

This short film was shot over a 12-hour period in Sydney's CBD on July 20th 2015, it was gradually put together over the space of approximately one year.

The director, Alexander Nilsen, says that originally the footage was just going to be used for a basic YouTube video about Falun Gong, but after laying the cinematic music tracks, it started taking it's own course.

The 5-minute piece sheds light on a very tough subject: The persecution of Falun Gong in China. Our goal in producing it is to help people understand what Falun Gong is and why it's so brutally persecuted. We hope it achieved this.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YRL23QVImqA>

Background of the Film:

Falun Gong is an ancient Chinese spiritual discipline in the Buddhist tradition. Pronounced "Fah-loon Gong," it consists of moral teachings, a meditation, and four gentle exercises that are a truly unique and highly effective way to improve your health and energy levels.

At the core of Falun Gong are the values of Truthfulness, Compassion, and Tolerance (or in Chinese, Zhen 真 Shan 善 Ren 仁). Falun Dafa teaches that these are the most fundamental qualities of the universe, and takes them to be a guide for daily life and practice.

While Falun Gong is practiced openly in the 70-plus countries where it is found, today in its homeland of China it is subject to well-documented egregious human rights violations. The scale and scope of abuses taking place make this possibly the largest religious persecution in the world today.

Suppression officially began on July 22, 1999 following years of escalating state abuses.

One basic explanation for the seemingly irrational campaign is the proclivities of China's atheist Communist Party (the CCP), which fears all groups outside its control – particularly ones that subscribe to a different ideology.

The Party has tried several times to eradicate all expressions of religion from China. To this day Roman Catholics, many Protestants, and Tibetan Buddhists cannot worship freely in China and are at constant risk of detention and torture.

By 1999, Falun Gong became a natural target as it was the largest -and fastest growing - spiritual group in China with 100 million practitioners nation-wide, according to Chinese Government reports at the time.

Others have noted that the decision to launch the campaign is linked to former-Party head Jiang Zemin's "fear" and "jealousy" of Falun Gong. According to analyst Willy Lam, Jiang has been seen as "using the mass movement to promote allegiance to himself." Sources cited by the *Washington Post*, state that, "Jiang Zemin alone decided that Falun Gong must be eliminated," and "picked what he thought was an easy target."

Torture

Perhaps the most prominent feature of the campaign has been its prevalent use of extreme torture. Torture of Falun Gong adherents has been documented in each of China's provinces, in jails, labor camps, brainwashing centers, and schools in China's big cities, small towns, and villages.

Popular torture techniques include shocking with electric batons, burning with irons, tying the body in painful positions for days, force-feeding saline solutions through a plastic tube inserted up the nose, and prying out fingernails with bamboo shoots, to name a few; rape and sexual torture of the Falun Gong in detention are prevalent as well.

To date over 3,000 deaths have been documented, as well as over 63,000 accounts of torture. An estimate of the real figure puts the actual death toll in the tens of thousands. The Party's ultimate solution for the vast number of incarcerated Falun Gong adherents, however, is much more terrifying.

Killed for organs

According to current and former hospital employees, the Falun Gong have been used in reverse organ-matching – they have been killed by the thousands so that their organs can be used for on-demand transplants.

Livers, kidneys, hearts, and cornea are removed from the living, anaesthetised Falun Gong adherents with matching blood-types and sold to Party officials and other desperate-yet-wealthy individuals from China and abroad. Undercover investigators' phone calls to Chinese hospitals have caught doctors boasting about this practice on tape.