

[REDACTED] (CA Bar # [REDACTED])
[REDACTED] (Not yet admitted)

NOT DETAINED

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW
IMMIGRATION COURT
NEW YORK, NY

-----X
In the Matter of
[REDACTED],
Respondent.
-----X
A [REDACTED]

AFFIDAVIT OF [REDACTED]

I, [REDACTED], declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America, that the following is true and correct:

1. My full name is [REDACTED] and I was born on [REDACTED], 19[REDACTED] in [REDACTED], located in [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] Province, China. I make this affidavit to supplement my original affidavit dated [REDACTED], 20[REDACTED]. This affidavit was prepared with the help of my pro bono lawyers from [REDACTED].

BACKGROUND

2. My mother's name is [REDACTED] and my father's name is [REDACTED]. Both of my parents have passed away. I have a younger sister, [REDACTED], a younger

brother, [REDACTED], and an older brother, [REDACTED], who all live in China. I did not list my siblings on my asylum application because they are civil servants in China and I was afraid of implicating them with the Chinese government through association with my asylum application.

3. I went to school in [REDACTED] city which is located in [REDACTED], China. In 19[REDACTED], due to the Cultural Revolution, my parents were assigned to labor in [REDACTED] Province. I was nearly finished secondary school at this time but moved with my parents and younger siblings to [REDACTED] Province as there was no way for me to survive by myself in [REDACTED] without them.
4. In 19[REDACTED], I graduated from [REDACTED] University with a degree in [REDACTED]. This was ordinarily a four-year program, but because the country was at the time recovering from the counterrevolution, the program was consolidated into a two-year study with two years of practical experience. As part of this program, I was a [REDACTED] for two years before graduating from the university.
5. Upon graduation from university, I worked for the [REDACTED] in the accounting department, overseeing [REDACTED]. I worked for the [REDACTED] for around six years. After that, I went into business for myself, making [REDACTED]. I did this for about three or four years.
6. I married [REDACTED] on [REDACTED], 19[REDACTED]. We never had children because I was not in good health. Mr. [REDACTED] was an art teacher. I have not spoken with my husband for more than a year and his whereabouts are unknown to me.

MY FALUN GONG PRACTICE

7. In 19█, I founded █ in a local university which is currently called █, and was formerly known as █. This state university offered 3 year courses to students.
8. I first came into contact with Falun Gong in or around █ of 19█, and began practicing around █ of 19█. My first contact with Falun Gong occurred in a hospital. During a business trip to █ I was in a bad car accident and was sent to a hospital in █ district. I had several car accidents in the years between 19█ and 19█ and in my previous affidavit I referenced the years of my accidents in 19█ and 19█ when I discussed my introduction to Falun Gong. But it was after my accident in 19█ that I first learned about Falun Gong. I do not know exactly which hospital I was hospitalized in because I was unconscious and paralyzed for most of my time there.
9. When I arrived at the hospital, only one nerve in my face continued to have movement. The therapist who was working on the patient next to me played the teachings of Falun Gong on a radio. I could hear the teachings from my bed. I started to listen to the teachings and to accept them, and eventually I was able to sit up. I was forced to have acupuncture in the hospital. The doctors put a very long needle in my face and it was extremely painful. After one session, when the needle was removed, my face felt better and I could move again and I ultimately recovered. I attribute my recovery of health to the teachings of Falun Gong, and I have continued to practice Falun Gong ever since.
10. After I was released from hospital, I told my parents about the teachings of Falun Gong. My mother and father also began practicing Falun Gong. My father was bedridden at the

University. The authorities later found out about my Falun Gong activities again, dissolved the department, and sent her teachers and students away.

MY ARRESTS AND DETENTIONS BY THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT

15. On [REDACTED], 20[REDACTED], I was distributing CDs about Falun Gong in [REDACTED] District in a place called [REDACTED]. I was reported to the police by witnesses and subsequently arrested by the police of [REDACTED] District. The police took me to the local police station and interrogated me. Then, police from [REDACTED] District, who worked in the area where I was arrested, and the police of [REDACTED] District, who worked in the area where I lived, took me to my home. At the time, I lived alone. The police ransacked my home and the [REDACTED] District police took a safety deposit box containing currency worth more than tens of thousands of dollars. This was money collected from students at my school for legitimate school administration purposes. I kept the money safe at my home at this time because the school was on holiday break and I thought it was not safe to leave it at the school. I demanded a receipt for the items confiscated, which the [REDACTED] police issued because they had no stake in the safety deposit box money; only the [REDACTED] District police would have received the proceeds.

16. While I was detained, the police questioned me about my practice of Falun Gong. They wanted me to expose the identity of other Falun Gong practitioners. They tried to force me to confess that practitioners donated the money I had, but I would not do so, as the money belonged to students and pertained to valid financial transactions through the school. The [REDACTED] District police told me they were going to use the money to buy a car.

17. After ransacking my home, the police took me to an isolated building that was not a police station. The trip took about an hour from my home. I was held there for more than a week in a cell by myself. They interrogated me for a week at this building.
18. After one week, I was taken to a detention center in the [REDACTED] District of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Province. I was held in a room with about 20-30 other women. I was not allowed to talk to other detainees. There were no beds or toilets in the room where they kept us. They fed us but not regularly. The guards repeatedly interrogated me about my involvement with Falun Gong. I remained at the detention center for about a month until [REDACTED] 20[REDACTED], when I was sent to a rehabilitation center in [REDACTED].
19. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was where Falun Gong practitioners were imprisoned to be re-educated and rehabilitate them from their Falun Gong beliefs. The first floor of the building was comprised of the brainwashing team where I was taken when I first arrived at the center. Those who converted from Falun Gong were sent to the second floor to do labor. I was kept on the first floor because I refused to convert. For most of my imprisonment at [REDACTED] [REDACTED], I was kept in a cell on the first floor by myself in isolation. There was a bed in the room but no toilet. I was not allowed to shower. There were no windows in my cell and only one door. Day and night I was brainwashed by the guards on the first floor. They often stopped me from sleeping. I could hear other people in nearby cells crying and being beaten. Every day I was beaten and brainwashed. They said to me “why are you so wilful?” every time that they beat me. After being at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] for two to three months I had a mental breakdown from the beatings and brainwashing. I could not take it but I refused to renounce my beliefs.

20. Near the end of my stay at [REDACTED] [REDACTED], I was sent to the second floor because I had been at the detention center for long time and they told me I may as well do some work for them. They had tortured me so much, my body was in such bad shape so I could not take anymore from them on the first floor but I still refused to convert. While on the second floor, I was able to interact with other prisoners who were also doing labor.

21. In or around [REDACTED] 20[REDACTED], [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was closed. There was a large meeting and most of the prisoners at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] were given reduced sentences, except for me. I was sent to [REDACTED] Prison, where I remained for a year and a half. I was sentenced to two and a half years, beginning [REDACTED] 20[REDACTED]. I was never provided with any documentation or evidence of this sentence. The prison officials told me that my sentence was two and a half years after I arrived at [REDACTED] Prison. I asked for official documentation of my sentence but they refused to give any to me. It was not clear what the sentence was for, but it clearly related to my practice of Falun Gong.

22. At [REDACTED] Prison, I was kept in a room with three people, including [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and we had two beds to share. I lived in this room until I was moved to the severe section of [REDACTED]. During the day I was taken to a small warehouse where they tried to re-educate and convert me, then they took me back to the cell at nighttime. I was in the “camp” department. Those of us in the camp department performed light labor. The guards told me that they placed me in this department as a favor, as they knew I was educated and hoped that I would convert and help them in their mission to convert other Falun Gong practitioners. I told them that I would never convert from Falun Gong. Every day, they took me to the warehouse and harmed me in different ways. I was not allowed

to talk to other people. Eventually I told the guards that if they did not allow me to do labor like other detainees I would go on hunger strike. They did not believe that I would go on hunger strike and denied my request. I starting starving myself and after a day they told me that I could do labor with the others. I believe that the head guard of the camp department was scared by my threat, because if news spread that I was on hunger strike this could have incited others to also go on hunger strike and then the news would get to the superiors and the guards would face trouble. They agreed to allow me to join the others in forced labor. I was very happy with this news as it meant an end to my daily torture and that I would have company during the day again.

23. While I did labor, I met many other Falun Gong practitioners, many of whom had agreed to convert in order to escape torture from the guards. Every day I tried to convert other laborers on my team back to Falun Gong. I saw many terrible things happen to other fellow practitioners during my sentence at [REDACTED] I saw one woman forced by the guards to eat her own feces. The guards beat a woman so badly that after this she could no longer stand up. Some of the laborers that I tried to convert used me to try receive a reduction in their sentences by telling the guards that she was rebellious and was trying to re-convert people. I started to teach other inmates short Falun Gong prayers. Many of these people wrote statements to the lead guard to say that they had renounced their conversions from Falun Gong because they had realized that Falun Gong was the true path.

24. I went on hunger strike, in spurts, for almost six months in total during the first half of 20[REDACTED]. In [REDACTED] 20[REDACTED], I was moved to a more severe section of [REDACTED] In this section, there was no sanitation and I was not allowed to ever leave my cell. The windows were

covered and sealed with newspapers. I was in complete isolation and not allowed to see anyone else. The doors and windows were sealed, and in the summer months, temperatures inside the facility were very high. I was not allowed to shower the entire time that I was in this section and was often woken from sleep by the guards. Despite being on hunger strike, the guards continued to beat me daily. I could hear sounds from other cells of guards yelling at prisoners. I could hear the wails from the prisoners being beaten by the guards. There were only male guards in this section. When I heard the screams of fellow Falun Gong practitioners I could not ever bring myself to eat, no matter how hungry I became.

25. My parents were not allowed to see me, though they tried every day. They would wake up at three or four in the morning, travel hours to the prison, and wait there all day. My husband was working [REDACTED] for part of the time I was in prison, and he tried to visit once.

26. When I was on hunger strike for a couple of weeks, prison officials sent me to the [REDACTED] hospital for a checkup. I was forced to pay for this visit myself and I have receipts to verify the visit. They tried to force me to let the hospital draw my blood, but I refused and kept shouting that Falun Gong is good. On another occasion, prison officials tried to draw my blood, but I again refused. The third time, in or around [REDACTED] 20[REDACTED], after I was moved to the severe section of [REDACTED] prison officials succeeded in drawing my blood by inserting a large needle into me. They then told me that I needed a blood transfusion, the blood that they inserted into me did not look healthy and was a dark black color. I struggled when they tried to insert the needle into me and I was accused of assaulting a police officer. I was put under strict surveillance for failing to

cooperate. I was not allowed to partake in any labor work because prison officials did not want me influencing other detainees as I had previously done. There were other inmates who were also placed under strict surveillance for not cooperating and converting from Falun Gong.

27. My health continued to weaken. I was sent to the [REDACTED] hospital for another checkup, during which time I was given an injection that caused my muscles to frequently spasm. I believe the injection was poisonous. I paid for this hospital visit and I have the receipt from the hospital. I was sent back to the prison, where I was locked in a dark room and not allowed to sleep for a whole month.

28. On [REDACTED] [REDACTED], 20[REDACTED], I had just returned from the outpatient hospital when I was released from [REDACTED] Prison. I was on the verge of death because of the poisonous injection I was given and my hunger strike. They did not give me any information when I was released. I had been sentenced for two and a half years and was released after only one and a half years.

29. After my release, I went back home to live with my mother. She told me that my father had passed away just before I was released. According to my mother, my father allegedly died because of his anxiety over my torture and imprisonment.

30. Once I was at home, I realized that the local police were monitoring me. I was harassed by public security, who often came by my home every two to three days to check that I was at home. They often threatened me and my mother and told us to give up our Falun Gong beliefs.

31. For a period of time in 20██, my husband returned to █████ from █████.
32. In or around █████ of 20██, I was in a public park engaging in “truth telling” for Falun Gong with my mother. Local police, who were plain-clothed, arrested her. She was arrested for holding a Falun Gong booklet that said the “nine secrets for exposing the Chinese Communist Party.” I did not witness my mother get arrested as we did our truth telling separately, so I went home. I waited for my mother until about 8 pm and I was very worried. I went to look for her. At around 10 pm the local █████ District police station called me and told me they had my mother. I went to the local police station and the police said that my mother was refusing to eat. I told the police that my mother was too old to be in prison and I offered to take my mother’s place. The police checked my background and realized I had just been released from █████. They detained me at the police station and released me late the next night.
33. During this detention, I was in a cell by myself with no other people. The police interrogated me about my mother and I refused to say anything. They tried to force me to say negative things about Falun Gong and give information about other Falun Gong practitioners. I refused to provide them with any information. I was sure that I was going to be put back into prison but they released me. They did not give me any information about why they released me.
34. In █████ 20██, I traveled to the United States for a Falun Gong event which was held in █████ I had a layover in █████ and had a transit visa to leave the airport; that was the only time I have been in █████ I was able to get a visa to come to the United States because I had a very good financial situation in China.

35. I remained in the United States for about ten days. I wanted to return to China to speak the truth of the master, no matter what the risk, because I knew that others were too afraid to do so in China. The master, Li Hongzhi, told me that China is the homeland of Falun Gong and that Chinese practitioners should stand up and speak the truth in China, so I returned. Before I left the United States, I donated all of my money to Falun Gong, along with money I brought from practitioners in China who wished to donate.

36. On [REDACTED], 20[REDACTED], I was detained for the third time. During this time, the whole country was under tight security in preparation for the Olympics in China. Police were sent to monitor me at my home. In the dead of night, I escaped and drove to the nearby city of [REDACTED]. I hid in a parking lot, but I was found and I believe that I was being tracked by GPS. I believe that this time, I was arrested by officials of the National Security Bureau, not the police. They put a hood over my head, stuffed a towel in my mouth, and blindfolded my eyes. It was very hot outside, so I had trouble breathing. The officials also confiscated my car.

37. Officials took me to an unknown location in a building with no windows. I was tied to a metal chair and interrogated. During the interrogation, stability maintenance officials asked me questions about Falun Gong and tried to accuse me of trying to make trouble at [REDACTED]. I never confessed or accused other practitioners because there was no plan

██████████ ██████████ that I knew about. The interrogation lasted for a few days.

38. One night, a group of more than ten men came into the room; none of them were wearing shirts and they were all drunk. They beat me and tied my legs together while I sat on the chair. A man sat opposite me with his legs propped onto my hands in a rude manner. The men spoke to me in lewd words and threatened to gang rape me if I did not confess. This experience was very traumatizing.

39. From this building, I was taken to ██████████ ██████████. I was kept in a room with about 20 to 30 people. When I was first placed in the room, I was made to crawl on my hands and knees on the ground through a small door opening in the cell door, like a dog. The prison officials stood and laughed while I crawled.

40. After about a month at ██████████ ██████████, I was transferred to ██████████ Prison, where I remained for two years and five days. They gave me a blanket to use for my first night there; it was wet with blood, and it was the only blanket I was allowed to use. The next day, I was covered with sores and itched. The stench coming from the blanket was horrific. I was placed under strict surveillance.

41. I was placed in the same cell with a fellow practitioner and friend, ██████████, who had also been arrested for her practice of Falun Gong. ██████████ was only in ██████████ for one year.

42. While doing forced labor at ██████████ I fell and fractured my wrist. I was taken to the hospital and received a cast, but was immediately forced to work again at the prison

despite my injury. I went back to the hospital multiple times for checkups, but was always told that my wrist had not healed. About seven to eight months after the injury, I went to a different hospital for a checkup. I paid with my own personal money to be transported to the hospital. I asked for a receipt after I paid but the hospital officials refused to give me one. Once there, I was never allowed to consult with the physician; only the police did. The physician told the police that my fractured wrist was healed and that I had to work like a normal person now. The physician also refused to prescribe me any medication. My wrist is now permanently deformed because it never healed.

43. My husband came to visit me once while I was in prison. He tried to bring me clothing and other personal items, but prison officials refused to let me see him or to leave my personal belongings. Prison officials eventually gave up on trying to convert me. I was often taken to an empty warehouse and interrogated by the guards at [REDACTED]. They often hanged me from a metal frame by my arms for long periods of time.

44. In late 20 [REDACTED] or early 20 [REDACTED], I met [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] and we were in the same department at [REDACTED] Prison, although she was released from prison before me.

45. Prison officials tried to make me sign a statement that I would report to the local police station and never practice Falun Gong, but I refused to sign this document.

46. Someone else must have signed it on my behalf because I was released on [REDACTED] [REDACTED] 20 [REDACTED]. There was a group of prison officials who put me into a car and took me straight to the police station. I was told that I still had to report for fingerprinting and surveillance in the same district. I was afraid to go home. I realized that if I were arrested again they would kill me.

47. I was never informed of any charges against me or given an opportunity to defend myself. I was given a sentencing document and certificate of release when I was released from [REDACTED] Labor Camp on [REDACTED] [REDACTED], 20[REDACTED].
48. After I was released from the police station, I tried to sell my house and discovered that the local court had frozen my rights to the house. I was told that my older brother, [REDACTED] [REDACTED], had petitioned the court to obtain ownership of my house. He went to the court and told them that because I was part of the Falun Gong cult and I should not be allowed to own property and the court granted his petition. [REDACTED] did this while I was in [REDACTED] Prison so the court never contacted me and I was not given the opportunity to argue against this decision.
49. I wanted to appeal my district court's decision so I went with my mother to the city council office to ask that the district court's decision be changed. I was scared that they would arrest me so my mother went into the office by herself. I hid outside. The city officials called the district court and told them that my mother was making trouble at their office. The district court officials came to the office, covered my mother's head with her coat and carried her out of the office to a waiting car. They drove her directly to [REDACTED] [REDACTED], my older brother. [REDACTED] kept her in a room all day, he even refused to allow her to use the toilet in the other room. He made her use a potty in the room where she was kept. She escaped from his home after a few days.
50. My husband's younger brother, [REDACTED] [REDACTED], rented an apartment for me and my mother to live in under false name.

51. My mother and I continued to teach and practice Falun Gong and our aim was to spread the truth of Falun Gong.

52. In or around [REDACTED] 20[REDACTED], I was arrested and detained again. A group of about ten people, including police, government authorities, and local neighborhood watch came to my home and arrested me. I bribed the officials with money and the officials agreed to release me for 10,000 Renminbi.

FLIGHT FROM CHINA

53. After this final arrest, I decided to flee China with my mother. I called my younger brother and explained that my mother and I were going to flee China and our mother wanted to see her grandchild for the last time. My brother refused to come see us.

54. I waited to flee as I was under tight surveillance by the local police station. We left in late [REDACTED] 20[REDACTED] for Hong Kong to catch an international flight to New York. We remained in Hong Kong for one night, waiting for our flight to the United States. We flew directly from Hong Kong to JFK in New York, arriving on [REDACTED] [REDACTED], 20[REDACTED]. My friend, [REDACTED] picked us up from the airport.

LIFE IN THE UNITED STATES

55. At the beginning of my time in the United States, the sound of police sirens made me very afraid. My mother often reminded me that there was nothing to fear because this is America, not China. I still fear government and police officials. Due to my experiences in China, I often find it hard to believe that in this country government officials are not corrupt.

56. My friends and fellow Falun Gong practitioners told me to apply for asylum. I applied, without the assistance of an attorney, on [REDACTED], 20[REDACTED], before my one-year-from-arrival filing deadline. I appeared for the asylum interview with an interpreter, who was a fellow practitioner. My interview was long. I was asked a lot of questions about my work and my husband, and I became afraid to say anything because I was worried that the asylum officer was corrupt like Chinese officials. The officer took out a photo of my husband, and I was shocked because I did not recall ever submitting a photo of my husband. I denied recognizing the man in the photograph out of fear that I was being set up and that my husband would be arrested.

57. My mother applied for asylum and was granted asylum on [REDACTED], 20[REDACTED]. My mother passed away in [REDACTED] 20[REDACTED] from a large tumor [REDACTED]. Since my mother's death, I have suffered from depression and anxiety as I am alone in this country and fear returning to my home country of China.

58. Since being in the United States, I have volunteered at the [REDACTED], called "[REDACTED]," as [REDACTED] and have also volunteered on numerous occasions for the [REDACTED]. I have attended protest events against the Chinese government's treatment of Falun Gong practitioners at events in New York and Washington, D.C. and have been interviewed and photographed at these events.

59. While in the United States, I have met several people that I knew in [REDACTED] Prison who are now living here in the United States. [REDACTED] picked my mother and I up from the airport when we first arrived in the United States. I met [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

█ through my work with █ and the █
█.

60. I fear that if I return to China, I will be arrested, tortured, and killed because of my continued practice of Falun Gong and escape to the United States. I feel safe in the United States and would never feel safe in China.

61. This affidavit was read to me in my native language of Mandarin and I understood its contents.

For the foregoing reasons, I respectfully request that you grant my application for asylum, or in the alternative, withholding of removal or protection under the Convention Against Torture.

Respectfully submitted,

█
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Signed and sworn to me on

█, 20█

█

Notary Public