

Ending atrocities in China

Organ pillaging from Falun Gong

By Hon. David Kilgour



*From left to right: David Kilgour (L) with David Matas (C) and Ethan Gutmann (R), author of *The Slaughter: Mass Killings, Organ Harvesting, and China's Secret Solution to Its Dissident Problem*. Photo Credit: Simon Gross/Epoch Times.*

In 2006, the International Coalition to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong in China asked lawyer David Matas of Winnipeg and me to investigate seemingly bizarre claims of organ pillaging and trafficking from those who follow the modern exercise and spiritual movement Falun Gong across China. The group draws from and combines ancient Chinese traditions. By the Beijing party-state's own

estimate, they have attracted 70 to 100 million adherents across the country by the late 1990s, since becoming public in 1992. Fearing threats to their ideological supremacy, the Chinese government banned the movement in 1999 and considers it a cult. They continue to demonize Falun Gong through state media.

Working as volunteers, Matas and I completed two reports and a book en-

titled *Bloody Harvest*. We concluded, with dismay, that for 41,500 of the Chinese transplants performed in the years 2001 to 2006, the only plausible explanation for sourcing was Falun Gong practitioners. We are convinced that China's party-state has been committing systematic murder against the community for almost 15 years. We termed it a "new form of evil on the planet" and continue to investigate.

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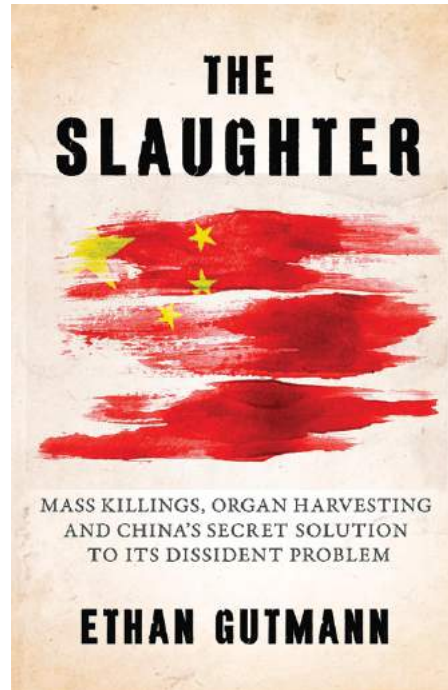
One of our 33 methods of proof was to have investigators make calls to hospitals, detention centres and other facilities across China, claiming to be relatives of patients needing transplants. The investigators would ask if they had any organs of Falun Gong for sale. We obtained admissions on tape in which individuals from a number of these facilities admitted the availability of Falun Gong organs. These admissions were transcribed and translated.

Our main conclusion was that there, “Continues today to be large-scale organ seizures from unwilling Falun Gong practitioners.” More specifically, “Their vital organs, including kidneys, livers, corneas and hearts, were seized...for sale at high prices, sometimes to foreigners...” These organ seizures are separate from those seized from convicted persons sentenced to death.

In the 2014 book *The Slaughter: Mass Killings, Organ Harvesting, and China’s Secret Solution to Its Dissident Problem*, author Ethan Gutmann puts the persecution of the Falun Gong, Tibetan, Uyghur and House Christian communities in context. He explains how he arrives at his “best estimate” that the organs of 65,000 Falun Gong and 2,000 to 4,000 Uyghurs, Tibetans and House Christians were “harvested” in the 2000 to 2008 period. These organs are obtained for wealthy Chinese and “organ tourists” from abroad. Unlike other countries, these Chinese “donors” do not survive the process, because all vital organs are removed.

Condemnation from Canada

Acknowledgement of these atrocities has now made its way to the halls of Parliament. In February of 2015, Canada’s all-party House Subcommittee on International Human Rights released a statement condemning the pillaging of organs. It expressed, “deep concern over credible allegations that prisoners of conscience and members of religious and ethnic minority groups, including but not limited to practitioners of Falun Dafa and Uyghurs, in the People’s Republic of China are being executed for the purposes of



harvesting and transplanting their organs.”

Among other assertions, the subcommittee, “Calls on the Government of Canada to consider ways to discourage and prevent Canadians from taking part in transplant tourism, where the organs have not been obtained in an ethical, safe and transparent fashion.”

Many Falun Gong prisoners of conscience (persecuted based on their beliefs) survive in the estimated 350 forced labour camps across China, until they are selected by computer data banks as “organ donors” for recipients waiting in hospitals in cities such as Shanghai.

Matas and I visited about a dozen countries to interview Falun Gong who managed to leave both the camps and China. They indicated that Falun Gong were the only camp inmates to be examined regularly and carefully by doctors, but were also made to work in appalling conditions for up to 16 hours a day with no pay, little food and regular torture. The inmates make a range of export products often destined for multinational companies.

This is gross corporate irresponsi-

bility and a violation of World Trade Organization agreements. Every government should place an onus on its importers to prove their products are not made in effect by slaves.

Manufacturing Change

Professors Peter Navarro and Greg Autry of California point out in their book, *Death by China: Confronting the Dragon- A Global Call to Action*, that across the U.S., more than 50,000 manufacturing plants and more than 20 million jobs in the sector have been outsourced over several decades, mostly to China. How many manufacturing jobs have been lost in Canada and elsewhere for the same reason?

Governments, investors and business in Canada should examine why they are supporting the violation of so many basic human rights in order to increase trade and investment with China. For years, it has resulted mostly in jobs being outsourced to China and continuous increases in bilateral trade and investment deficits. Are we consumers so focused on access to inexpensive goods that we ignore the human, social and environmental costs paid by Chinese nationals to produce them?

The world’s democrats, including Canada’s federal government and civil society institutions, should nonetheless continue to engage with Beijing and the broadest possible range of its citizens. None of us should forget that the values we represent include dignity for all, rule of law and independent judges, multi-party democracy, corporate social responsibility, transparency, accountability, a good natural environment and no trafficking in pillaged human organs.

The vast majority of the Chinese people seek the same features in their government as the rest of us. They and the rest of the world must help stop organ pillaging now.

The Hon. David Kilgour was a member of Parliament for 27 years (1979-2006). He served under the Progressive Conservative Party, the Liberal Party and sat as an independent.

The views expressed in this column are the opinions of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect the views of Beyond the Hill.