Gao Zhisheng is a Chinese army veteran and self-taught lawyer. He was described by the *New York Times*

as "one of China's most high-profile human rights lawyers."

Gao was director, founder, and star litigator of the Beijing-based Shengzhi Law Office, having moved to Beijing in 2000. In 2001, he was recognised by China's Ministry of Justice as "one of the country's 10 best lawyers".

Through the years, as a Christian himself, Gao had generously helped many Chinese citizens, peasants, and Chinese underground Christians fight for their rights, until Gao was approached by Falun Gong practitioners in China who had been suffering a genocidal persecution by the Chinese communist regime.

Gao was shocked on learning of the extent of this persecution of peaceful, law abiding Chinese citizens, and with the full knowledge of what he would face, but with no hesitation, Gao decided to help the Falun Gong practitioners, as he would for any human rights case.

His open letters to China's communist dictators shocked the regime, and Gao was unlawfully disbarred and detained by the Chinese regime on many occasions, and has been tortured by the Chinese secret police.

In 2006 Gao wrote a memoir on his life and work titled [A China More Just].

Silenced temporarily

Gao's disappearance on 4 February 2009 and the authorities disavowal of his whereabouts sparked concerns about his safety. When he resurfaced in March 2010 having been charged with subversion he said he would no longer criticise the government. He disappeared once again on 21 April 2010. On January 10, 2011 the Associated Press reported that Gao had detailed his abuse at the hands of police, and death threats they had made against him, during a brutal, two-day torture session that took place during his disappearance in the early spring of 2010, but he asked that the material not be published unless he failed to resurface or left the country. (wikipedia)

The following is one of the open letters written by Gao in January 2009, which exposes the evil of the communist regime. Gao realized that he was certain to be further detained and tortured to silence him, and unfortunately that seems to be the case as detailed by the Associated Press,

above.

Speaking from My Heart

Under Heaven's watchful eye, and amidst the vast free and civilized world, there is no evil that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) would shy away from or is incapable of. It is truly shocking!

Even though China possesses 1.3 billion fellow citizens, my family, bereft of support, can be so very helpless!

Before September 2007, there were only four people in China who refused to follow the Chinese Communist Party and persisted in being friends with me openly. As a result, one of them is continually followed by police; the other three were kidnapped in September and suffered brutal beatings and mental torture. In 2008, Hu Jia, who continued to refuse to follow the orders of the CCP, was held in prison. Huang Yan was kidnapped and kept in prison with Falun Gong practitioners where she suffered cruel torture. In addition, Huang heard and witnessed that the torture Falun Gong adherents had suffered was even more terrifying. Under the intimidation of torture, no one dares to communicate with me openly in today's China.

It is now extremely difficult for me to make my voice heard. Moreover, I am constantly in a situation of peril. Since more than three years, the authorities invested a large amount of manpower, money, as well as employed the most merciless methods, to achieve their goal to silence me. In November last year when I lived in a hotel, police shared the same room with me, stifling every morsel of personal freedom. They have actually achieved their purpose of turning me into an alive but pitiful human being. I often tell my wife Geng jokingly: "Six billion people live together on our global village, but our family is severed from the rest of the world."

Outsiders may feel that my family is leading an extremely miserable life. As a matter of fact, my wife is the one who has suffered the most. I am optimistic in nature, and I believe in the Creator. Even when I was tortured to near-death, the pain was only in the physical body. A heart that is filled with God has no room to entertain pain and suffering. I often sing along loudly with my two children, but my wife never joins us. Despite all my efforts, she still feels miserable in her heart.

The root of her suffering comes from the fact that our daughter Gege cannot go to school. Since she was forbidden to go to school, I was also in despair for a while. There is nothing more traumatizing than this. Shocked and outraged, I continuously protest to the authorities. My wife Geng is on the brink of a mental breakdown over this matter.

I'd like to take this opportunity to appeal to those friends who still enjoy a certain measure of freedom to continue to show your concern for Guo Feixiong, and to help his wife and children. When the CCP's hired thugs are everywhere on China's soil, when our nation's spirit falls into an impasse, we need heroes like Guo who fight for the people. These courageous heroes, Guo Feixiong, Hu Jia, Yang Tianshui, Chen Guangcheng, Xu Wanping, Wang Bingzhang and Guo

Quan, who sacrifice and risk their lives to defend China's freedom and belief, are the true hope of China. If we offer more help to them and their loved ones today, our children and grandchildren will not feel ashamed of us when looking back in this chapter of history.

In today's China, we know in our hearts that kindness and moral values are getting harder to find. Hu Jia's experience further demonstrated a harsh reality - it is not only difficult but also dangerous to be a morally righteous person. Since ancient times, people have long believed that kindness will be repaid with kindness, and evil will be repaid with evil. However, this belief has been devastated in today's China where the Communist Party culture has infiltrated into every order of society.

In the old days when tradition was maintained, people cherished and protected virtues and kindness. However, in today's China, the upholding of moral values and goodness has been uprooted. The Chinese communist regime has become synonymous for immorality and evil.

The so-called economic miracle in China was merely built upon deadly destruction to the environment. While people rejoice at the distorted economic development that results in China's superficial prosperity, they turn a blind eye to the horrific damages to the environment in China, and to the cruel reality that 70 percent of the Chinese population have been deprived of social rights. In today's China, people in villages with water resources are afraid of drinking their own water, those in milk farms are afraid of drinking their own milk, farmers are afraid of eating their own harvests, and food manufacturers are afraid of eating their own food products. It is the overwhelming reality.

People pretend not to see the reality and deny the truth. It has become a trend in China to dismiss beauty and worship ugliness. Meanwhile, the Chinese Communist Party sets a bad example and is the source of all the problems in China. The depraved government of China makes regulations to suppress the good and encourage the bad, causing bad people to become rampant in China. Those with power will always prevail in competition. Those without morals, too, will prevail. Mogul groups were formed by such people. The corrupted justice system in China has further instigated hatred and loathing against the powerful groups that have risen from the unjust economic reforms. Protests and violence took place all over China, leading China into yet another cycle of violence.

Today's China is a corrupted society. It is not corrupted by a selected few. Instead, the majority of the Chinese population is corrupted. While the CCP took great pride in hosting the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, the Games allowed the regime to enforce its totalitarian rule upon this grand sports event. The CCP replaced the Olympic spirit with its totalitarianism. The North Korean style programs at the Olympic opening and ending ceremonies embodied the authoritarian culture including depiction of China's "peaceful rise." The songs and dances at the Games covered up the cries for help from people at the bottom of the Chinese society and the CCP's human rights violations.

I learned when I was in Xinjiang that the crowds that cheered for the Olympic torch relays along the streets were hired by the Chinese authorities. In fact, each and every family along the path of the Olympic torch relays had been warned: No one is to open his window or door. No one is to raise any banner or shout slogans. Otherwise, they will be shot by the snipers on the streets. The outside world never knew that behind the cheers for the Olympic torch relay lay CCP's violence and threats. This is how the CCP controls the people and suppresses the different voices of the Chinese people in order to present a false image of China to the world. Some of the power players in China must have realized that all the false impressions the CCP has made will not save it from its doom.

The CCP's costly propaganda has neither stopped the corruption of Chinese officials and police nor reduced the protests all over China.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude towards those Chinese people in and outside of China who have been concerned about China's future.

I would like to urge more overseas Chinese people to work together for a democratic China. I would like to urge democratic and religious groups to work together and persevere in advocating for a peaceful transformation of China into a democratic state.

I would like to suggest establishing a human rights committee that represents each and every victim of China's human rights violations. After all, there are more such victims in China than one could ever count. The reported cases should be presented to the human rights committee at the UN and countries around the world.

I would also recommend founding a Human Rights newspaper dedicated to reporting human rights violations daily and the victims' names and cities so that the large litany of human rights violations will be publicized before the world. The proposed human rights committee should have branches in different provinces and cities in China so that they can collect reports of human rights violations in China. The committee can have different work groups for violations against religious freedom, suppression against people appealing for their rights, farmers who were deprived of their lands, and people persecuted for their involvement in the democratic protest in Beijing in 1989 that ended up in the June 4th student massacre.

The value of democratic rule is to be able to take action for those who suffer from human rights violations. I propose that for people who are will take action, unite all Chinese who are against totalitarian rule, including ethnic groups seeking autonomy. Also, utilize broadcast networks to tell the citizens about the benefits of a federal autonomous union of provinces. Let them know it will naturally lead to the realization of autonomy for ethnic groups.

The new system also needs to develop medical, pensions and other general social security for the future China; develop an independent judicial system; develop a promise of annual compensation for the victims of dictators' persecutions; investigate the crimes committed by those heading the Communist Party.

We need to effectively spread our thoughts similar to the way the doctrines of the Nine Commentaries were disseminated, and promote people's awareness. Also, I specially call for groups inside and outside of China, to make every effort to rescue Guo Quan and Liu Xiaobo. The arrest of Liu Xiaobo reveals the shamelessness of the current regime.

Also, I cannot help but appeal to Chinese democratic and human rights activists. Currently

many of the democratic and human rights figures are no longer virtuous advocates for change; they have become fame-chasing opportunists. They turn a blind eye to the persecution of Falun Gong, by the Chinese Communist regime, as if it doesn't exist, but which is the most horrifying and cruel persecution in the history of China's disasters.

After I publicly spoke out for Falun Gong practitioners, those who contacted me in private called me radical. This kind of "consensus" view nourished the greatest evil deeds ever committed in China, and made the persecutions of their countrymen even worse. The anti-violence hunger strike I started was peaceful and within the law, but those fame-chasing democratic activists, instead of showing any support, rallied together to scold me. The writers among them even invoked the name of justice to attack me.

They didn't stop even after I was behind bars, this really makes me sigh with regret. Why did they do this? A chance for me to speak does not happen very often, but today I must make this clear: Those are actions by the dark side of human nature! Their selfish nature! Cease at once! No matter how skillful you can articulate your shameless views, it's all in vain. After suffering the torture, I speak out of my true voice of pain. While not pleasant to hear, it definitely is not the voice of anger.

Today, for those CCP's collaborators in the world, they should all know the fact that the CCP is today's darkest regime, possessing an anti-civilization nature.

However, many of these connivers of the CCP became part of the dark politics in search of their material interests. Other collaborators of the CCP are deceived by CCP's intricate lies, and don't understand the evil nature of the CCP, and even sing praises to its false claims and fakery.

Finally I would like to thank those friends outside the country who truly care about human rights in China. Thanks to Edward Scott-McMillan, Manfred Nowak, the two Davids (Kilgour and Matas) in Canada, and the ladies and gentlemen of the European Union! You gave us your selfless moral support, and our hope in fighting for freedom and human rights.

The publication of this article will cause me to be kidnapped again. Kidnaps are part of my normal living now. If it comes again, then let it come!

Gao Zhisheng

Jan. 1, 2009