

# Chinese lawyer arrested and tortured after wife's escape

By BI ZIMO  
Radio Free Asia

Chinese human rights attorney Gao Zhisheng was again taken into custody and tortured by the Bureau of State Security (BSS) after his wife and two children escaped mainland China in mid-January.

**Gao's article revealing the torture he suffered had irritated the authorities**

According to Gao's friend Huang Yan, a member of a Beijing underground church, the BSS claimed in a phone conversation about a week ago that Gao had been transported back to Beijing and would be released soon. However, Huang has not heard from Gao so far. Huang believes Gao is still under house arrest.

A BSS agent revealed to Huang that the escape of Gao's families and the publishing of Gao's article revealing the torture he suffered had irritated the authorities. The latest arrest of Gao, the agent said, was directly ordered by high-level government officials.

In a recent interview in Phoenix City, Arizona, Gao's wife Geng He said she chose to leave China for the wellbeing of her children. The



Human rights lawyer Gao Zhisheng. THE EPOCH TIMES

BSS had been harassing and persecuting Geng, their teenage daughter and their five-year-old son for years. Geng said their daughter was closely followed by BSS agents 24 hours a day, even when she was in school or in the restroom. The girl was so depressed that she once tried to kill herself.

Now that Geng and the children have been granted asylum in

**Geng said she was relieved that her children could finally have a safe life**

U.S., Geng said she was relieved that her children could finally have a safe life. But Geng is deeply concerned about her husband's safety, and called for help from the outside world.

According to Father Fu Xiqu, a member of the China Aid Association in U.S., Geng and her children have moved to New York City, where she plans to settle down.

# Obama to lift ban on talking to Iran: source

WASHINGTON (Reuters)—The Obama administration, in a sign of thawing ties with Iran, is likely to soon relax restrictions on contacts between U.S. diplomats and Iranian officials, said a source close to the matter.

But the source, who asked not to be named because a review of U.S. policy on Iran is not complete, said the Bush administration's idea to open a low-level diplomatic outpost in Tehran was for now "off the table."

The plan is to make small but significant gestures to Tehran, including an invitation to a conference on Afghanistan this month, and to allow U.S. diplomats to see Iranian officials without first seeking approval, as has been the case for nearly 30 years.

"These contacts could be across the board," said the source, adding that the review was not final and that President Barack Obama still had to sign off on it.

Diplomatic sources and analysts said the idea of low to mid-level contacts without first being authorized had been discussed for a while and that this was broadly seen as a first step toward higher-level engagement.

The United States cut off diplomatic ties with Tehran during the 1979-1981 hostage crisis, in which a group of militant Iranian students held 52 U.S. diplomats hostage at the American Embassy for 444 days.

Last year, the State Department's point person on Iran met with his counterpart as part of multilateral talks with Tehran over its nuclear

program. That meeting was approved after much debate within the Bush administration.

There were also contacts between the U.S. ambassador to Iraq and his Iranian counterpart and discussions with Iran over Afghanistan.

**No diplomatic outpost yet**

The Bush administration had been considering opening up a U.S. interests section in Tehran, much as it has in Cuba, but decided to leave this decision up to the next administration.

Having an interest section would stop well short of full diplomatic relations but it would involve sending U.S. diplomats to Tehran for the first time in 30 years.

Diplomats and the source close to the discussions on the issue, said the Obama administration's policy review on Iran, which is expected to be complete in the coming weeks, no longer had this option on the table.

The Obama administration would like to lay the groundwork for such a move first and any decision on that was unlikely at least until after Iran's June elections.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton made her first public overture to Iran earlier this month by inviting Tehran to attend an international conference in the Hague on future strategy toward Afghanistan.

State Department spokesman Robert Wood said no bilateral talks were planned between Clinton and her counterpart from Tehran if he was at the conference.

# Global Q&A: What values should be passed to the next generation?

This week Epoch Times reporters around the world took to the streets to ask, "What values do you think are most important to pass onto to the next generation in your country?" Many common sentiments were expressed across the globe including strong ethics and responsibility to community, family and our future world.

**Islamabad, Pakistan**  
Babar A. Mufti, 31, Development Sector

The most important value to pass on to the next generation is the value of questioning. For example they say 'you should respect your elders' but they don't say why. They should also tell them why it is important to respect elders. We should not just accept that we do something, we should think about it and decide if it is something we should value and cherish. We should re-evaluate our belief system.

**Tel Aviv, Israel**  
Uri Eshet, Technical School Teacher and Headmaster

Being loyal to the nation, the country and the family; love of humanity; keeping traditions; being happy; optimism; aspiration for a healthy and moral life; raising children. Solidarity with the Jewish people all over the world, and justice.

**Ottawa, Canada**  
Robin Mark, 43, Cleaner

Respect. Respecting everything, family, themselves, the kids, respect for the older generations, respect for the past cultures, the good way of life in the past compared to today's hustle bustle, trying to carry the old values like spending time with your kids - they don't learn from you if you don't spend time with them.

**Brisbane, Australia**

**Angela Owen-Taylor, Brisbane City Councillor**

One of the most critical [values] is to establish a sense of community and to participate in your local community. Because by looking after our friends and our neighbours, we can build a strong foundation on which to build the wider community and the wider sense of state and country. The other value that I feel is important for young people to learn is the value of ensuring that they have control of their future by way of making sensible choices about their career directions and also ensuring that they can establish themselves financially in the situation where they need to progress from.

**Puerto Rico**  
Cheida Chaparro, Vendor

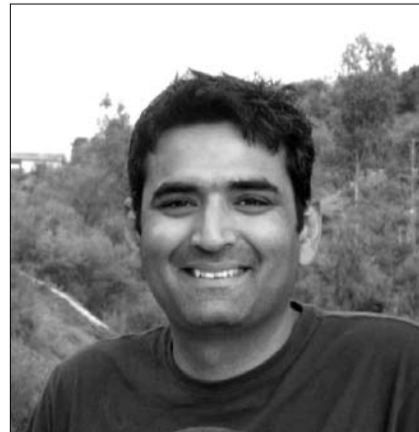
To be honest, to be generous with homeless people, and have good feelings towards other people.

**Athens, Greece**  
Xaralampos Hatzidimitriou, 34, Public Service

Values such as truth, self-confidence and honesty.

**Salt Lake City, USA**  
Wes and Barbara Roller, 64, Commercial Plumber

The most important value to pass on to the next generation are several: honesty, integrity, love of justice and morality—especially morality.



Babar A. Mufti, Islamabad, Pakistan. THE EPOCH TIMES



Kuki Carmen Floriana, Timisoara, Romania. THE EPOCH TIMES



Wes and Barbara Roller, Salt Lake City, USA. THE EPOCH TIMES



Angela Owen-Taylor, Brisbane, Australia. THE EPOCH TIMES

**Timisoara, Romania**  
Kuki Carmen Floriana, 34, Chemist Engineer (on maternity leave)

I would try to make sure that our children will have an unpolluted environment and that they are well taught to be responsible in everything they do. We should suffice for them to have a good environment to live in.

**Presov, Slovakia**  
Zuzana Kovacova, 20, student of literature and aesthetics

It's very difficult to specify one particular value, since all those we have constitute our life. I don't know if it can be called a value, but I think what people should strive for is love, to be kind to each other. That's what make us human beings and what differentiates us from the machines. Next generations should also behave according to certain principles, perceive the world with open eyes and look at things from different perspectives. They should not lose smile and light in their life.

**Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**  
Vinã cuis S. Santiago, 59, Architect

I feel I'm responsible to pass onto to the new generation those values I've learned from my family and at school. I belong to that generation that lived the

young during the 60's and it was a time of questioning the old values. However, I've preserved the most basic values like, to respect other people's limits, to respect the law, to avoid throwing garbage on the ground, to give back lost belongings to their owners, to respect our parents, neighbors and teachers, and etc. I still get moved when I see the national flag flying and when I listen to the national anthem. The new generation does not even know how to sing it, and this absence of patriotism brings a lot of trouble to our society.

**Bangkok, Thailand**  
Sirirat Itthirojanakul, 33, Assistant to Managing Director

"The most important things that I would like to pass onto the next generation in my own country would be to instill good moral values and ethics, honesty and hard work. As I am Thai and Thailand is a Buddhist country so being a good person, doing and thinking good deeds are very significant things that we should teach our next generations. I very much feel fortunate to be born in this country and would like our next generations to be perceived with these mentioned values. They will not only make the country to be a better place to live, but also making ourselves to be better persons."

# Toxic leak revealed in China

Epoch Times Staff

A recent mainland China media report unintentionally revealed the authoritarian regime was hiding a toxic chemical spill. Authorities had told earthquake victims water was safe following the devastating earthquake on May 12, 2008, despite there being reports ground water was contaminated with benzene.

According to an article titled "Dujiangyan Launches Bacteriological War Against Benzene Pollution Caused Earthquake," published by Sichuan News Net on March 12, 2009, the Dujiangyan

Environmental Protection Bureau in Sichuan Province confirmed that the Chuanxi Chemical Plant in Chengdu City leaked about 600 kilograms of benzene during the devastating earthquake on May 12, 2008.

"To completely clear the benzene pollution, the Dujiangyan Environmental Protection Bureau is planning to use biodegradable technology. They are going to cultivate bacteria to deal with the 7500 cubic meters of soil contaminated with benzene. It is said that the bacteria will be the first treatment for the serious environmen-

tal pollution caused by the earthquake approved by the relevant department of the country," said the article.

Also revealed in the article was the origin of the chemical leak—tanks of crude benzol, buried underground, that were damaged by the earthquake. About 600 kilograms of toxic chemicals, mainly benzene, dimethyl benzene and toluene leaked. The company responsible for the chemicals had immediately reported the leak to authorities.

However, state-controlled Sichuan Daily published an article three days after the earthquake, on May 15 2008, water in the area had been contaminated. The article also carried accusations that people with ulterior motives were

spreading rumors.

The Sichuan Daily article wrote, "Meanwhile, the Chengdu Command Center of Earthquake Disaster Relief released the news through the radio and television to the public. According to the joint monitoring and investigation by the city environmental protection departments, Chengdu and its surrounding regions did not have any toxic liquid leakage or any explosions. Chengdu City has sufficient water supplies. The quality of water is safe and the water supply is normal. It's safe for citizens to consume the water."

The article went on to say, "It is said that the authorities are starting to investigate the rumors and will severely punish rumormongers."



According to the National Wenchuan Earthquake Expert Committee, over 87,000 died in the May 12, 2008 earthquake centered in Wenchuan County of Sichuan Province. CHINA PHOTOS/GETTY IMAGES