

## Deposed Kyrgyzstan president charged with murder

By ANDREY VOLKOV  
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Kyrgyzstan's self-declared government charged deposed Kyrgyz president, Kurmanbek Bakiyev, with mass murder on Tuesday.

The new authorities are holding Bakiyev, his relatives, and allies accountable for the death of dozens of opposition protesters earlier this month, when police opened fire into the crowd of protesters killing 85 people.

Kyrgyzstan's prosecutor's office says an arrest warrant has been issued and a request would be made to officials in Belarus to extradite the deposed president, Kyrgyz media reported.

Bakiyev and his family members have been in Belarus since April 19. A few days after arriving in Belarus, Bakiyev said at a press conference in Minsk that he rescinded his previously signed resignation and was still the legitimate leader of his country.

Bakiyev had fled to Kazakhstan before he surfaced in Minsk. His safe departure from the country was the result of joint efforts of the presidents of Kazakhstan, the United States, and Russia.

Many feared that if Bakiyev had not fled, the clashes between government and opposition forces could have erupted again and the impoverished clan-ruled Central Asian country might have sunk into a civil war.

## Box jellyfish encounter survived by 10-year-old girl

By IAN RITZ  
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A box jellyfish, one of the deadliest venomous creatures, stung a 10-year-old girl swimming in an Australian river, and she lived to share her experience with the scientists and the world.

Last December, Rachael Shardlow was swimming 23 kilometres (14 miles) upstream from the Pacific Ocean in the Calliope River in Queensland, Australia, when her leg was entangled in the tentacles of a box jellyfish, reported the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC).

Shardlow was rendered unconscious by the sting and would have most likely died had she not been saved from drowning by her 13-year-old brother. Many victims have gone into shock and drowned in the ocean after being stung.

Professor Jamie Seymour from James Cook University took some time to comment on the severity of the sting:

"I don't know of anybody in the entire literature where we've studied this where someone has had such an extensive sting that has survived. When I first saw the pictures of the injuries I just went, 'You know, to be honest, this kid should not be alive.' I mean they are horrific," Seymour told the ABC.

Box jellyfish (*Chiropsalmus quadrumanus*) are also known as sea wasps, stingers, or jelly wasps. They are frequently found in warm salt-water environments around Australia.

Attempts to use anti-venom to combat box jellyfish stings have been unsuccessful. Most victims suffer through intense pain delivered via the sting to their nervous system that makes it almost impossible to swim to shore after being stung. Scientists have found that the venom is made up of a unique family of proteins that are difficult to study.

Scientists from the Australia's National Science Foundation have labelled 50 or more species of box jellyfish as "highly toxic." The jellyfish originally attracted scientists' attention due to its deadly toxicity, as well as its curious system of vision—a single jellyfish can have up to 24 eyes.

# Ripples of a historic appeal

A protest 11 years ago is changing how Chinese people stand up for their rights, say dissidents

By MATTHEW ROBERTSON  
Epoch Times Staff

When tens of thousands of Falun Gong practitioners peacefully assembled in Beijing on April 25, 1999 to ask the Chinese communist state to stop its harassment of their spiritual practice, they took the first steps in what would become the largest and most sustained civil disobedience movement in modern China.

The practitioners also set in motion changes that are shifting how Chinese society relates to the ruling Chinese Communist Party (CCP), according to leading Chinese dissidents.

Through the power of the example of the civil disobedience that was dramatically displayed on April 25 and then employed on a daily basis after the persecution of Falun Gong began on July 20, 1999, Falun Gong practitioners have shown dissidents how to oppose the Chinese regime while giving them inspiration, hope, and support, these dissidents say.

Zhong Weiguang, an expert on totalitarianism who lives in Germany, says that after the mass appeal on April 25, "I started thinking of what a scary society Chinese society is. The Chinese Communist Party, like all communist parties, uses lies and terror to rule the country."

Although not a Falun Gong practitioner himself, Mr. Zhong has come to greatly admire the effect practitioners are having on China—admiration that began with the events of April 25, 1999. Eleven years later, Mr. Zhong says he is finally realizing the depth and extensiveness of the appeal.

"Among Chinese dissident movements, there has never been a movement like this," he says.

Guo Quoting, an exiled Chinese human rights lawyer living in Canada, also not a practitioner, says he too sees Falun Gong as unique in Chinese society.

"Under the whole violent, totalitarian CCP, there has been wave after wave of crazy persecution and attacks, but there has never been an organization or group that openly stands up and protects its legal rights," he says.

"The meaning of April 25 is just the spirit of civil disobedience."

Mr. Guo says that since seizing power in 1949 and even earlier, the CCP has carried out political campaigns using propaganda, thought reform, linguistic engineering, social pressure, violence, and sheer terror. A widely-used campaign involved negatively labelling one segment of the population and inciting others to "struggle" against them.

The same approach, he notes, has been used to stigmatize, attack, and attempt to break Falun Gong.

Previously, none of the groups or professions targeted in this way have dared or known how to defend their rights, he explains. "So when Falun Gong started doing this, every Chinese person was taken off guard."

The unwillingness to be cowed



Falun Gong practitioners raise banners reading "Truth, Compassion, Forbearance" as police approach on Tiananmen Square. FALUNINFO.NET

by the CCP is part of what made Falun Gong's efforts so unusual, he says.

"The other point is that this isn't a hotheaded resistance that is quickly over. It's been an ongoing process, an extraordinarily tenacious process of protecting their rights to their beliefs, a display of persistence and dauntlessness."

### BENCHMARK

Mr. Zhong says the peaceful, rational methods used on April 25 have given Chinese activists a great model to follow—one that is both a benchmark and an inspiration.

He says Falun Gong practitioners have helped make it possible for China's dissidents to be heard, and that by establishing independent media companies they have given Chinese dissidents a platform from which they can project their own voices.

In addition, the Falun Gong example can help democracy activists understand their own movement better.

"Because of our own internal disorder and internal conflict, and our inability to work hard long-term toward a goal, the overseas democracy movement has moved step by step to being ineffectual," he says.

The example of Falun Gong practitioners' persistent work to defend their own rights, he adds, has held a mirror up to the Chinese democracy movement so that they can examine their own behaviour more clearly.

### RIGHTS DEFENCE MOVEMENT

Over the last several years a rights defence movement has developed in China. It includes protests by



Falun Gong practitioners lined up on Fuyou Street in Beijing on April 25. On an alleyway off Fuyou Street is China's State Appeals Office. CLEARWISDOM.NET



Falun Gong practitioners, several people deep, gather at the north end of the Zhongnanhai government compound near Beihai Lake on April 25, 1999. CLEARWISDOM.NET

peasants whose land has been taken away, laid off workers, and people whose homes have been taken from them. It also includes human rights lawyers who have sought to develop the rule of law in China by demanding in court that the CCP obey China's constitution

and laws.

"From many angles it can be said that if there was no resistance from Falun Gong, there would not be so many Chinese people defending their rights, and there wouldn't be this rights defence movement today," Mr. Zhong says.

Mr. Guo compares it to the non-violent resistance promoted by Martin Luther King and Gandhi. "In China this movement of nonviolent civil disobedience is precisely Falun Gong. And this disobedience began right on April 25. I think it has given every sector of Chinese society an extremely meaningful and effective path—peaceful appeal and protest, peaceful noncooperation."

He sees in the path of civil disobedience blazed by Falun Gong practitioners hope for China's future.

"This movement, I think, this kind of thing is what can finally put an end to the CCP's violent rule. And this can stop the whole society from falling into chaos, or descending into barbarism, or descending into violence, or massacre, or 'blood running like rivers.'"

The model provided by the Falun Gong practitioners goes beyond an example of effective social action to matters of the human spirit and the culture of China.

"Before Falun Gong's civil disobedience began, as a Chinese intellectual I felt that we were very lonely," Mr. Zhong says.

"In terms of the communist culture, that whole CCP stuff, the way of life it forced on us, I can't accept that. And if you don't accept that in Chinese society, you're very lonely."

"But after Falun Gong practitioners appeared, because their beliefs naturally set them apart from the CCP, they have with them a new kind of culture, and due to its inclusiveness and inner meaning it has given the whole dissident movement enormous support."

He says the Chinese people know that "in everyday life in Chinese society, in people-to-people relationships, people's ethics and morals, and the morals of society, and the ethics of those who go overseas—all of this is already rotten."

The CCP's rule, he continues, "has made every Chinese person used to lies, and not just used to them, but also made them participants in the lies. So we see that today in Falun Gong practitioner's existence in Chinese society that there's honesty and uprightness. There are people following traditional ethical values, and living their lives in this way."

Gao Zhisheng, the renowned Chinese human rights lawyer, in an open letter in December 2005 to Chinese leader Hu Jintao and head of the state bureaucracy Wen Jiabao, said:

"In contrast to the current situation where the humanity, conscience, morality, compassion, and responsibility of our society is suffering an overall deterioration, these [Falun Gong] cultivators, as a group reborn from the old nation, have impacted all of these areas in a positive way. One can feel the powerful way in which faith can change one's soul. Indeed it has allowed me to see a spark of hope for rescuing our nation from its current depraved state."

## Norway and Russia end decades-old border conflict

By MARCO 'T HOEN  
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Unexpectedly, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and Norwegian Premier Jens Stoltenberg announced on Tuesday that Russia and Norway had reached an accord on their maritime border in the Barents Sea, ending a dispute that has lasted more than 40 years.

The two leaders announced at a joint press conference that they had reached an understanding based on a cooperative approach to the situation.

According to Russian media, Stoltenberg said, "The decision [we have reached] provides that the disputed territory in the Barents Sea and the Arctic Ocean are divided into two equivalent parts."

The seas are hotly sought after due to the expectation of large oil and gas fields, as well as abundant fishing in the area.

The detailed documents of the agreement are being prepared, but it will regulate both the fishing and drilling over approximately 67,500 square miles. Medvedev said in a

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statement, "In order to explore these or other gas and oil depots, we will require joint participation."

Old estimates say that an equivalent of 10 billion barrels of oil lie underneath the sea but oil companies warn that these estimates need to be verified by seismic studies.

On Monday, Medvedev already spoke with the Norwegian company Statoil about the possible exploration of the huge Prirazlomnoye oil deposits in the Barents Sea.



Norwegian King Harald (R) and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev (L) chat as he offers King Harald a box with a carved mammoth tooth at the Norwegian Royal Palace in Oslo on April 26. LISE ASERUD/GETTY IMAGES

## Maoist grenade on public transport breaks arms agreement

By JASPER FAKKERT  
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A Maoist commander carrying a hand grenade with him while travelling on public transit broke an arms agreement with the United Nations, the U.N. mission in Nepal said on Wednesday. Under the agreement, the Maoist army is to register all its combatants with the U.N. as well as all its weapons and have them stored safely if not used for perimeter security or "leadership security purposes."

The U.N. mission says that it "condemns this reckless risk to life," and called for "appropriate disciplinary actions." The mission is to monitor the arms of both the Maoist rebels and Nepalese army, and to assist in ceasefire agreements. A decade-long civil war has seen over 13,000 people killed. The civil war came to an end in 2006 with the signing of a peace agreement.