

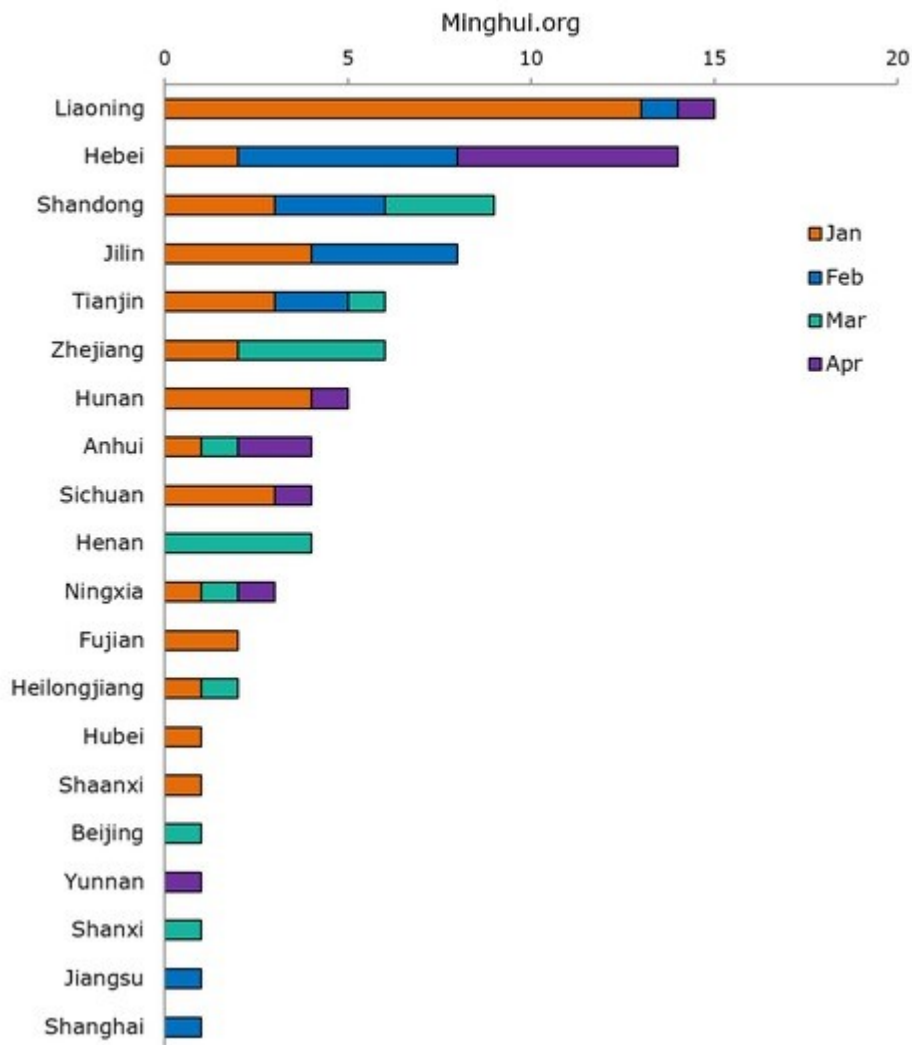
# **CHINA: 89 Falun Gong practitioners sentenced for their faith between January and April 2020**

Minghui (20.05.2020) – <https://bit.ly/37cKCbC> – The month of April 2020 saw another 13 Falun Gong practitioners being sentenced for their faith, bringing the year's tally to 89, including 41 in January, 18 in February and 17 in March.

Falun Gong, also known as Falun Dafa, is a spiritual practice centered on the principles of Truthfulness, Compassion, and Forbearance. Since the Chinese communist regime started persecuting the practice in July 1999, many practitioners have been subjected to arrest, imprisonment, torture, forced labor, and even organ harvesting.

The 89 sentenced practitioners are from 14 provinces and centrally-controlled municipalities. Liaoning Province topped the list with the most practitioners sentenced (15), followed by Hebei (14). The rest of the regions reported single-digit sentencing cases ranging from 1 to 9. Due to information blockade, especially during the coronavirus epidemic, the actual sentencing cases are expected to be higher.

## Geographic and Monthly Distribution of Prison Sentences against Falun Gong Practitioners between January and April 2020

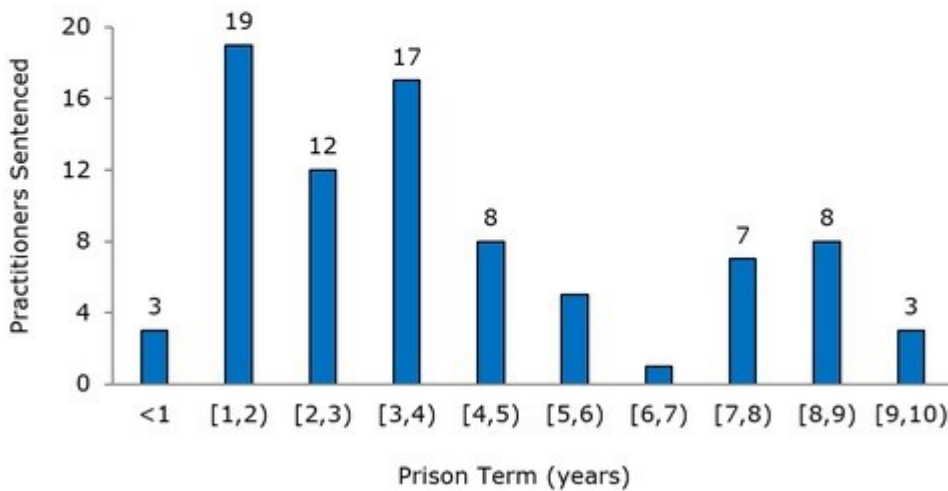


Terms as high as nine years were given out each month between January and March. The highest term in April was seven years, given to a 73-year-old woman. The average term for all 89 cases was 3.72 years.

## Prison Terms of 89 Falun Gong Practitioners Sentenced between January and April 2020

Minghui.org

Not on graph: 4 probations and 2 sentences unknown



Most of the practitioners sentenced in April were women and three were in their 70s.

Several courts secretly sentenced a few practitioners without informing their lawyers. The practitioners' families only found out about their sentencing when delivering clothes to them at the detention centers and realizing that they were no longer there.

A Suihua City, Heilongjiang Province resident, Ms. Song Hongwei was still monitored by the authorities after she was released on April 9, 2020, after serving a 1.5-year term. The police demanded that Ms. Song turn in her ID and promised to issue her a new one, probably in an attempt to flag her ID for more advanced surveillance.

Below is a snapshot of sentencing cases in April and newly confirmed cases in earlier months.

### Sentencing Cases in April

## ***73-Year-Old Woman Sentenced to 7 Years***

Ms. Gao Jinping, a 73-year-old retired textile factory worker of Baoding City, Hebei Province, was recently sentenced to seven years in prison for her faith in Falun Gong.

Ms. Gao's ordeal started from a previous arrest on September 9, 2013. Although she was released on bail after the Baoding Detention Center refused to admit her due to her poor health, the police submitted her case to the Xinshi District Procuratorate without her knowledge.

Only when the prosecutor summoned her in January 2014 did she realize that she had been indicted for her faith.

Fearing being sentenced, Ms. Gao decided to go into hiding.

In early 2019, the Baoding Social Security Office suspended her retirement payments under orders from the police. The police also summoned her daughter to try to find her mother.

After monitoring her family for several months, the police found Ms. Gao's address and arrested her on August 22, 2019.

Ms. Gao appeared in Gaoyang County Court on December 5, 2019. The judge recently informed her lawyer that she has been sentenced to seven years.

Ms. Gao appealed to Baoding City Intermediate Court soon after receiving the verdict. But an insider told her family not to pin too much hope on the appeal, as the verdict was actually determined by the intermediate court.

### ***Tianjin Woman Secretly Sentenced to Six Years Without a Hearing***

When Ms. Gao Yuming's family tried to visit her in the Wuqing Detention Center in late April 2020, they were told that she has been sent to Tianjin Women's prison to serve a six-year term for her faith in Falun Gong.

Ms. Gao's sentencing came shortly after she was arrested on February 9, 2020. Prior to her latest arrest, Ms. Gao was targeted in a group arrest of 37 Falun Gong practitioners in Tianjin on December 28, 2017. Although she was released on bail on February 2, 2018, the police continued to harass her and threatened to sentence her to prison.

Fearing the persecution, Ms. Gao went into hiding, only to be arrested again a year later.

The local court reopened Ms. Gao Yuming's case and swiftly sentenced her without following the legal procedure or notifying her family.

Ms. Gao was the eighth practitioner among those arrested in Tianjin on December 28, 2017, to have been sentenced. The longest term was 11 years, given to a dentist, Mr. Li

Yongquan.

### ***Hebei Woman Tried at Her Home and Sentenced to Four Years***

A resident of Qinhuangdao City, Hebei Province was at home on April 6, 2020, when officers and staff members from the Haigang District Court broke in. The police restrained Ms. Yang Suhua's son while the judge held a hearing in the case against her.

The court staff returned to Ms. Yang's home on April 13 to deliver a verdict. She was sentenced to a four-year prison term and fined 2,000 yuan. She had ten days, between April 13 and 23, to file an appeal, and was scheduled to be imprisoned on April 24.

According to Ms. Yang's family, the police have been harassing her during the past few years and the authorities hastily sentenced her in order to close her case from 2016.

Ms. Yang was arrested on August 29, 2016, after being reported for talking to people about Falun Gong. After the Qinhuangdao City Detention Center refused to admit her due to her poor health, the police released her and put her under house arrest.

Officers from the Duzhuang Police Station frequently called her and urged her to go to the police station to answer some questions in early 2017.

After Ms. Yang finally went to the police station a few weeks later, they took her to the Haigang District Procuratorate to sign her indictment file. Only then did Ms. Yang realize that the police had fabricated the interrogation record against her and submitted her case to the Procuratorate.

On March 14, 2017, two police officers and two staff members from the Procuratorate visited Ms. Yang at home and told her that her case had been forwarded to the court.

The police attempted to bring Ms. Yang to the court on the morning of May 10, 2017, but relented after finding that she wasn't home.

Ms. Yang's health began to decline as a result of the harassment and fear of being imprisoned. She was often in a delirious state and having difficulty walking.

The authorities continued the harassment and finally decided to sentence her in 2020, despite her health condition.

### ***Woman in Her 70s Sentenced to Four Years***

Ms. Geng Wenjing, in her 70s, was arrested on August 29, 2019, for passing out informational materials about Falun Gong. The police ransacked her home several times and held her at the Hengshui City Detention Center.

Ms. Geng, of Xinji City, Hebei Province, appeared in the

Anping Court on January 17, 2020. The authorities didn't inform her family of her indictment and court hearing. Her loved ones only learned of the trial when they went to the court themselves to inquire about her case.

Ms. Geng's family learned of her four-year prison sentence on April 13, 2020. She was transferred to Shijiazhuang Women's Prison two days later.

### ***Caregiver-Daughter Given Three Years of Prison for Her Faith, Parents in Their 80s Left Unattended***

A Wuhu City, Anhui Province resident was recently sentenced to three years in Anhui Province Women's Prison for practicing Falun Gong. Her parents in their 80s, who had relied on her for care, now struggle to fend for themselves.

Ms. Xu Fengliu, a 59-year-old herbalist, was arrested on May 28, 2018, for passing out informational materials about Falun Gong. She was beaten, force-fed and monitored around the clock when she was detained at Wuhu City Detention Center.

It remains to be investigated when she was tried and by which court.

### ***Retired Sichuan Teacher Sentenced Over Fabricated Evidence***



Mr. Xu Shikai, a retired middle school teacher in his 60s, was sentenced to 16 months in prison on April 23, 2020.

Mr. Xu, a Huili County, Sichuan Province resident, was arrested on the evening of April 23, 2019. The police took him to different places the next day and took photos of him at each place. They then accused him of posting Falun Gong information across town.

Mr. Xu appeared in the Huili County Court on October 23, 2019. His lawyer entered a not-guilty plea for him, and he also testified in his own defense.

When Mr. Xu's family contacted Judge Fu Jing to inquire about his case in February 2020, the judge said he had just received more materials from the prosecutor and that he was considering another hearing.

According to Mr. Xu's lawyer, Chinese criminal law prohibits prosecutors from submitting additional evidence after the court hearing. He urged the judge not to consider such evidence and not to follow the Chinese Communist Party's persecution policy against Falun Gong while deciding the verdict against Mr. Xu.

The judge never contacted the lawyer afterward. When Mr. Xu's family went to the court to inquire about his case on April 25, 2020, the judge said that he had already sentenced Mr. Xu the week before. He didn't offer more details and left in a hurry.

Mr. Xu's family has filed an appeal with Liangshanzhou Intermediate Court on his behalf.

### ***77-year-old Woman Sentenced to Six Months' House Arrest***

Ms. Shi Qiaoyun, a 77-year-old resident in Xiangtan County, Hunan Province, was sentenced to six months of house arrest for her faith in Falun Gong.

According to the verdict issued by the Yuhu District Court on April 21, 2020, Ms. Shi is prohibited from leaving home without police permission and communicating with others in person or by mail. She was also ordered to turn in her ID, including her passport and driver's license, and has to show up at the local police station whenever she is summoned.

Ms. Shi was arrested on May 22, 2019, after being reported for distributing informational materials about Falun Gong.

The police searched her home around 11 p.m. on May 22 and verbally abused her. They confiscated three of her Falun Gong books.

The police harassed Ms. Shi on September 24 and 25, 2019, asking her what she was doing and looking around her residence. On the 25th, they arrested her and ransacked her home. She was taken to the hospital with her hands cuffed behind her back.

After Ms. Shi was found to have high blood pressure and a heart condition, the police released her and ordered the local village secretary to monitor her.

The police returned on September 28 and took Ms. Shi to Huashi Police Station, collected her fingerprints, and took pictures of her. She went home later that day.

Ms. Shi was taken to the Procuratorate on December 24, 2019, and told that she had been indicted. The Falun Gong materials confiscated from her home were used as evidence for the prosecution, with each page counting as one separate piece of evidence.

Newly Confirmed Sentencing Cases in Earlier Months

### ***Two Sisters in Tianjin Given Heavy Terms for Their Faith***

Two sisters in Tianjin were sentenced in January 2020 to heavy terms and fines for their faith in Falun Gong.

Ms. Cheng Guiying and Ms. Cheng Guijing were arrested on May 17, 2018, and sent to Nankai District Detention Center. Their Falun Gong books and related materials were confiscated.

After the police submitted their cases to the Nankai Procuratorate, the prosecutor returned their cases twice for

insufficient evidence before indicting them and moving their cases to the court.

The two sisters appeared in court twice, first on February 13 and then on October 18, 2019. The judge announced the verdicts on January 13, 2020, with Ms. Cheng Guiying given eight years and fined 40,000 yuan and Ms. Cheng Guijing nine years with a 50,000 yuan fine.

The heavy terms were based on accusations that the sisters made phone calls to the public to spread information about the persecution of Falun Gong, and that they were “repeat offenders” due to their previous labor camp terms for practicing Falun Gong.

Ms. Cheng Guijing’s arrest left her parents-in-law, in their 80s, in deep distress and fear.

They couldn’t sleep and experienced high blood pressure and heart problems.

### ***Shandong Woman Sentenced for Her Faith on Fabricated Evidence***

Ms. Liu Xifang, a nursing mom in her 30s, was sentenced to two years and three months in March 2020, for her faith in Falun Gong. She has appealed the verdict.

Ms. Liu, of Jinan City, Shandong Province, was arrested on June 14, 2019, while staying at her mother’s house in Huimin

County, also in Shandong Province. She had been reported for distributing materials about Falun Gong the day before.

Ms. Liu appeared in Huimin County Court in mid-January 2020. The judge didn't allow her family to attend the hearing.

Ms. Liu was charged with “undermining law enforcement with a cult organization,” a standard pretext used by the authorities to criminalize Falun Gong practitioners. Her lawyer entered a not guilty plea for her and refuted the charges.

The prosecutor, Li Haijun, listed some Falun Gong materials found in a residential area in July 2019 as prosecution evidence against Ms. Liu.

The lawyer asked Li, “My client was arrested and sent to the Binzhou City Detention Center in June. Did the police take her to the residential area to distribute the materials in July?”

Full list of the 89 practitioners sentenced between January and April 2020 (PDF).

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## **CHINA: Freedom of expression**

# about religion criminalized

*74-Year-old retired teacher has been detained a month for spreading information about his faith*

Minghui.org (28.03.2020) – <https://bit.ly/3bFohVr> – A 74-year-old retired middle school teacher in Shanghai has been detained for more than a month for spreading information about his faith in Falun Gong, an ancient spiritual and meditation discipline that has been persecuted by the Chinese communist regime since 1999.

Officers broke into Mr. Fa Zhengping's home on February 16, 2020, and claimed that someone had reported him for giving out informational materials about Falun Gong. The police ordered him to sign a document. When he refused to cooperate, they pushed him down and carried him into the police car.

The police ransacked Mr. Fa's two residences and confiscated his printer and Falun Gong books.

The next day, the police ordered Mr. Fa's family to go to Zhoudong Police Station to pick up his criminal detention notice. He was charged with "undermining law enforcement with a cult organization," a standard pretext used to criminalize Falun Gong practitioners in China.

Mr. Fa's family next went to the local detention center to

deliver clothes to him. The guards refused to accept them, citing the strict management during the coronavirus epidemic.

Prior to his latest arrest, Mr. Fa was held in labor camps twice for a total of four years and sentenced to three years in prison.

In the labor camps, he was force-fed, given unknown drugs, and deprived of sleep. In the summer, the guards forced him to wear a thick sweater and down jacket and kept him tied up for days at a time. Sometimes, they shocked him with four electric batons at the same time.

As a result of the torture, he suffered some brain damage and had significant hearing, vision, and memory loss. His legs and arms were bruised after being tied up for long stretches. He was unable to lift his arms and had difficulty walking. He also suffered from extremely low blood pressure and his blood turned dark due to lack of oxygen.

While he was in prison, the inmates picked at the inside of his cheek with their fingers. The injuries took a long time to heal. He also had injuries to his face and ear from being beaten by the inmates. He often fainted after returning home, and his urine was brown. After he resumed practicing Falun Gong, he recovered his health.

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# **39 Falun Gong practitioners in China sentenced to prison in October 2019 for refusing to renounce their faith**

Minghui.org (19.11.2019) – <https://bit.ly/2CTxeeq> – According to information compiled by Minghui.org, the month of October 2019 recorded 39 new cases of Falun Gong practitioners sentenced to prison by the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) court system.

Falun Gong, also known as Falun Dafa, is a spiritual practice based on the principles of Truthfulness-Compassion-Forbearance. Since the CCP started persecuting the practice in July 1999, many practitioners have been subjected to arrest and detention, imprisonment, torture, forced labor, and even organ harvesting.

The practitioners were sentenced for raising awareness of the persecution of Falun Gong, including telling people about Falun Gong and distributing calendars and brochures with information about Falun Gong.

These sentenced practitioners come from 14 provinces and municipalities in China, with the province of Liaoning registering the most sentences (6). The prison terms ranged from 1 to 11 years, with an average of 3.32 years.

Some of the practitioners sentenced in October 2019 have been repeatedly persecuted for their faith over the past 20 years.



Some of their elderly parents or other family members were also implicated.

Due to the CCP's information blockade, the number of Falun Gong practitioners who were sentenced cannot always be reported in a timely manner, nor is all the information readily available.

Among the 39 cases, 11 practitioners had money extorted from them by the police or were fined by the court for a total of 68,000 yuan, with an average of 6,182 yuan per person.

Six of the practitioners are aged 65 or older. Their sentence terms ranged from 1.5 to 7 years, with Mr. Peng Songwei, 71, sentenced to 7 years.

The following is a snapshot of some of the sentenced practitioners.

### ***Dentist Disabled Due to Beatings, Sentenced to 11 Years in Prison***

Mr. Li Yongquan, a dentist in Tianjin, was sentenced to 11 years in prison around October 2019.

Mr. Li was arrested at work on December 28, 2017. He was beaten after being taken to Shangmatai Police Station and

became disabled as a result.

Related report: Additional Persecution News from China – May 27, 2019 (7 Reports)

***Siblings Sentenced to Prison Six Months Apart for Their Faith in Falun Gong***

Mr. Yuan Bin, 52, of Chengdu City, Sichuan Province, was sentenced to four years and fined 10,000 yuan by Longquanyi Court on October 15, 2019.

Mr. Yuan was arrested on January 24, 2019, for seeking the release of his sister, Ms. Yuan Xuefen, who was arrested on May 21, 2018, for removing propaganda posters attacking Falun Gong.

The siblings' arrests traumatized their parents, who both fell unconscious and were hospitalized. Although their mother was resuscitated, their father passed away from complications.

Ms. Yuan was sentenced to two years on April 28, 2019.

Prior to his latest sentencing, Mr. Yuan has been repeatedly arrested and incarcerated for not giving up his faith. He served one year in a forced labor camp and eight years in prison. He lost his job as a teacher. His wife also divorced him.

Years of imprisonment and torture have taken a toll on Mr. Yuan's health. His hair turned gray, his teeth have fallen out, and his vision has become blurred. He has frequent pain in many of his joints and is unable to lift his right arm due to a frozen shoulder.

Another practitioner, Ms. Ding Shuqing, who was arrested on October 25, 2018, after being reported for using banknotes with printed information about Falun Gong, appeared in court with Mr. Yuan. She was sentenced to three years in prison and fined 10,000 yuan.

Related report: Two Sichuan Residents Sentenced to Prison for Removing Propaganda Poster Slandering Their Faith

### ***Former Prison Guard Given Second Prison Term for His Faith in Falun Gong***

Mr. Dai Qihong, a former prison guard in Mudanjiang City, Heilongjiang Province, was sentenced to five years in prison around October 2019. He is serving time at Mudanjiang Prison.

Mr. Dai went missing during a police sweep of Falun Gong practitioners on June 25, 2019. It was confirmed in July that he had been arrested and detained in the Mudanjiang City No.1 Detention Center.

The local court said his latest arrest was triggered by an earlier arrest in 2017.

Mr. Dai was arrested on August 31, 2017, for seeking the release of a detained practitioner. The police confiscated 18,000 yuan cash from him. He went on a hunger strike to protest the arbitrary detention and was twice hospitalized. He was released on bail on March 6, 2018.

On April 8, 2018, the police ordered him to go to the local police station but he refused to go.

They then told him to go to the Aimin District Procuratorate so that the prosecutor would return the confiscated cash to him.

Mr. Dai went to the procuratorate on April 9, only to be taken to the police station and then to the Aimin District Court. The judge sentenced him to an unknown length of time and ordered the police to take him to prison.

Both the prison and detention center refused to accept him after he failed the physical examination. He was released on bail again, before being re-arrested and admitted to the prison one year later.

Prior to his latest prison term, Mr. Dai, a former guard at Mudanjiang Prison, was arrested on March 20, 2008, and sentenced to five years. He endured savage beatings, force-

feedings, and being hung up by the wrists and shocked with electric batons. The guards also deprived him of sleep and forced him to sit on a small stool for long hours. He had injuries all over and was emaciated.

His wife divorced him and he was fired from his job while he was incarcerated. He was destitute after his release.

### ***76-Year-Old Woman Sentenced to 3.5 Years in Prison***

Ms. Li Gang, 76, of Dalian City, Liaoning Province, was sent to Liaoning Women's Prison on October 22, 2019, after being sentenced to 3.5 years in prison for her faith in Falun Gong.

Ms. Li was arrested on March 22, 2018. She was first sentenced to seven years in prison. When she appealed to the Dalian City Intermediate Court, the judge at the appeals court sent her case back to the lower court for a retrial. The judge at the lower court later reduced her sentence by half.

### ***Anhui Man Secretly Sentenced to Four Years in Prison***

Mr. Nie Pengge, 51, a native of Huainan City, Anhui Province, was arrested in April 2019 when working in Zhejiang Province. He was taken back to Huainan and detained at Huainan City Detention Center.

His family was informed by the authorities to visit him on October 30, 2019. Only then did they learn that Mr. Nie has been secretly sentenced to four years in prison without a court hearing. He has been taken to Suzhou Prison.

### ***Heilongjiang Woman Sentenced to Four Years in Prison for Practicing Falun Gong***

Ms. Feng Junqing of Hegang City, Heilongjiang Province, was recently sentenced to four years in prison and fined 4,000 yuan for practicing Falun Gong. She has appealed her verdict with the Hegang City Intermediate Court.

It remains to be investigated when Ms. Feng was tried and when the judge announced the verdict.

Ms. Feng and her husband, Mr. Peng Yanfeng, were arrested at home on February 14, 2019. The police restrained Ms. Feng in an interrogation chair and Mr. Peng in a metal cage with his hands cuffed overnight.

The couple was held in custody for 42 days and released only after the police extorted 20,000 yuan from their family.

Ms. Feng was later indicted by the Xing'an District Procuratorate and taken back into custody. She has been held in the Hegang City Detention Center ever since. The timing of her second arrest remains to be investigated.

Another practitioner Ms. Li Chunhui, 44, was arrested on April 25, 2019, when she went with Mr. Peng to request Ms. Feng's release and urge the police not to participate in the persecution of Falun Gong.

Mr. Peng was released 15 days later, but Ms. Li remained in the Hegang City Detention Center. The guards there claimed that Ms. Li was a key coordinator in the Falun Gong group and denied her father's requests to visit her three times. The father is not only concerned about his daughter's wellbeing but also worries about how her two boys, ages 12 and 9, are going to cope with their mother's imprisonment.

It was reported that Ms. Li has also been sentenced to four years in prison and has appealed the verdict. However, the date that Ms. Li's verdict was announced remained unknown at the time of writing.

### ***Two Jilin Women Sentenced to Prison for Their Faith, Family Threatened by Police***

Two residents of Liaoyuan City, Jilin Province were sentenced to prison on October 17, 2019, for talking to people about Falun Gong.

Ms. Zhang Shufen was given 1.5 years and Ms. Sun Shiduo 1 year by Longshan District Court.

The two women were arrested on June 5, 2019. The police

confiscated their Falun Gong books and other belongings. Both have been held at Xiangyang Detention Center since.

Ms. Sun's brother-in-law, who happened to be at her home during the police raid, was slapped in the face by one officer and held at the police station for more than an hour.

The police also threatened to force Ms. Sun's son, a college student, out of school, if she didn't give up her faith.

Ms. Sun is an only child. Her father just passed away last year, and her sentencing dealt another blow to her mother, who recently became ill and struggles to care for herself.

### ***Liaoning Woman Given One Year for Putting Up a Banner about Falun Gong***

Ms. Huang Keqin, a 55-year-old resident of Fushun City, Liaoning Province, was sentenced to one year in prison and fined 4,000 yuan for hanging up a banner that said, "Falun Dafa is good."

Ms. Huang was arrested on April 25, 2019, and indicted by the Dongzhou Procuratorate on August 9.

Her family went to the local police station and procuratorate to seek justice for her but to no avail.

Ms. Huang was tried by Dongzhou District Court in a makeshift



courtroom at Nangou Detention Center on September 4, 2019. Her lawyer entered a not guilty plea for her. She also testified in her own defense.

### ***Woman, 63, Sentenced to 7 Years in Prison***

Ms. Zheng Quanhua's family was informed by Jimo Court in late October 2019 that she was sentenced to seven years in prison.

Ms. Zheng, 63, of Qingdao City, Shandong Province, was arrested on July 17, 2018. She has since been held in the Pudong Detention Center and denied family visits.

Within three days following Ms. Zheng's arrest, the police also arrested her husband Mr. Yu Haibo and daughter-in-law Ms. Liang Yanni and detained them for a month.

The Jimo Court informed Ms. Zheng's family that she was scheduled to appear in late July 2019 but did not specify the location of the hearing. Ms. Zheng's family went to the court on the morning of the hearing, only to be told that the hearing would take place in the detention center. When they rushed to the detention center, the hearing was already over.

Ms. Zheng's grandson was so traumatized by the arrests of his grandmother and mother that he became mute.

Mr. Yu recently suffered a stroke because of the repeated arrests and harassment he has had to face in the past 20

years. He remains hospitalized at the time of writing.

Related report:After Grandparents and Mother Arrested in Four Days, Young Boy Suffers Post-traumatic Mutism

### ***Single Mother of Ten-Year-Old Boy Sentenced to Three Years for Her Faith***

A single mother in Qingdao City, Shandong Province, was sentenced to a three-year prison term for talking to people about Falun Gong.

Ms. Sui Ying's ten-year-old son was deeply traumatized by her imprisonment and struggled to cope.

Ms. Sui, 44, was arrested on April 10, 2018. She was held at the Pudong Detention Center for four days and released on bail on April 14.

The Huangdao District Court issued a summons on May 29, 2019, ordering her to go to the courthouse to sign a document about her case. After she refused to show up, the judge ordered the police to take her back into custody at the Pudong Detention Center.

The Minghui website recently confirmed that she was sentenced to a three-year prison term. The timing of her sentencing is still being investigated.

This is not the first time that Ms. Sui was arrested.

On October 1, 2000, Ms. Sui was arrested and detained for a month in the Dashan Detention Center when she went to Beijing to appeal for Falun Gong. She was tortured and forced to do unpaid labor.

She returned to Beijing in 2000 and was arrested for doing the Falun Gong exercises at Tiananmen Square. She was later sentenced to two years in the Shandong Province No. 2 Women's Prison.

The authorities transferred her to a local brainwashing center for further persecution at the end of her term and demanded that her parents pay for her living expenses and tuition there.

### ***Two Shanxi Residents Sentenced to Prison for Distributing Materials***

Ms. Jia Baoling, 53, and Ms. Yang Erbian, 62, both retired from a chemical plant in Yangquan City, Shanxi Province, were arrested on March 12, 2019, for distributing informational materials about Falun Gong. The police confiscated their Falun Gong books and many other personal belongings before taking them to Yangquan City Detention Center.

Ms. Jia's father-in-law was in tremendous mental distress following her arrest. He lost his appetite and his health quickly deteriorated. He passed away soon after, at the age of 86.

It was recently confirmed by Minghui.org that Ms. Jia has been sentenced to 2.5 years and Ms. Yang to 1.5 years by Pingding County Court.

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## **38 Falun Gong practitioners in China sentenced to prison in April 2019**

Minghui (10.06.2019) – <https://bit.ly/2IgcYXP> – According to information compiled by Minghui.org, the month of April 2019 recorded 38 new cases of Falun Gong practitioners sentenced to prison by the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) court system.

Falun Gong, also known as Falun Dafa, is a spiritual practice composed of exercises and the principles of Truthfulness-Compassion-Forbearance. Since the CCP started persecuting the practice in July 1999, many practitioners in China have been subjected to arrest, detention, imprisonment, torture, forced labor, and organ harvesting.

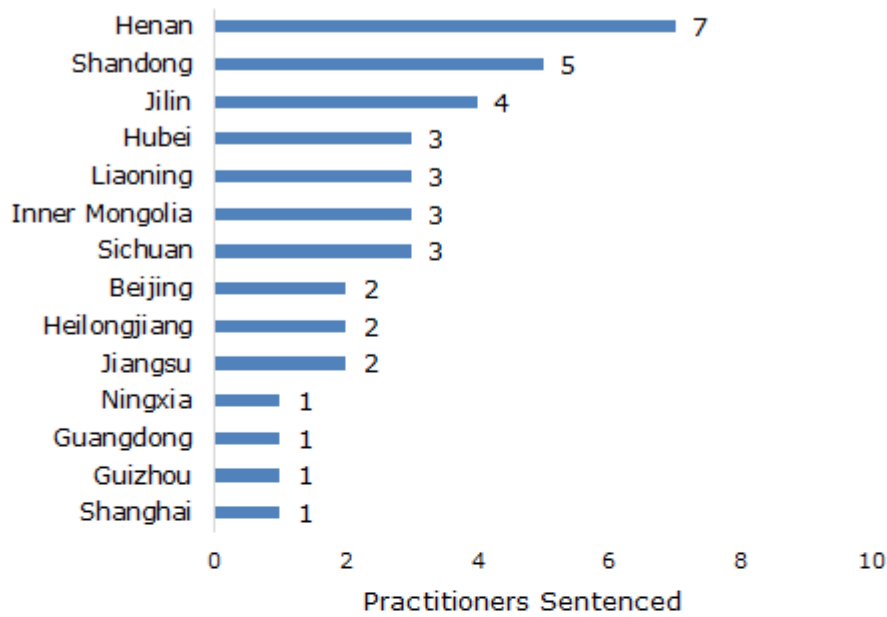
The practitioners were sentenced for raising awareness about the persecution, including distributing and mailing informational materials about Falun Gong, and removing a propaganda poster slandering the practice.

These sentenced practitioners come from 14 provinces and municipalities in China, with the provinces of Henan (7) and Shandong (5) registering the most sentences. The prison terms range from six months to ten years, with an average of 3.45 years.

Due to the CCP's information blockade, the number of Falun Gong practitioners who were sentenced cannot always be reported in a timely manner, nor is all the information readily available.

## 38 Falun Gong Practitioners Sentenced in April 2019

Minghui.org



## Prison Terms of 38 Falun Gong Practitioners Sentenced in April 2019

Not on graph: 1 sentenced to probation, 1 sentence unknown



Image via: [Minghui.org](http://Minghui.org)

Among the 38 cases, 16 practitioners faced extortion by the

police or were fined by the court for a total sum of 249,000 yuan, with an average of 15,563 yuan per person. Mr. Luan Ning of Ningxia Autonomous Region was fined 100,000 yuan, and Ms. Luo Caisen from Heilongjiang Province had 58,000 yuan confiscated from her home.

Six of the practitioners are aged 65 or older. Their sentence terms range from one and a half to six years, with the two oldest practitioners, Ms. Zhao Hualing (78) being given two years with a three-year probation, and Mr. Liu Sitang (76) given three years and fined 5,000 yuan.

The following is a snapshot of some sentenced practitioners.

***Ningxia man sentenced to ten years in prison for mailing letters about Falun Gong***

Mr. Luan Ning, 60, a former director at the Ningxia Labor and Human Resource Center, was sentenced to ten years of imprisonment and fined 100,000 yuan. The verdict was announced on April 16, 2019, after a hearing held on February 14.

In February 2017, Mr. Luan was targeted after being reported for mailing letters with information about Falun Gong. The police followed and monitored him for a few months before arresting him on August 27, 2017.

Mr. Luan was subsequently charged with “subverting state power,” a standard pretext often levied against human rights

activists and Falun Gong practitioners by the Chinese communist regime. His lawyer argued that the “evidence” provided was fabricated.

This is not the first time that Mr. Luan has been imprisoned for practicing Falun Gong. He was previously sentenced to prison two times for three-year and four-year term.

***64-year-old Changchun woman sentenced to ten years in prison for calling people about Falun Gong***

Ms. Li Jing, a resident of Changchun City, was sentenced to ten years in prison for raising awareness about the persecution of Falun Gong. After receiving her verdict on April 2, 2019, her lawyer appealed the sentence on her behalf on April 13.

On March 14, Ms. Li was returning home when police arrested her and took away her house keys to ransack her home. That night, she was taken to the police station, where she was interrogated for two days without given anything to eat or drink; she was also deprived of sleep.

Ms. Li was later taken to the Changchun No.4 Detention Center. On November 7, 2018, without informing her family, Ms. Li was taken to the court for a hearing that lasted 20 minutes, during which she was not allowed to defend herself or debunk the propaganda spread by the communist regime in order to justify the persecution.



Ms. Li was previously arrested in 2000 and sentenced to one year in a labor camp. She was arrested again in 2003 and taken to a labor camp for two years. Her husband and son have already passed away, and her 86-year-old mother is now left at home alone.

***76-year-old engineer sentenced again after 5.5-year imprisonment***

Falun Gong practitioner Mr. Liu Sitang of Ji'nan City in Shandong Province was sentenced to three years of imprisonment and fined 5,000 yuan for refusing to renounce his faith. He received his verdict on April 19 and had since appealed the sentence.

Mr. Liu, a retired engineer of Jigang Group, and his wife, Ms. Zhang Huiqing, were arrested on September 6, 2018. He was released on bail that day due to his age while his wife remained detained. However, Mr. Liu was taken back into custody on September 18.

On October 25, when Ms. Zhang was released on bail, she learned that her husband was issued a formal arrest warrant on the grounds that he had previously been imprisoned for refusing to renounce Falun Gong. Mr. Liu was previously imprisoned for 5.5 years after being arrested in February 2009 at his home; officers confiscated nearly 90,000 yuan in cash that was saved for his son's wedding, as well as other valuables.

***Hubei woman, in her 70s, given second five-year prison term for practicing Falun Gong***

A resident of Wuhan City was recently sentenced to five years in prison for practicing Falun Gong. She vowed to appeal the sentence.

Ms. Wu Bilin, in her 70s, was arrested on May 23, 2018, after the police pretended to be her husband's colleague and deceived her into opening the door for them. Prior to the arrest, she had been repeatedly harassed since April by police and staff members from the residential committee, forcing her to live away from home for a week for safety. She was eventually arrested after returning home.

On March 28, 2019, Ms. Wu appeared in court, where her lawyer entered a not-guilty plea for her. It was reported that a few months prior to Ms. Wu's court hearing, Judge Liang had submitted her case to Wuhan City Intermediate Court to seek the higher court's opinion on her verdict. By law, appeals courts only take up appeals cases, and trial courts have full authority to decide verdicts.

Before her latest arrest, Ms. Wu had been arrested 20 times in the past 20 years for refusing to renounce her faith. She was abused to the verge of death almost every time. Only then was she released.

Ms. Wu's latest prison sentence was preceded by another five-year sentence in 2011. She served that sentence outside of prison because of her physical condition.

### ***Successful Shanghai businessman sentenced to four years for his faith***

A 48-year-old Falun Gong practitioner from Shanghai was sentenced to four years in prison and fined 8,000 yuan on April 16, 2019.

On March 23, 2018, the police arrested Mr. Deng Chenglian without showing a warrant or identification. They ransacked his home and took him to the police department to interrogate him. He was not given food or anything to drink for the entire day.

After being held at the Minhang Detention Center, he refused to give up his belief. Guards handcuffed him, chained his feet, and tortured him. When he went on a hunger strike to protest the torture, he was taken to the Shanghai Prison General Hospital and tied to a bed for 11 days without the ability to move or go to the toilet.

When Mr. Deng went on another hunger strike in late June, guards force-fed him through a urinary catheter. This resulted in swelling in his genitals and urinary tract. They then tied him to a bed for nearly a month.

Mr. Deng's health deteriorated during his more than half a year on hunger strikes. He had to be brought into the courtroom in a wheelchair on April 16.

During the trial, his two lawyers hired by his family pleaded not guilty on his behalf. They pointed out that police had searched his home without a search warrant, that Mr. Deng was not at home during the search, and that the police did not provide a list of confiscated items as required by law.

They also turned over a letter from residents of Mr. Deng's hometown in Hubei Province. The villagers had signed a petition calling for his release.

Mr. Deng is a successful businessman who once donated 280,000 yuan in 2010 to build several roads connecting the village to nearby towns after seeing his hometown's isolation. He also helped families in need every time he returned to the village.

***Two practitioners sentenced to prison for removing poster slandering their faith; Family devastated***

Two Falun Gong practitioners, Ms. Yuan Xuefen, 55, and Mr. Wen Juping, 69, from Luodai Town, Sichuan Province, have been sentenced to two and eight years in prison, respectively, for removing a propaganda poster slandering their faith. They vowed to appeal their verdicts.

Ms. Yuan and Mr. Wen were arrested on May 21, 2018. The police

searched Ms. Yuan and confiscated her cellphone and Falun Gong materials found in her purse. They also confiscated Mr. Wen's cellphone.

On November 5, 2018, Ms. Yuan's parents went to the police station to demand her release after learning that the procuratorate had returned her case to the police. However, both were held at the police station for a few hours before being released in the evening. Ms. Yuan's young brother and son, who went with the elderly couple, were detained for seven days.

Ms. Yuan's older brother, Mr. Yuan Bin, who also practices Falun Gong, was arrested on January 24, 2019, while visiting his parents before the Chinese New Year. He is also facing further prosecution for his faith after the procuratorate approved his arrest.

The arrests and detention of Ms. Yuan and her brothers dealt heavy blows to their elderly parents. Although their mother fainted and was revived, their father, Mr. Yuan Guangchang, passed away due to complications caused by the mental distress.

***82-year-old woman sentenced to prison and fined for distributing materials about her faith***

A woman from Beijing was sentenced to one year in prison and fined 2,000 yuan on April 18, 2019, for refusing to renounce her faith in Falun Gong.

Ms. Ma Xiuying was arrested on September 25, 2015, for distributing informational materials about Falun Gong. She was later released on bail but taken back into custody and put in criminal detention after officers deceived her into returning to the police station on March 31, 2016, to complete some paperwork. On April 30, 2016, Ms. Ma was released on bail for the second time.

When Ms. Ma boarded a train for an out-of-town trip on June 7, 2017, she was arrested moments before the train departed. The police claimed that she had violated her bail by attempting to run away. She was put in criminal detention for the second time and then released on bail for the third time on July 14.

Ms. Ma appeared on court on November 5, 2018, where she testified in her own defense and argued that it was her constitutional right to practice Falun Gong and that she didn't violate any laws by distributing Falun Gong materials.