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**Member of the EU Human Rights and  
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**Member of the European Platform  
against Religious Intolerance &  
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Secularism in Politics (EPPSP)**

## **Human Rights Without Frontiers Int'l**

### ***Newsletter "Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief"***

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**Our website has been updated with news that were not published in our Newsletters.**

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<http://www.hrwf.org>

**12 May 2014**

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**See some of our activities below**

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## **UKRAINE**

### **FECRIS vice-president, Alexander Dvorkin, persona non grata in Ukraine, criticizes the Maidan movement**

By Willy Fautré, Human Rights Without Frontiers

HRWF (12.05.2014) - Alexander Dvorkin, vice-president of FECRIS (\*) and chairman of the Russian Association of Centres for the Study of Religions and Sects, has been complaining in numerous Russian media in the last few weeks that he was denied entry in Ukraine because of the international "sectarian lobby" behind the Maidan movement in Kyiv.

Dvorkin had been invited by the Archbishop of Lugansk and Alchevsk Mitrofan (Ukrainian Orthodox Church/ Moscow Patriarchate) to give some lectures about sects on 9-10 April in Lugansk (Eastern Ukraine). He was denied entry in Ukraine at the airport of Donetsk and sent back to Russia.

The official reason justifying his deportation was that he had been seen with the wife of Gubarev, the self-proclaimed governor of Donetsk.

During a broadcast of the Russian radio station "Komsomolskaïa Pravda", Dvorkin denied any link with Gubarev and accused the international "sectarian lobby" of standing behind "the coup of Kyiv" as well as his deportation.

Like other pro-Russian and Russian Orthodox extremists, Dvorkin discredited the Maidan movement, saying that the Acting President, Alexander Tourtchynov was a Baptist - which is true -, his Prime Minister Arseni Yatseniuk is a Scientologist his sister chairs a major

scientologist organization in the USA - both accusations spread by Interfax-Religion, a Russian press agency, and checked as false by Human Rights Without Frontiers (\*\*).

With such allegations, pro-Russian extremists in Ukraine want to show that the Maidan movement is an American plot supported by non-Orthodox/ anti-Orthodox new religious movements and that "foreign sects" are now in power in Kyiv with some extreme-right elements.

(\*) European Federation of Centres of Research and Information on Cults and Sects

(\*\*) See <http://www.interfax-religion.com/?act=news&div=11127> (5 March 2014)

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## UKRAINE

### **FECRIS correspondent in Ukraine campaigns with China against Falun Gong in Ukraine**

HRWF (12.05.2014) - The **Ukrainian National Center Of Religious Safety And Help To Victims Of Destructive Cults Organisation "Dialogue"** a FECRIS correspondent in Ukraine, has launched a campaign against Falun Gong practitioners. It has published the following article on its website under the title "The Falun Gong sect recruits Kherson residents under the guise of an art exhibition":

The Kherson branch of the Union of Artists of Ukraine for two weeks made available its showroom in Ushakov street, 30/1 to the Chinese Falun Gong sect to be able to recruit citizens. On 15th April the sectarians announced the opening of the Chinese painting exhibition "Truth, Compassion, and Forbearance".

**HRWF Comment: The art exhibition is to show paintings made by artists who practice Falun Gong. See the website <http://en.falunart.org/> The goal of the exhibition is not "to recruit citizens" as visitors are never asked/requested to practice Falun Gong.**

Followers of the leader of the Falun Gong movement, Li Hongzhi , who was sentenced to death in absentia in China and is currently living in the United States, demonstrate the exhibition under this name in many cities around the world. The sectarians brought to Kherson 32 paintings painted by seven Falun Gong practitioners from Japan, United States, Taiwan and Canada, with the paintings made primarily with oil in the spirit of "traditional realism" and with ink on silk - in the "Chinese style". At these exhibitions Falun Gong recruiters invite visitors to their ranks, introducing themselves as a community of "an ancient system of moral and physical perfection" - Falun Dafa. The repressions of the "perfected people" by the Chinese communist regime form a separate storyline.

**HRWF Comment: The wording of this anti-sect organization is meant to slander Falun Gong.**

**About the founder of Falun Gong, Mr. Li Hongzhi: he was living in New York before 1999 when the persecution started. The Chinese authorities cancelled his passport so that he could not travel. There was never a question of a death sentence; however, it is true that the Chinese authorities sent agents in order to kill him. All attempts failed.**

Thus the sectarians take measures against possible exposure: they already prepare the recruited people to the fact that while trying to learn more about movement, they will face verbal abuse from the People's Republic of China. First, all Falun Gong adherents are afraid

of information in the public domain about mass suicides amongst Falun Gong practitioners,, in the late 1990s in China, after which the sect was banned in China. In particular, the world then saw the videos of self-immolation. The leaders of the sect announced that these videos were of fanatics trained by the Chinese special forces. These fanatics self-immolated with the sole purpose to discredit the peaceful teaching that became more popular than Maoism.

At the same time, Chinese specialists in the field of sects and their counterparts in other countries warned about the danger posed by the Falun Gong cult to the lives, welfare and mental wellbeing of its adherents. Unfortunately, the Kherson Art ministers thought that rent was more important. The Internet site "Ukraine the Sectarian" encourages the people of Kherson to boycott the exhibition and to warn others about the dangers of the sect."

April 12, 2014 Igor Shershuny

**HRWF Comment: All Falun Gong practices and teaching material are open to the public. To practice Falun Gong is open and free. The Chinese regime promoted it in the early 1990s for its beneficial effects on health and morality. After the persecution started, all the Chinese media began to slander and defame Falun Gong in support of the policy of the Chinese authorities based on repression and demonization. Orthodox radicals and former Communists in Ukraine are on the same line as Beijing on this issue.**

**In China, Falun Gong has never been linked to mass suicides, even in the state media. The Chinese authorities defame Falun Gong by making it responsible for individual cases of murders and suicides. These are all fabricated by the regime.**

**A self-immolation case at Chinese New Year Eve in 2001: see analyses of a video about a case of self-immolation issued by CCTV.**

**Washington Post:** *Reporter Finds Holes in China's Tiananmen Immolation Story*

**National Review:** *Beijing is Burning - More lies from the PRC*

**MediaChannel:** *The Fires This Time: Immolation Or Deception In Beijing*

**WOIPFG:** *Investigation Uncovers More Lies in Chinese Regime's Story of Tragic Self-Immolation Incident*

**FalunInfo:** *The Tiananmen Square "Self-Immolation"*

**Epochtimes:** *Tiananmen Square Self-Immolation? Actually a Hoax*

**Amnesty International:** *Another important part of the government's propaganda campaign has been to publicize statements from people identified as former Falun Gong practitioners...*

**Reporters Without Borders:** *China's determination to prevent the foreign press from covering the activities and government repression of the Falun Gong clearly illustrates its rejection of independent news gathering.*

**The English film "False Fire" <http://www.falsefire.com/>, which examines the suspicious points of the Tiananmen "self-immolation" incident, won an honorary award at the 51st Columbia International Film Festival for its analytical approach and exposure of this tragic event.**

**A Washington Post reporter Philip Pan went to China to investigate this self-**

immolation and found out those people were not Falun Gong practitioners. See his article "Human Fire Ignites Chinese Mystery".

For more information about religious freedom issues in Ukraine in 2014, see our database:

[http://www.hrwf.net/images/forbnews/2014/Ukraine\\_2014.pdf](http://www.hrwf.net/images/forbnews/2014/Ukraine_2014.pdf)

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#### **Some activities in 2014**

**Participation in a meeting of the Grand Round Table in Budapest (08-09.05.2014)**

**Workshop organized by Dr Mark Barwick, HRWF Policy analyst, at the EU Fundamental Rights Agency annual meeting in Vienna (11.04.2014)**

**Presentation at the conference "Organ Harvesting in China" at the EESC in Brussels (19.03.2014)**

**Interview about "Organ Harvesting in China" by NTDTV (19.03.2014)**

**Lecture about human rights advocacy for a group of Swedish university students (19 March 2014)**

**Breakfast meeting at the European Parliament with Mgr Borys Gudziak, Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Bishop (19.03.2014)**

**Organizing a conference on "Religious Minorities in Iran" at the European Parliament (18 March 2014)**

**Co-organizing the side-event "The Rise of Religious Intolerance" at the UN in Geneva with a presentation on "Religious Intolerance & Ethno-Religious Conflicts in Africa" by Dr. Mark Barwick, HRWF Policy Analyst (10.03.2014)**

**Fact-finding mission in Azerbaijan (01.03 - 07.03.2014)**

**Fact-finding mission in Japan (17-21.02.2014) and press conference in Tokyo (19.02.2014)**

**Interview by Polish Television "Telewizja Elblaska" on the collaboration NGOs - European Parliament for the promotion of human rights (30.01.2014)**

**Participation of HRWF Policy Adviser Dr Mark Barwick as facilitator and workshop trainer in the Budapest conference on "Prevention of Genocide & Mass Atrocities" organized by the Budapest Center for the International Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities ([27-29.01.2014](#))**

**Participation in a demonstration against human rights violations in Russia outside the European Council in Brussels (27.01.2014)**

**Participation in the briefing of the Human Rights Dialogue EU-Azerbaijan and debriefing of the Human Rights Dialogue EU-Armenia (20.01.2014)**

**Lecture on the EU and freedom of religion or belief for Brigham Young University**

**(15.01.2014)**

**HRWF Newsletter on Freedom of Religion or Belief in Italian (14.01.2014)**

**Publication of "The International Community and North Korea - Which Way to Go? Encourage Conversion to Capitalism or Sanctions?" in "Human Rights and Democratic Transition in North Korea", Hans Seidel Foundation (January 2014)**

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**HRWF network of experts covers more than 20 countries, including**

**AUSTRIA (Dr. Reinhard Kohlhofer - Prof. Dr. Christian Bruenner ) - BELARUS (Prof. Viktor Adzinochanka ) - BELGIUM (Attorney Inès Wouters ) - CHINA (Willy Fautré ) FRANCE (Prof. Regis Dericquebourg ) - GERMANY (Prof. Dr Thomas SCHIRRMACHER ) - IRAQ (Dr Eden Naby ) - ITALY (Raffaella Di Marzio) - KAZAKHSTAN (Dr Roman Podoprigora ) - KOREA, REPUBLIC OF (Prof. Joshua Park ) - KENYA (Dr. Alex OJACOR ) - LEBANON (Dr. Elie Abouaoun ) - PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY (Dr. Justus Reid Weiner - Dr. Susanna Kokkonen ) - POLAND (Agnieszka Koscianska / Warsaw University ) - RUSSIA (Prof. Elena Miroschnikova - Attorney Sergey Tarasov) - UKRAINE (Prof. Yevgeniya Dodina ), etc.**

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**HRWF Int'l Human Rights Advocacy Network**

**ARMENIA: Pro-Democracy Association**

**AZERBAIJAN: The Institute of Peace and Democracy**

**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO: Ligue des Sacrifices Volontaires pour les Droits de l'Homme**

**GEORGIA: Human Rights Information and Documentation Center**

**IRAQ: Assyrian Aid Society**

**JAPAN: Life Fund for North Korean Refugees**

**MOLDOVA: Promo-LEX Association**

**NEPAL: Human Rights Without Frontiers/ Nepal**

**RUSSIA: Sova-Center**

**RWANDA: Association Rwandaise des Travailleurs Chrétiens**

**SERBIA: Centar 9**

**SOUTH KOREA: Korean Rehabilitation Center for Torture Victims and Families (KRCT)**

**TCHAD: Droits de l'homme sans frontières**

**UKRAINE: International Centre for Policy Studies**

**USA: Women's Rights Without Frontiers**

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## **Electronic Newsletters**

**Democracy, Rule of Law and Human Rights in China**  
**Democracy, Rule of Law and Human Rights in North Korea**  
**Democracy, Rule of Law and Human Rights in the World**  
**Trafficking in Human Beings**  
**Religious Discrimination and Intolerance**  
**EU News**

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