

ENDING ORGAN PILLAGING/TRAFFICKING IN CHINA

Hon. David Kilgour

Notes for remarks in UK Parliament and in Assemblies of Wales and Scotland

25-28 Nov, 2014

Thank you for holding this forum. Many of us in the international coalition to end organ pillaging in China can be very pleased that you're doing this.

Bloody Harvest

In 2006, David Matas and I completed an independent investigation into the allegations about organ pillaging/trafficking from Falun Gong, which evolved into the 2009 book, *Bloody Harvest*. It concluded,

We have come to the regrettable conclusion that the allegations are true. We believe that there has been and continues to be large scale organ seizures from unwilling Falun Gong practitioners.

Over the 2000-2005 period we examined, we concluded that 41,500 transplanted organs in China could only come from Falun Gong.

Forced organ procurement in China is unprecedented across the world because organs are sourced from prisoners whose lives are actively terminated to obtain their vital *organs for commerce*.

The situation of Falun Gong across China can be briefly stated:

- After its introduction in 1992, Falun Gong won numerous awards and gained widespread popularity across China.
- In July 1999, Falun Gong was banned by the party-state and millions are being viciously persecuted across China to this day.
- The persecution includes brainwashing, forced labour camps, prison, torture, and organ pillaging/trafficking which became a profitable source of transplant organs.
- After 1999, Chinese hospitals began advertising on the Internet. The vile commerce flourished. The goods: organs; delivery time: 1–4 weeks; the price tag: a kidney for \$60,000, a liver for \$100,000.

- Chinese nationals are reluctant to donate organs for transplantation for deeply-rooted cultural reasons. In order to provide organs for transplantations, Chinese law in 1984 allowed organs to be procured from executed prisoners. It was then only a small step to also include prisoners of conscience.
- From 1999 to 2006, the number of transplant centres in China rose from 150 to 600. How could China's party-state have the confidence in a continuous, long-term supply of organs without having a public organ donation program. Where did the organs come from?

As a result of evidence that has come to light there have been numerous actions in response, too many to discuss every one today so I will highlight the most significant and current.

EU Parliament

Last December, European Parliament adopted a resolution which expresses a deep concern over the persistent and credible reports of state-sanctioned organ harvesting from non-consenting prisoners of conscience in China and calls on Member States to raise the issue of organ harvesting and to publicly condemn organ transplant abuses in China.

Ireland & Scotland

In Ireland, the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade unanimously passed a motion which called on the Irish Government to support the UN and Council of Europe initiatives to oppose the practice of forced organ harvesting in China.

In Scotland, I am told, that organ harvesting is one of the points included on a bill being drafted at the moment.

U.S.

From June 2011, the online U.S. non-immigration visa application, Form DS-160, asks the applicant if they have been involved in transplant abuse.

Currently US Congress is actively considering House Resolution 281. The resolution says that "persistent and credible reports of systematic, state-sanctioned organ harvesting from non-consenting prisoners of conscience" is the basis for concern, and then provides a summary of the evidence that links the majority of the organ harvesting with a single-minded campaign to persecute and "eradicate" the practice of Falun Gong.

Canada

There have been three private members bills proposed in Canada addressing organ transplant abuse dealing with consent and sale of organs being an offence whether in Canada or abroad. The proposed laws also contain requirements for reporting and identifying people involved with organ transplant abuse.

Australia

In the parliament of New South Wales legislation is proposed against organ trafficking, which would bar any resident of the state from buying a trafficked organ anywhere.

The Australian Senate unanimously passed a motion urging the government to oppose the practice of organ harvesting in China. The motion also calls on the government to follow the example of the United States in implementing a new visa requirement.

Israel

Israel passed legislation banning the sale and brokerage of organs. The law also ended funding, through the health insurance system, of transplants in China for Israeli nationals. Transplant surgeon Professor Jacob Lavee, in his contribution to the book *State Organs*, explains this law as a reaction to transplant abuse in China.

Council of Europe

In July the Council of Europe adopted an international convention to make trafficking in human organs for transplant a criminal offence, to protect victims and to facilitate cooperation at national and international levels in order to prosecute more effectively those responsible for trafficking.

UK

NHS Blood and Transplant data confirms that UK nationals do travel to China for organ transplants and subsequently receive transplant aftercare from the NHS.

The UK could enact measures to combat international organ transplant abuses through:

- extraterritorial legislation
- mandatory reporting of transplant tourism
- barring entry of those involved in trafficking organs
- banning professional associations with countries that do not comply to World Health Organisation standards of ethics

Conclusion

The ability of those outside of China to stop the killing in China of prisoners of conscience for their organs is limited. To do nothing, however, is to be complicit in an unprecedented crime against humanity.

The UK and other responsible nations should do what it can, within its power, to enact legislation and policies in order to avoid complicity and protect its nationals from contributing to such gross organ abuse and disdain for life.

Thank you.