "special monitor." The extraordinary attention has forced my spirit and body to the verge of collapse. Under such circumstances, while still of sound mind, I see no alternative but to submit this statement, documenting some of the atrocities to which I have been subjected, including inhuman monitoring and political persecution, by the offices of the Administration of Justice.

I seek by this statement to direct your attention to the constant humiliation and other wrongs I have suffered so that such wrongs may be corrected. I remain hopeful that our country's legal system and the dignity it commands will improve with each passing day; that the people of China, whose hearts continue to be filled with boundless devotion to their country and whose dedication to the advancement of the nation continues with unabated enthusiasm, will avoid losing faith in their government; and that the Divine Land may be spared the misfortune of another Culture Revolution.

Now, I briefly state the miserable conditions under which I have suffered since being imprisoned:

I) Administration of Justice Department's Illegal Control and Supervision:

To begin serving my sentence, I was transported from Beijing, under escort, November 27, 2001, to Lian-pin prison of Guang-dong province. A few of my students visited me March 2002. They expressed their desire to convert to Buddhism on the 8th of April according to lunar calendar, for which I expressed my support. During the visit, I guided them through formal lessons and ceremonial rituals (I am a disciple of the 32nd Dharma Sect of Song-Shan Shao Lin Temple), activities which brought to me the close interest and scrutiny of various State departments. I was transferred from the prison at Lian-pin to my present location, the prison at Huai-ji, to continue serving my sentence.

When I arrived at Huai-ji prison, I immediately was placed in solitary confinement. Large rats were my companions day and night and I was prevented from sleeping for six days. I then was transferred to the imperial section to begin my "reformation." I was labeled an "A" prisoner and rigidly controlled. In this regard, section command issued strict orders that I was to be treated more severely than repeat offender "Zhang Zi-qiang," imposing in part the following restrictions:

- 1) I am prohibited from engaging in conversation with other prisoners; prisoners are compelled to keep watch on me day and night; and prisoners are instigated to humiliate, harass, and torment me. The treatment to which I am subjected, all parts of the day and during all activities is more cruel than that "awarded" to violent offenders who committed crimes of murder, rape, kidnapping, robbery, and so on.
- 2) My right to communicate with people outside the prison, including my right to contact by letters and visitation with family and friends, has been restricted and in many instances denied. From the time of imprisonment until now, I was only allowed to communicate by letter with my wife and children. Each posting of a letter took at least three months, sometimes up to seven. Even worse, from last May till this June, my basic right to communicate by letter was abolished; and from last November till this August, my right to meet with my wife was deprived as well. (My wife came to the prison from thousands of miles away and pleaded to see me. When her pleas were refused, she remained outside the prison each time and cried.) Each month during this period, I received outstanding results on production tasks and political reform examinations. Despite my not having disobeyed any rules and despite my multiple requests that I be given an explanation why the restrictions were in place, I never was told the reasons for such illegal actions.

II) Inhuman Destruction of Health and Well-being of Minimally Required Treatment for Illness:

- 1) When I was placed in Hua-ji prison, unit IV, to serve my sentence, I immediately was placed in the toy sewing manufacturing section. I was provided equipment not having appropriate protection features but I was required to work at sewing machines thirteen hours each day. After the first five days, my sitting on the hard stool at the machines, cause me bleeding from my buttocks. Each work session during this period, when I operating machine, blood spread through pants down to the stool and I felt severe pain. Under these conditions, I requested many times that I be allowed to leave the production line so that I could seek medical treatment. All such appeals were denied. I barely sustained myself during the early part of my sentence, particularly those first four months, due to the severe loss of blood and agonizing pain. No human being should experience or be forced to endure such tortuous conditions.
- 2) Each fall and winter, the majority of the prisoners would contract the flu and experience high fevers. I was no exception. However, I was the only inmate not permitted to receive proper medical treatment. While other prisoners who became ill were given rest and other privileges, I was required to work in spite of my illness and the effects of the medication I was on at the time. In last mid-September, even though I had a fever of 40.2 Celsius due to the flu, which had lasted more than a week, I still was not allowed to have any rest. Ultimately, I fell into a coma at my work station, which prison officials indefensibly regarded as "sleep without authorization." As deplorable as it seems, I was punished by the

administration for going into coma.

- 3) Because the prison is engaged in the manufacturing of toys, a process involving the use of large quantities of pollutants, many prisoners become infected with "pulmonary tuberculosis." Therefore, each year, all prisoners are subjected to an exam. I, along with over 100 other prisoners, during this May annual examination, was found to be infected with the disease. Those determined to be infected --- except for me --- were separated from the other prisoners and provided treatment. I was required to continue my duties as a physical laborer on the production line and as a student of political indoctrination, while taking prescribed medicine. During this time, I suffered from fevers, vomiting, whole body aches, chest pain and breathing difficulty. Even though the prison doctor explained to prison officials that patients who carry pulmonary tuberculosis were not suitable for long term physical labor and requested many times that I be allowed proper rest, I was still forced to work ten hours of physical labor and to perform two hours of studies each day.

This treatment resulted in my experiencing many serious symptoms, most of which persist at present.

III) Unlawful Denial of Legal Right to Receive Criminal Process Reward:

Since being placed in Huai-ji prison, May 17th, 2002, I have never expressed objection to my sentence. Rather, I actively attended political reformation sessions, cooperatively performed assigned tasks as a laborer and in doing so exceeded production targets, and abided by prison rules. I was therefore selected as a "Prison Rehabilitation Model" and nominated for a sentence reduction. However, when the court announced the sentence-reduction list at the end of this April, I was not on that list. After many inquiries, I finally received a response mid-May, when the deputy warden in charge of the prison, Li Tian-tang, along with an official from the Second Department of Execution and Investigation, stated to me: "You have been persuading other inmates to participate in religious activities while serving a sentence in Lian-ping prison, which is an illegal act. Per the Public Security Bureau's recommendation, your eligibility for sentence reduction has been withdrawn."

My so-called "illegal act" has never been defined as constituting unlawful conduct by any lawmaking body; and no one ever told me that encouraging inmates to participate in religious activities is illegal. Moreover, to that point, the records of my incarceration show that I had never received any administrative punishment that threatened my eligibility for sentence reduction. When I asked prison officials which agency of the Public Security Bureau had made the decision; why I had not been informed of the violation; and why my right to know of the violation and my right to an explanation were de[r]ived, nothing was offered in response.

IV) Without Legal Basis or Authorization, Prisoner Status Altered to "Security Threat", Deprive My Right to Receive Administration Reward, Huang-zang Mind-Dharma Designated an "Illegal Organization Menacing Society".

In about middle-May 2004, the Deputy Warden Li Tian-tang and an individual named Lee, who was a Director of investigation, separately stated to me that "because your Hua-zang Mind-Dharma is an illegal organization and menacing to society, for each month starting now, you must write a report setting forth your activities and thoughts regarding the "Huazang Gong", to

be used as a measurement of your rehabilitation progress." I asked them who had made that determination? Where? When? And on what ground and on what evidence did they convict Huan-zang Mind-Dharma as an illegal organization, menacing to society ? I also asked why my right to know and my right to appeal as an involved person had been deprived as well ? None of these questions were answered.

I then sent a letter to the Deputy Warden stating that I had been incarcerated for economic crimes, specifically for conducting an "illegal business operation" and participating in the "illegal issuance of stock," and explained that neither of my crimes had anything to do with the activities of the Hua-zang Mind-Dharma itself. I informed the Deputy Warden that I only would accept punishment for the crimes for which I had been convicted, but not punitive measures unrelated to those crimes, which themselves are illegal. I also expressed my willingness to provide a detailed report regarding the activities of Hua-zang Dharma, provided I was permitted to make such report in the presence of officials from the Attorney General's Office as well as those from the prison, I was granted immunity from prosecution for leaking state secrets, and a record of my report is made so it could be verified for accuracy and truthfulness.

The letter was as though a stone dropped into the sea that disappears forever. I never heard anything from the Deputy Warden's office or anyone else. Instead, prison administrators refused to award to me the "Praise Commendation" I had earned for the first half of the year, on the basis that I had not submitted the monthly reports on Hua-zang Dharma. (Because I had been commended five times consecutively for the first half year and had not violated any rule, I exceeded the legal requirements for the "Praise Commendation" and deserved the award.) Furthermore, Prison administrators, including Deputy Director Lu Zhi-qiang and through him other officials in my section, told me that " if you failed to submit the required monthly reports on Hua-zang Mind-Dharma, regardless of how well-behaved you had been, you would not receive any administrative rewards." They certainly kept their word. Even though each month I exceeded production targets, strictly observed prison rules, and actively participated in the political reformation activities, I did not receive the same treatment as the other inmates in the matter of awards. This situation persists to the present.

Late May, while continuing to endure the described undue and illegal treatment, I wrote a letter to the Political and Legal Committee of the Central Bureau of the Chinese Communist Party. I also sent a complaint mid-June to Warden Tang Ru-liang and orally petitioned the section chief in my prison section. None of these efforts brought any change. Once again, the message to me was that I incarcerated and was being rehabilitated because I had been determined to be a "security threat." , Initially, I didn't understand the meaning of the term " security threat"; but, after talking to a prison officer, I came to realize the authorities consider me to be " A Criminal that Endangered the National Security" What I still don't understand and remain perplexed over - What happened that now causes me to be considered a "security threat"? Do prison administrators have the legal power to alter the findings and judgment of a criminal court? And, as the affected party, do I not have the right to be informed that the charges on which I was convicted have been altered? I was not told of the revision of the charges when the revision occurred and I am fully unaware of any basis for the action. What has taken place is inconceivable to me. Why???

When did I commit a crime that endangered national security? How could that have happened?

Dear respectful superiors and leaders. Because the implication of my case can be devastating to the country, I have always been mindful the need to show respect for the power and dignity of the ruling party, the legal system, the security and stability of the society. I serve my prison time with a good attitude and hope that upon investigation of this matter by the appropriate authorities, a just and proper will be reached.

Prior to my imprisonment, I petitioned the Chinese government for system reform, established and directed the Hua-zang Enterprise Limited Corporation, and founded and taught Hua-zang Dharma. I did these things with zest and dedication for the improvement and edification of China and her people. I have worked assiduously for the betterment of our society, at all times, keeping my efforts in concert with those of the ruling party. If my acceptance of the crimes for which I was sentenced can have political and social benefits to the society, what good comes from subjecting me to inhuman conditions, and convicting me as a "Security Threat" for the purpose of political persecution? From where do these actions come? Prison administrators tell me they are following the orders of a higher authority --- who is this higher authority?

There is an old saying that "If you are out to condemn somebody, you can always succeed if you falsify." But today, there seems to be no need to give false explanations or justifications for the actions that are being taken against me --- guilt is declared and sentence passed.

Dear respectful superiors and leaders. The purpose of this letter is to direct your attention to my case. Even though there may be those among you who are suspicious of me and who will want to add to the charges against me, as you contemplate your response, know that, you will be held to account to society, and to me?

In faith, I eagerly anticipate your reply.

Regards,

Wu Ze-heng