

ENDING HUMAN ORGAN PILLAGING/TRAFFICKING IN CHINA

Hon. David Kilgour, J.D., for International Coalition to end Organ Pillaging in China (endorganpillaging.org)

Notes for *Human Harvest* screening comments on Parliament Hill.

April 11, 2017

Ottawa



Leon Lee (3rd from right) and friends at Peabody Awards in Manhattan, 2015

This film, having won numerous prizes, including the Peabody Award in New York in 2015, continues to be screened in many parts of the world. In Oslo, for example, I was recently told that there have been to date about 52,000 separate viewings of it by Norwegians.

Leon Lee of Vancouver devoted 7-8 years to researching, financing (the Canada Media Fund helped) and producing the film.

There is today increasing commentary around the world about the inhuman commerce begun and run today by the party-state in Beijing. One was a 7-page cover story recently in *Salud*, a medical magazine read in Spain and other Spanish-speaking nations:

<https://www.dsalud.com/reportaje/acusan-china-asesinar-90-000-personas-al-ano-extraerles-organos/>

As we saw in the film, prisoners of conscience often convicted of nothing are the primary source of pillaged organs. They include Uyghurs, Tibetans and Christians, but are overwhelmingly Falun Gong practitioners-long dehumanized in party-state media throughout China.

UPDATE ON TWO BOOKS

David Matas, Ethan Gutmann and I released an Update on our two books (*Bloody Harvest* and *The Slaughter*) in June 2016 in Washington, Ottawa and Brussels

(accessible in full from the International Coalition to end Organ Pillaging in China at endorganpillaging.org or from www.david-kilgour.com):

- It provides an examination of the transplant programs of hundreds of hospitals across China, drawing on medical journals, hospital websites, and deleted websites found in archives. It analyzes hospital revenues, bed counts and utilization rates, surgical personnel, training programs, state funding and other factors.
- We conclude that 60,000-100,000 transplants per year are being done across China, not the approximately 10,000 its government claims.
- We provide much evidence of an industrial scale, state-directed organ transplantation network, controlled through national policies and funding, and implicating both the military and civilian healthcare systems.

The Update draws five additional conclusions:

- “No nation should allow its citizens to go to China for organs until China has allowed a full investigation into organ harvesting of prisoners of conscience, both past and present.”
- The source for most of the massive volume of organs for transplants is the killing of innocents: Uyghurs, Tibetans, House Christians and primarily Falun Gong;
- Organ pillaging in China is a crime in which the Communist Party, state institutions, the health system, hospitals and the transplant professions are all complicit;
- The global transplant community should connect and collaborate with the Chinese transplant community only if and when set criteria are met;
- Organ tourism to China should not be shielded by medical confidentiality, but openly monitored;

LEGISLATORS AND GOVERNMENTS

Dr. Torsten Trey, founder and Executive Director of the international NGO Doctors Against Forced Organ Harvesting (DAFOH), says legislators should make illegal the purchase of trafficked organs, with such measures to apply extraterritorially to residents of their respective countries, and enact penalties for those convicted of participating in the trafficking in organs which enter their countries.

DAFOH, nominated for the 2016 Nobel Peace Prize, cautions policy makers not to accept at face value Beijing's latest promises to end the harvesting of organs from executed prisoners. It notes that the party-state has a lengthy record of “secrecy, misleading numbers and contradictory statements, and, despite mounting evidence and international demands to stop, the government has refused to acknowledge the illegal harvesting of organs from prisoners of conscience.” David Matas' recent analysis of the

current situation in China is revealing: <http://endorganpillaging.org/identity-and-advocacy-the-killing-of-falun-gong-for-their-organs/>

House of Commons

In early 2015, Canada's all-party House of Commons Subcommittee on International Human Rights released a statement condemning the pillaging of organs from Falun Gong. 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... are being executed for the purposes of harvesting and transplanting their organs."

In its call to end the transplantation of organs from living or deceased donors without consent, the subcommittee:

- "encourages Canadian medical professionals, scientists, researchers and their professional organizations as well as regulatory bodies to continue their efforts to put an end to illegal and unethical transplantation practices.
- "calls on medical and scientific professional and regulatory bodies to name, shame and ostracize individuals, institutions and their affiliates involved in the forced harvesting and trafficking of human organs.
- "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."

Projet de loi C-561

MP Garnett Genuis (Cons.) reintroduced recently private members' bill C-561, first introduced in 2013 by the Hon. Irwin Cotler (Lib) with Cotler's indicated support. At a media conference, Genuis noted that a present nothing prevents Canadians from "going abroad, acquiring an organ which they know or should know was taken without proper consent, and then coming back (to Canada)."

The situation recalls a similar legal vacuum for "child sex tourists" existing until Parliament amended our Criminal Code in 1997 to prohibit child sex tourism through a new measure having extraterritorial application. All of us here today and across Canada should urge our own MP to support the Cotler-Genius bill. Spain, Israel, Taiwan and Italy already ban transplant tourism by their nationals.

CONCLUSION

The former member of the Ethics committee of the international Transplantation Society (TTS) Jacob Lavee and researcher Matthew Robertson wrote recently (Mar. 29) in the

Diplomat magazine (<http://thediplomat.com/2017/03/chinas-organ-transplant-problem/>):

...Last month a top transplant official (Huang Jiefu), speaking at an international [organ trafficking summit](#) at the Vatican, reiterated the claim that since January 1, 2015, China has eliminated the use of prisoner organs, and now only uses organs from donors who die in the intensive-care units of hospitals... the history of organ transplantation in China raises disturbing questions about past, and possibly ongoing, abuses. With abuses, of course, comes the imperative of coverup.

...Huang Jiefu, China's top transplant spokesman, is also on record in 2001: "Opposing Falun Gong is a grave political struggle. We must not be soft hearted when dealing with a little group of hardcore reactionaries." ...Given that Huang Jiefu is now supplying apparently falsified data in international medical fora, while transplants with unexplained sources in China continue, answers to these questions are a matter of urgency. Unannounced visits to hospitals by international medical inspectors, and the disclosure of historical and current hospital-level transplant data, would be a place to start.

Recent Nobel Peace Prize nominee Ethan Gutmann sums up some current realities in a piece he did for South American readers:

For governments and the media, our (update) represented the final tipping point: Our report was covered by global press ranging from the New York Times to the (UK) Daily Mail while the US Congress and the European Parliament passed nearly identical resolutions in the Summer of 2016 condemning the Chinese State for the harvesting of prisoners of conscience. In short, the Chinese medical establishment effectively lost the argument.

...Beijing's assumption is that they are hosting a global dinner party. And if any nation wants to enjoy the banquet, the host's rules are simple: from Taiwan to the South China Sea, don't question China's territorial claims. Don't question the Chinese Communist Party's legitimate rule. And don't meddle in China's internal affairs. Yet truth came to the party. It slipped in like a thief in the night, revealing a blood-soaked visage. No one can claim that they have not seen that face, even if only out of the corner of the eye. So it is germane that perhaps the most significant development...did not come from the great power-brokers of the world but from smaller, more ethical nations, who took direct legal action to prevent their own citizens from going to China to receive organs: Israel, Spain, Italy, and Taiwan. All have economic relationships with China. Taiwan and Israel have acute security concerns as well. They still sit at the table. Yet they do so with clean hands.

Canada's Globe and Mail referred this morning to a new Nanos opinion survey as follows: "Almost 90 per cent of Canadians do not want the Trudeau government to grant China's state-owned enterprises unfettered access to the country's economy, and a solid majority want Ottawa to link human rights to talks on a free-trade deal with the world's second-

largest economic power, a new public opinion poll suggests. Pollster Nik Nanos said the survey, which he conducted for The Globe and Mail last week, is a 'significant cautionary note for the Liberal government as to how Canadians feel about engaging China on a new free-trade agreement'. The Nanos Research survey of 1,000 Canadians, conducted April 1-4, found 88 per cent are uncomfortable or somewhat uncomfortable with the prospect of a free-trade deal that would allow Chinese state-owned corporations to buy high-tech Canadian firms and lift restrictions barring these enterprises from investing in Alberta's oil sands. The poll is accurate to within plus or minus 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20."

Presumably, this political reality will have an impact on the Trudeau government when the *Globe and Mail* recently quoted John McCallum, Canada's new ambassador to China, as agreeing "with his Chinese counterpart, Mr. Lu, who said 'democracy or human rights' had no place in trade talks. Trade talks can touch on environmental and labour issues, Mr. McCallum said. But 'it's not clear to me that human rights, per se, are a part of a free-trade agreement.'" What scope, if any, would McCallum give to labour rights, given how little legal or other protection the party-state provides in its Leninist capitalism model to workers and trade unions across China?

A front-page *Globe and Mail* story by Nathan Vanderklippe on April 3 indicated that over the past three years 1,386 persons have been deported back to China without hearings, presumably based only on accepting at face value what Chinese officials claimed. The conviction rate in China is almost 100 per cent and often based on confessions obtained through torture. The rule of law does not exist anywhere in China.

Consider Lai Changsing, who in earlier years obtained repeated refugee board and Federal Court hearings in Canada and whom the Government of China finally promised not to execute or torture if he was returned to China. Less well known is the role of Tao Mi in the Lai chronology.

David Matas, Lai's lawyer, explains:

Abuse prone interrogations in China are the norm. So is Canadian gullibility. A classic example, drawn from the Lai case, is what happened to Tao Mi. Tao Mi was someone who worked for Lai. She signed a confession against him after prolonged arbitrary detention and mistreatment in a hotel room. After release, she went to Clive Ansley, a Canadian lawyer then working in China. Ansley provided a statement from her to the refugee hearing of Mr. Lai. In response, Canadian authorities asked Chinese officials to bring Tao Mi to the Canadian consulate for questioning, which the Chinese authorities did, and remained present throughout the Canadian questioning. Mr. Justice MacKay called these events "an extraordinary undertaking, unfair in its process, and ultimately unnecessary." Tao Mi subsequently disappeared.

Finally, let me invite all of you to join our International Coalition to end Organ Pillaging in China after checking out its website at: endorganpillaging.org .