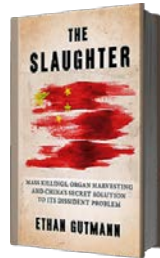
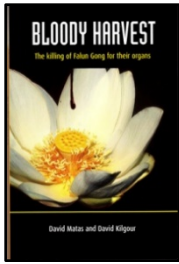


ENDING CHINA'S HUMAN ORGAN TRAFFICKING

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As we are about to view the Peabody-winning film *Human Harvest*, let me attempt to put parts of it in context. I start by noting that a fairly recent Nanos national opinion survey indicated that 76% of Canadians do not trust the government now in Beijing. I wonder what a similar survey among Americans or other peoples would indicate? Our hearts go out to all the people of China as the year of the rooster begins when increasingly many of them cannot eat food, drink water, or breathe urban air with confidence.

An article in the *Huffington Post* (Sept 2014) entitled "China's 'aged dependency ratio'" indicated that the 'aged dependency ratio' was about 10% in 2000, 15% in 2015, will hit 30% fifteen years from now and 60% by 2060. An issue about which few people are aware of is that there are an estimated 61 million "left-behind" children in the 0-15 year age cohort (i.e. one-third plus of the total), many of whom are not being sufficiently educated to be high quality workers in the future, especially since the "left-behind" experience has saddled them with mental and psychological problems. Another major social problem is the tens of millions of males for which there will be no mate.

Last summer, Canada's ambassador to China, Guy Saint-Jacques, criticized President Xi Jinping's human rights record during prime minister Justin Trudeau's visit to Beijing. "In the last three years, we have seen, I think, things going backward, unfortunately," Saint-Jacques told reporters. "And that's why Canada has used opportunities to express its views to China."

Some China watchers use stronger language to describe Mr. Xi's practices. Benedict Rogers, for example, a human rights advocate in the UK, wrote in the *Huffington Post UK*: "As long as lawyers are harassed, intimidated, monitored, followed, detained, locked up; as long as Christian crosses and churches are torn down; as long as Uighur Muslims are told crudely that

they can't grow beards or fast during Ramadan; as long as Tibetan Buddhists find their culture decimated; as long as Falun Gong practitioners are beaten, jailed, slaughtered;... and as long as there is no international, independent scrutiny of China's organ transplant system, and no international inquiry into China's crimes against humanity, I do not trust what (the party-state in) China says.

BLOODY HARVEST

In 2006, the Coalition to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong in China asked David Matas and me to investigate as volunteers seemingly bizarre but persistent claims of organ pillaging/trafficking from Falun Gong practitioners. We released two reports and a book, *Bloody Harvest*, and have continued to investigate (Our revised report is available in 18 languages from www.david-kilgour.com). To our surprise and dismay, we concluded that for 41,500 transplants done in the years 2000-2005 the only plausible explanation for sourcing was Falun Gong.

Our main conclusion as of 2007 was that large-scale organ seizures from unwilling Falun Gong practitioners were occurring: "Their vital organs, including kidneys, livers, corneas and hearts, were seized involuntarily for sale at high prices, sometimes to foreigners, who normally face long waits for voluntary donations of such organs in their home countries."

Evidence

Here are three examples of the 32 kinds of evidence that led us to our conclusion that a new state crime against humanity was taking place:

- Investigators made many calls to hospitals, detention centres and other facilities across China claiming to be relatives of patients needing transplants and asking if they had organs of Falun Gong for sale. We obtained on tape and then transcribed and translated admissions that a number of facilities were trafficking in Falun Gong organs.
- A number of Falun Gong, who later got out of China, told us they were systematically blood-tested and organ-examined while in forced-labour camps across the country. This would not have been for their health, as they were regularly tortured, but was necessary for organ transplantation.
- We interviewed the ex-wife of a surgeon from Sujiatun in Shenyang City, Liaoning. He told her that he had removed corneas from 2,000

Falun Gong labour camp residents between 2001 and 2003. He also made clear to her that none of these sources survived because other surgeons removed vital organs and their bodies were burned.

The Slaughter

The 2014 book, *The Slaughter* (Prometheus), by Ethan Gutmann places the persecution of the Falun Gong, Tibetan, Uyghur, and house Christian communities in context. It focuses mostly on Falun Gong as the group most viciously and continuously targeted since 1999. He explains how he arrives at his “best estimate” that organs of 65,000 Falun Gong and “two to four thousand” Uyghur, Tibetans and House Christians were “harvested” in the 2000-2008 period alone. No “donors” survive pillaging because all vital organs are removed to be trafficked for high prices to wealthy Chinese nationals and “organ tourists”.

UPDATE ON BOOKS

We three authors released an update on the two books in June last year in Washington, Ottawa and Brussels (accessible: www.endorganpillaging.org):

- 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 as contrasted to the approximately 10,000 its government claims.
- We provide considerable 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.

Our Update reached further conclusions:

- “The organ transplantation volumes in China are far larger than official government statistics indicate;
- 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 intergovernmental community should establish an institution-based, independent investigation into organ transplant abuse in China;
- 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;
- 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.”

“Corruption is the System”

Transparency International recently ranked China 79th out of 176 nations on its 2016 Corruption Perception Index. *The Party*, published (2010) by Richard McGregor, former *Financial Times* Beijing bureau chief, explains why: “China is deeply corrupt...Since 1982, about 80 per cent of the almost 200,000 officials disciplined annually for malfeasance by the Party received only a warning. Only 6 per cent were criminally prosecuted, and of them, only 3 per cent (were imprisoned).” Party member bizarrely are not subject to laws applicable to ordinary citizens.

The highest levels of the Party have accordingly looted immense wealth. Bloomberg reported in 2012 that President Xi Jinping’s family was “worth” several hundred million dollars. The Panama Papers increased international concern when the Mossack Fonseca law firm website indicated that most of its offices are in China. Family members of at least eight current or former members of the Politburo Standing Committee, Beijing’s highest decision making body, have set up offshore companies.

Xi’s vow to fight “armies of corruption” is thus seen as simply a popular way to phrase attacking his political adversaries. He has also declared that China will not accept ‘Western style’ judicial independence and that the Party will continue to retain control over the “courts, the police, and procuratorate...” In short, ‘Corruption will remain the System’.

In *Crouching Tiger (2015)*, Peter Navarro of this university notes that the “top 5 percent of households (in China) earn almost 25 percent of total household income while the bottom 5 percent account for just 0.1 percent...a full billion of China’s citizens remain in poverty while more than a half billion of these quite literally dirt-poor souls live a Malthusian existence on subsistence farms.”

He goes on to explain that Party officials use brute-force to seize land for industrial projects. He quotes the UK’s Guardian newspaper on more than one million cases of illegal landgrabs as reported by the Chinese government itself: “*Sometimes it is little more than armed robbery as police and gangsters use force to drive people off their property. More often, it is fraud, when local officials-bribed by developers-cheat the farmers of fair compensation.*”

Violence

In Geneva about a year ago--not far from Davos where President Xi gave his recent speech in favour of globalization, China’s ambassador to the UN in Geneva faced sharp questioning. Experts on the UN Committee Against Torture challenged him about the worsening clampdown on human rights lawyers, and what rights advocates describe as the common practice of torture by the police. They asked questions about the independence of the judiciary, prisoner access to lawyers, the length of pretrial detention, the forced repatriation of North Koreans.

The committee cited a Human Rights Watch analysis of 432 verdicts since the start of 2014 in court cases where suspects said they were tortured. Only 23 resulted in evidence’s being thrown out of court and none resulted in the prisoner’s acquittal, the panel noted. What measures were taken against those who extracted the confession? the panel asked.

Among the cases attracting public attention was the treatment of Gao Zhisheng, a prominent rights lawyer earlier honoured by American trial lawyers. He was released from prison in August last year, but remains in secretive confinement. Gao told Associated Press that while in prison, he was brutalized with an electric baton and held in solitary confinement for three years. It appears that what unleashed the inhuman treatment was Gao’s decision to speak up for persecuted Falun Gong prisoners of conscience.

Labour Camps/Black Jails/Detoxification Centres

In doing our final report on party-state organ pillaging from Falun Gong practitioners, David Matas and I visited about a dozen countries to interview adherents sent to China's forced labour camps since 1999, who managed later to leave the camps and the country itself. They told us of working in appalling conditions for up to sixteen hours daily with no pay, little food, being cramped together on the floor for sleeping and being tortured. They made export products, ranging from garments to chopsticks to Christmas decorations as subcontractors to multinational companies. This, of course, constitutes both gross corporate irresponsibility and violations of WTO rules.

The labour camps, which Pres Xi says without offering any proof that he has closed, are outside the legal system and allow the party-state to send anyone to them for up to four years with neither hearing nor appeal. There is, of course, a link between the involuntary labour done since 1999 by tens of thousands of Falun Gong practitioners and other prisoners in these camps and the resulting loss of manufacturing jobs in Canada, America and elsewhere. One estimate of the number of the camps across China as of 2005 was 340, having a capacity of about 300,000 inmates. In 2007, a US government report estimated that at least half of the inmates in the camps were Falun Gong.

Such inhuman practices would not be occurring if the Chinese people enjoyed the rule of law and their government believed in the intrinsic importance of each one of them. It is the combination of totalitarian governance and 'anything is permitted' economics that allows such practices to persist. Canada and other countries should ban forced labour exports.

Conclusion

James Mann, author of *China Fantasy* and former Beijing bureau chief of the Los Angeles Times, says "...What we can do is to keep expressing as forcefully as possible the values of political freedom and the right to dissent. Democratic governments around the world need to collaborate more often in condemning Chinese repression — not just in private meetings but in public as well...Why should there be a one-way street in which Chinese leaders send their own children to America's best schools,

while locking up lawyers at home? The Chinese regime is not going to open up because of our trade with it. The “China fantasy” amounted to both a conceptual failure and a strategic blunder. The next president will need to start out afresh”.

In the meantime, let’s protect American citizens from the substandard medical care provided in Chinese transplant facilities with subsequent higher infectious complications and acute rejections. Do we really want American transplant tourists returning to the US in "a box of ashes" with an expensive death certificate as depicted in “Human Harvest”, or having recipients live in permanent regret for being responsible for the murder of innocent prisoners in case they survive the procedure. Hopefully you can all use the information in Human Harvest in interactions with patients or friends or family so they can make educated decisions about transplant tourism in China.

(Here are links to some information regarding examples of substandard care in Chinese transplant centers:

<http://www.declarationofistanbul.org/resources/recommended-reading/ethical-analysis-and-debate/136-china-ethical-issues-and-debate/procurement-of-organs-from-executed-prisoners/576-open-letter-to-xi-jinping,-president-of-the-people-s-republic-of-china-china-s-fight-against-corruption-in-organ-transplantation>
[https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2572286/ \)](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2572286/)

To conclude, please ponder the genocidal reality that even if only 60,000 transplants per year are done across China it means 250 persons per day on average are being killed for their organs.

Please join our International Coalition to end organ pillaging in China (www.endorganpillaging.org)

Thank you.