



Australian Government
Refugee Review Tribunal

Country Advice

China

China – CHN37719 – Falun Gong – Arrests
in Shenyang & Fushun city – April 2010
10 November 2010

1. Could you please provide an update of any reports of recent arrests in Fushun City or Shenyang of Falun Gong practitioners, particularly on 18 April or 22 April 2010.

There have been reports of arrests of individuals in Fushun city by the police during April 2010. No reports could be located that would indicate that persons had been arrested in Shenyang on or close to the dates of 18 to 22 April 2010 or at any other time during the month of April.

There are reports of four Falun Gong practitioners being arrested in Fushun City on 17 and 18 April 2010. Police officers from the Heping Police Station which is located within a district of Shenyang¹ arrested Ms. Wu and Mr. Ren San on the evening of April 17, 2010.² The following morning Ms. Li, a woman in her 60s and living in the Wanghua District - one of four districts under the administration of Fushun City³ was detained with her husband and her son and transferred to Heping police station. Ms. Li's husband and son were later released by the police as they were deemed not to be Falun Gong practitioners.⁴

The fourth practitioner, Ms. Wu Lixian, was arrested on 18 April 2010. No further information is available to ascertain from which police station the arresting police officers were from.⁵

2. Could you provide details of how far Fushun City and Shenyang are from each other and likely timeframe to travel from one to the other?

The distance between Shenyang, which is the capital of Liaoning province and Fushun City is approximately 45 km⁶. The two cities are serviced by high speed trains as well as numerous

¹ 'Shenyang travel guide' 2010, Wikitravel website, last edited 29 September, <http://wikitravel.org/en/Shenyang#> - Accessed 4 November 2010 - Attachment 1

² 'Additional Persecution News from China (33 Reports)', 2010 *Clear Wisdom*, April 19 <http://www.clearwisdom.net/html/articles/2010/4/28/116515.html#> - Accessed 5 November 2010 - Attachment 2

³ 'Fushun Travel Guide' 2010, *TravelChinaGuide.com* <http://www.travelchinaguide.com/cityguides/liaoning/fushun/#> - Accessed 4 November 2010 – Attachment 3

⁴ 'Additional Persecution News from China (33 Reports)', 2010 *Clear Wisdom*, April 19 <http://www.clearwisdom.net/html/articles/2010/4/28/116515.html#> - Accessed 5 November 2010 - Attachment 2

⁵ 'Additional Persecution News from China (12 Reports)', 2010 *Clear Wisdom*, April 20 <http://www.clearwisdom.net/html/articles/2010/5/4/116665.html#> - Accessed 5 November 2010 - Attachment 4

⁶ 'Shenyang travel guide' 2010, Wikitravel website, last edited 29 September, <http://wikitravel.org/en/Shenyang#> - Accessed 4 November 2010 - Attachment 1

bus companies. Depending on mode of transport and whether the expressway is used, the travel time varies from 30 minutes to 50 minutes.⁷

3. Can you provide any information about September parades in Toowoomba which might have Falun gong groups participating? (eg. carnival of flowers?)

Queensland Falun Gong practitioners have been participating since 2000⁸ in the annual Grand Central Floral Parade, which is the unofficial commencement of the Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers. The Grand Central Floral Parade was held on 18 September 2010 and featured floats and marching bands which involves various community groups and businesses as diverse as the Philippine Australian Cultural Society of Darling Downs (2010 community floral float winner),⁹ Heritage Building Society, the Bollywood Dhamaka entertainment troupe, University of Southern Queensland, the Toowoomba Caledonian Pipe Band, Charlton Raceway and the Toowoomba Regional Council. The crowd attendance was estimated to be 80,000 for the Grand Central Floral Parade¹⁰

The Falun Gong float and parade at the Grand Central Floral Parade on 18 September 2010 consisted of two sections. The first section was led in by the *Divine Land Marching Band* which consisted of Falun Gong practitioners from Sydney and Melbourne; they were followed by practitioners from Queensland performing with waist drums.¹¹

A video clip can be viewed of the march which clearly delineates the 2 groups as each is fronted with their own banner and the uniform they wear is distinctly different.¹²

Reports indicate that there was a single occasion in January 2002 in which the City of Toowoomba declared that Falun Dafa week will occur in the city from 7 January until 11 January. There are no other reports to indicate that this was to be an annual event or that it ever reoccurred in subsequent years.¹³

⁷ 'Fushun Travel Guide' 2010, *TravelChinaGuide.com*

<http://www.travelchinaguide.com/cityguides/liaoning/fushun/#> - Accessed 4 November 2010 – Attachment 3

⁸ 'Australia: Falun Gong Radiates Brightness at the Grand Floral Parade in Toowoomba' 2002, *Falun Gong Clearwisdom.net* website, 26 September, <http://www.clearharmony.net/articles/200209/7241.html#> - Accessed 5 November 2010. Attachment 5

⁹ Leslie, C. 2010, 'Parade goes off with a bang', *APN Online (Australia) Pty Ltd* website, 18th September, <http://toowoomba.finda.com.au/features/2010/09/18/toowoomba-carnival-flowers-floral-parade-2010/#> - Accessed 5 November 2010. Attachment 7

¹⁰ Hackney, P. 2010 'Crowds flock to city for Carnival', *APN Online (Australia) Pty Ltd* website, 18th September, <http://toowoomba.finda.com.au/features/2010/09/18/queens-park-carnival-flowers-sideshow-food-wine/#> - Accessed 5 November 2010. Attachment 8

¹¹ 'Australia: Divine Land Marching Band Participates in the Toowoomba Flower Festival' 2010, *Falun Gong Clearwisdom.net* website, 22 September, <http://www.clearharmony.net/articles/201009/54429.html#> - Accessed 5 November 2010. Attachment 9

¹² Posted by *toowoombaradio* 2010, 'Falun Gong in Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers Grand Central Floral Parade', YouTube.com website, 22 September http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kmXTDElr_1k - Accessed 5 November 2010. Attachment 10

¹³ 'Australia: City of Toowoomba Falun Gong Week Opening Ceremony' 2002, *Falun Gong Clearwisdom.net* website, 7 February. <http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2002/1/16/17821.html#> - Accessed 5 November 2010.

Attachments

1. 'Shenyang travel guide' 2010, *Wikitravel* website, last edited 29 September, <http://wikitravel.org/en/Shenyang#> - Accessed 4 November 2010.
2. 'Additional Persecution News from China (33 Reports)', 2010 *Clear Wisdom*, April 19 <http://www.clearwisdom.net/html/articles/2010/4/28/116515.html#> - Accessed 5 November 2010.
3. 'Fushun Travel Guide' 2010, *TravelChinaGuide.com* <http://www.travelchinaguide.com/cityguides/liaoning/fushun/#> - Accessed 4 November 2010.
4. 'Additional Persecution News from China (12 Reports)', 2010 *Clear Wisdom*, April 20 <http://www.clearwisdom.net/html/articles/2010/5/4/116665.html#> - Accessed 5 November 2010.
5. 'Australia: Falun Gong Radiates Brightness at the Grand Floral Parade in Toowoomba' 2002, *Falun Gong Clearwisdom.net* website, 26 September, <http://www.clearharmony.net/articles/200209/7241.html#> - Accessed 5 November 2010.
6. Leslie, C. 2010, 'Parade goes off with a bang', *APN Online (Australia) Pty Ltd* website, 18th September, <http://toowoomba.finda.com.au/features/2010/09/18/toowoomba-carnival-flowers-floral-parade-2010/#> - Accessed 5 November 2010.
7. Leslie, C. 2010, 'Parade goes off with a bang', *APN Online (Australia) Pty Ltd* website, 18th September, <http://toowoomba.finda.com.au/features/2010/09/18/toowoomba-carnival-flowers-floral-parade-2010/#> - Accessed 5 November 2010.
8. Hackney, P. 2010 'Crowds flock to city for Carnival', *APN Online (Australia) Pty Ltd* website, 18th September, <http://toowoomba.finda.com.au/features/2010/09/18/queens-park-carnival-flowers-sideshow-food-wine/#> - Accessed 5 November 2010.
9. 'Australia: Divine Land Marching Band Participates in the Toowoomba Flower Festival' 2010, *Falun Gong Clearwisdom.net* website, 22 September, <http://www.clearharmony.net/articles/201009/54429.html#> - Accessed 5 November 2010.
10. Posted by [toowoombaradio](http://www.toowoombaradio.com.au) 2010, 'Falun Gong in Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers Grand Central Floral Parade', YouTube.com website, 22 September http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kmXTDEIr_1k - Accessed 5 November 2010. (file://sydbackup\video\Library\FalunDafa_in_ToowoombaCarnival.avi)
11. 'Australia: City of Toowoomba Falun Gong Week Opening Ceremony' 2002, *Falun Gong Clearwisdom.net* website, 7 February. <http://www.clearwisdom.net/emh/articles/2002/1/16/17821.html#> - Accessed 5 November 2010.