

Name: Danielle Wang (Legal: Xiaodan Nenarella)

Title and organizational affiliation: N/A

Committee: House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations

Hearing date and title: Their Daughters Appeal to Beijing: "Let Our Fathers Go!" 11:00 a.m, Thursday, December 5, 2013

Written Statement:

Thank you to the organizers for including my father's story in this event. In a way, Zhiwen Wang can stand in for millions of Falun Dafa practitioners in China living under persecution by the Chinese regime. All of the victims being honored here and their families have endured many hardships that should have never come about. Yet the fact that we are standing here today with all of you in the audience shows that there will always be people standing up for justice and the greater good in the world.

The holiday season is coming up again. Here in the United States, many families are getting ready to gather for Christmas and New Year's. In China, we would be starting to look forward to Chinese New Year. But this time of year is always bittersweet for me, because of the painful absence in my family since my father's summary arrest and detention in July of 1999. He was targeted for no more than his peaceful practice of Falun Dafa, and he has been gone for over 14 years.

My Dad was born in 1949, the same year as the People's Republic of China. He served his country throughout his long career, including as an engineer at the P.R.C. Ministry of Railways. He began practicing Falun Gong in 1992. Over the next

five years, he became a volunteer contact person for Falun Gong practitioners in Beijing, teaching the exercises, meditation practice, and principles of truth, compassion, and tolerance.

In the early morning of July 20, 1999, according to eyewitness accounts from our neighbors, my father was seized from his bed by police and taken away in waiting police vans. His summary arrest came on the same day that the Chinese Communist Party began its brutal crackdown on Falun Gong, with thousands of others targeted for similar arbitrary arrest and detention. On December 26, 1999, my father was sentenced by Beijing No.1 Intermediate People's Court to 16 years in jail.

The sentence came after a one day trial, alongside Li Chang, Ji Liewu, and Yao Jie, other peaceful Falun Gong practitioners who happened to have positions in the Party or PRC government ministries. The trial was nationally broadcast on television, and from the pictures it's clear that my father and the other defendants had been subjected to physical abuse.

All four were convicted on unsubstantiated charges of "Organizing and using a heretical organization to undermine implementation of the law", "Organizing and using a heretical organization to cause death", and "Illegally obtaining state secrets". Based on what we and other's watching his case have been able to learn, my father was first detained at The Chinese People's Armed Police Force Academy in Langfang, Hebei Province, and later transferred to Tianjin Prison in the city of Tianjin. It has been impossible to obtain information on his health or wellbeing.

Next July 20th will be 15 years since my Dad, Zhiwen Wang, was thrown into his illegal imprisonment, without due process, without a fair trial, and without justice. A lot happens in 15 years. Being away from Dad and growing up without him has been so hard. I hope that the decisions I've made in my life would make him proud. At my wedding we placed a single rose on his chair to symbolize his presence and celebrate his place in my life. I continue to keep that rose safe and present until the day we meet again and I can hand it to him and tell him the story of how he has always been with me.

Throughout the past decade and a half, I have been working to get my father released. Though I am only one person, with limited abilities, time, and resources, I have always felt obligated to dedicate 100% of my effort to raising awareness of my father's unlawful arrest and detention for no more than his spiritual beliefs. People today are still being subjected to the same treatment. Why do we let it go on?