

MARDA LOOP JUSTICE FILM FESTIVAL

Notes for remarks on *Human Harvest* film by Hon. David Kilgour, J.D.

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Let me begin with a confession. As a student in Paris in the late 60s, I was *actually* ...an admirer of Mao. I even read his Little Red Book. He *seemed* kind in that famous photo, swimming in the Yangtze River.

Many historians today, however, name Mao with Stalin and Hitler as one of the worst mass murderers of the 20th century. His biographers Chang and Halliday note that “over *70 million* perished under Mao’s rule” in peacetime. Many governance problems in China today stem from the *fusion* of Mao’s *totalitarianism*...and his successor Deng Xiaoping’s economic reforms. Violence and corruption *are* the system in China today.

Scapegoats and Violence

Every 10 years or so since it seized power in 1949, the Communist Party has launched some form of persecution on a minority in order to instill *terror* in the Chinese people generally. Consider just *four* of the campaigns launched since 1950:

- ‘The Great Leap Forward’ where an estimated *40 million people* starved to death
- The Cultural Revolution of 1966-76...saw perhaps another two *million* killed,
- The Tiananmen Square massacre of 1989, where soldiers killed *thousands* who were seeking openness and democracy, and
- The *ongoing* persecution of Tibetans, Uyghurs and Christians, and in 1999 the start of the crackdown against the Falun Gong spiritual practice.

As the film *Human Harvest* indicates, *untold tens of thousands* of innocent people have been put into slave labour camps across China...where they’re not *only* making goods for export...but they’re also *tortured...blood tested*, and the unlucky ones are killed on demand for their organs... *harvested*... for profit.

When you follow the *money*...you partly begin to understand why this is happening. Hospitals can get \$62,000 for kidneys....and hearts are worth up to \$160,000. We're talking about *billions*...of dollars...in profits.

Background

How did David Matas and I get involved in this? Ten years ago, we were approached by a volunteer coalition to investigate allegations of organ harvesting in China. We willingly agreed to research the allegations on an independent and voluntary basis. The conclusion of our investigative report is so *disturbing* that we have called what's happening a "*new form of evil*" on the planet.

When the persecution of Falun Gong began, the former head of the Party, Jiang Zemin, vowed to "*ruin* their reputation, *bankrupt* them financially and *destroy* them physically."

So who are these Falun Gong practitioners? Falun Gong practitioners in China come from *all* walks of life – from *scientists* to *soldiers* to *Party officials*. A grassroots *spiritual* movement, it grew exponentially in the 1990s to between 70 and 100 million practitioners by the party-state's own estimate.

According to surgeon Enver Tohti, organ harvesting began with Uyghur political prisoners, and then most likely expanded to Tibetans and members of Christian house churches. But the *persecution* of Falun Gong, for the first time, flooded the labor camps with masses of *healthy ... exploitable ...prisoners of conscience*.

In 2014, Ethan Gutmann published *The Slaughter*. He interviewed over 100 people and collected valuable new evidence over 8 years. Gutmann estimates that at any given time, between 450,000 to a million Falun Gong practitioners are languishing in prisons and slave labor camps.

He concludes that approximately *65,000* Falun Gong practitioners and two to four thousand Uyghurs, Tibetans, and Christians were killed for their organs in the 2000–2008 period alone. His estimates regarding Falun Gong practitioners are similar to ours.

United Nations Torture Panel

Nick Cumming-Bruce of the New York Times this week described some pointed questioning Beijing's representative recently received from a U.N. Panel on Torture in Geneva. Among the points raised by the panel of experts:

- The regime's recent clampdown on human rights lawyers, the prolonged detention of dissidents and activists, the common practice of torture by police and so-called anticorruption investigators, the independence of 'judges', prisoner

access to lawyers, the length of pretrial detention, forced repatriation of North Koreans, and psychiatric treatment/shock therapy practised on prisoners.

- Among the victims mentioned was Gao Zhisheng, a prominent rights lawyer and twice nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, who remains in secretive confinement. Gao told Associated Press earlier this year that while in prison he was brutalized with an electric baton and held in solitary confinement for three years.
- The committee cited a Human Rights Watch study of 432 verdicts since the start of 2014 in court cases where suspects said they were tortured. Only 23 resulted in evidence being thrown out of court; none resulted in acquittal. It pressed for details about the number of unofficial, places of detention; the number of prisoners held in them and who controlled them; what access prisoners had to medical care; the number of cases of torture authorities had recorded; and the number of torture cases involving Tibetan prisoners.
- Felice D. Gaer, the panel's vice chair, mentioned that it had learned that the Chinese government had threatened seven nationals who wanted to provide information to the panel, and had detained some who defied those warnings on the grounds that their trip might endanger national security. She asked if the regime thinks cooperating with UN human rights mechanisms constitute a threat to national security.

Conclusion

There are at least *three easy* things you can do.

1 Simply Google “organ harvesting in China”.

2 Tell friends about what you've learned.

3 Please share this information...on Facebook and other social media.

Thank you.