

Hundreds Rally to Commemorate 5,000,000 Quitting
Communism in China
By Brian Marple
Epoch Times Washington D.C. Staff

Oct 16, 2005

Washington, DC--Hundreds gathered outside of the Lincoln Memorial on Saturday to give moral support to the 5,000,000 people who have quit the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and to call for an end to the Party.

"Only without the CCP can there be a new China!" rally members chanted.

"Quit the Party, quit the Party, quickly quit the Party!"

In November 2004, the Epoch Times published a series of editorial articles called the Nine Commentaries on the Chinese Communist Party that give a highly critical and thorough look at the history of China's Communist Party. Many in China who have read the articles have decided to post declarations saying they will cancel their CCP memberships on the Chinese-language Epoch Times websites. The number of such declarations on the website has grown to over 5,000,000.

Some who write such declarations describe it as setting their consciences free by no longer being associated with the CCP.

"How can we continue to support a party that has coated the city streets and countrysides of China in the blood of its own people?" said Timothy Cooper, Executive Director for Worldrights.

Among the rally speakers was Ms. Li Weixun, a Falun Gong practitioner who had recently been resettled to the U.S. from Thailand by the United Nations after being beaten and tortured in China. Li's older brother had helped her escape to Thailand from China after Li was sentenced to 16 years in jail for practicing Falun

Gong. Li's older brother, however, was sentenced to 8 years in jail for helping his sister escape China and still remains in prison in Shenyang City.

"My personal experience is just a microcosm of the persecution tens of millions of Falun Gong practitioners and their families face," she said through an interpreter.

Dr. Tsuwei Huang, General Manager of the Epoch Times, connected the recent Party membership cancellations with other protests in China against CCP rule.

"The direct outcome of the CCP's abusing its power is unprecedented corruption ... and uprisings from civilians," he said. "More than 70,000 riots happened inside China in 2004."

Rally organizers plan on having events throughout the next couple of weeks in New York City and other cities in the U.S. and Canada with the same theme.