

Statement of Interest (SOI) from the Whole Elephant Institute

Project Title: Internet Freedom for Ending Persecution

The Whole Elephant Institute (全象學院) is a non-profit organization first established in 2005, by Dr. Tongwen Wang, who became a target of persecution by the Chinese Communist Government due to her involvement in the scientific investigation of the immune system of the Falun Dafa practitioners, with an interest in validate the profound science behind holistic practice of mind-body-spirit.

Falun Dafa is an ancient cultivation practice, also known as a profound Qigong practice which teaches the fundamental characteristics of the universe, (真) Truthfulness- (善) Compassion- (忍) Tolerance. Falun Dafa (法輪大法) (also first known by mainland Chinese people as 法輪功 Falun Gong) was first introduced to the Chinese public in 1992, by Mr. Li Hongzhi. By 1999, there were approximately 100 million practitioners in mainland China. On July 20, 1999, the former head of the Chinese Communist Party, Jiang Zemin, ordered nation-wide persecution towards Falun Dafa practitioners in an attempt to wipe out this practice within three months. Failing that, Jiang launched an international hate campaign to demonize the practice, and even staged the notorious "Tiananmen Self-immolation" incidence, to create a horrifying public image for Falun Dafa Practitioners. The persecution towards Falun Dafa practitioners has been since carried out not only inside of mainland China, but has been infiltrated into every corner of the world, as long as there is Chinese community. The truth about Falun Dafa has been the target of strict censorship inside of the Mainland of China. Such a censorship has been playing a key role in Chinese Communist Party (CCP)'s extended persecution towards Falun Dafa practitioners in the past almost twelve years. During this period of time, hundreds of thousands of Falun Dafa practitioners were taken into brainwashing centers, forced labor camps, prisons, where they were subjected to the most inhumane methods of torture, to the extent that concentration camps have been reported and the barbaric practice of "live-organ harvesting" has been carried out to murder Falun Dafa practitioners purely for taking their organs for profit. Such atrocities can only continue when the world does not know the truth. The Chinese Communist Government has been investing one fourth of national income in the persecution of Falun Dafa practitioners, including launching large scale firewalls to block the free information flow between inside China

and outside China. The atrocity has to be ended, since the true nature of the persecution is a most horrific crime against human conscience. To end the persecution, efforts in enhancing information flow of the truth of Falun Dafa will greatly benefit those who are currently unable to know the truth due to internet censorship.

The Whole Elephant Institute currently serves as a platform to bring all experts and scholars from all fields of science, technology and business, to work together in thoroughly clarify the truth of Falun Dafa to the world and to end the persecution that has been lasting too long. Since Falun Dafa has been spread to over 100 hundred countries and being cherished and enjoyed by over 100 million people from all ethnic groups and all walks of life, the community of Falun Dafa practitioners is one of the most diverse social group who has been living for over a decade in the most hostile environment of information censorship with a purpose of extended persecution. For this reason, intense interests exist among Falun Dafa practitioners in working together to bring the true information inside of China and to all areas of the world, in an effort to totally eliminate lies and help those who are predestined to learn the Falun Dafa cultivation practice. The hardship each Falun Dafa practitioner has been put through has made the community of Falun Dafa practitioners an amazing community of spiritual strength and intellectual power. The Whole Elephant Institute contains a large group of talents from all over the world and will be working together to accomplish the goals outlined in the current proposal.

The Whole Elephant Institute will play a key role in fostering freedom of expression and the free flow of information through the establishment of a division which focuses upon the research, development, implementation and training of circumvention internet technology as well as other formats of circumvention communication technologies or techniques. This division will contain Falun Dafa practitioners who, in the past decade, have been actively and successfully involved in the development and implementation of internet circumvention techniques of various kinds and have made major breakthroughs. With the fund obtained through this grant, speedy breakthroughs are expected to be made by this team. The goal of the Division is to develop technologies and techniques that assist those inside of the communist regimes such as the Mainland China, North Korea and Cuba to gain access to Falun Dafa information under censorship by the communist government systems. Such efforts shall effectively support digital activists such as the media groups that are brave enough to report true news about China as well as the truth of ongoing persecution of Falun Dafa practitioners. Such media include the NTDTV (New Tang Dynasty Television; www.ntdtv.com), Dajiyuan News Paper (www.epochtimes.com), Sound of Hope radio station (www.soundofhope.org) and the English sister newspaper of Dajiyuan, called the Epoch Times.

Specifically, the Whole Elephant Institute will carry out the following programs through this grant funding:

- A. To develop and support web-based circumvention technology to enable users in closed society such as China, North Korea and Cuba to get around firewalls and filters; to

develop specific technologies in specific environment (China); in this process, the Whole Elephant Institute serves as the lead organization to provide sub-grant and contractual support to non-profit organizations such as NTDTV, or for-profit companies, such as Microsoft, to develop and maintain circumvention technologies.

- B. To develop technologies, techniques and training programs to enhance security of mobile communications, which may include components to 1) Increase user privacy and security; 2) enhance secure communication, networking and data storage among Falun Dafa practitioners and supporters; 3) provide increased access to the un-censored internet via mobile devices.
- C. To develop a curriculum for training programs that will build a network of digital safety instructors to deliver trainings in multiple language and regions in communist environments.
- D. To provide training for Falun Dafa practitioners all over the world to participate in online forums, peer-to-peer data sharing between mobile devices
- E. To develop Virtual Open Internet Centers to allow online dialogue and culture establishment; to identify and archive censored content and then creatively reintroduce these contents and counter-censorship tools back to the online environment through these centers; such programs are designed for network building and support for online civil society and human rights and journalism communities; languages include Chinese, Spanish and Korean.
- F. To establish an emergency fund for the web-based activists; such fund includes living expenses and legal fees, as well as fees for maintaining the online operations under suppression and persecution of the web-based activists.
- G. To conduct outcome-based evaluation of existing US government funded internet freedom programs, including measurement of the effectiveness of the current existing circumvention technologies, efforts to propagate those technologies, and the impact of digital safety trainings.
- H. To make internet freedom fact base: compile, publish, and distribute an expanded annual study of internet freedom around the world for five consecutive years.

Supporting documents for this grant is included in the attached files.