The Party and Organ Transplant Abuse in China

Statement by David Matas for International Coalition to end Organ Pillaging in China Brattle Theater

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(statement was prepared and emailed for delivery but for time shortage reasons was only read in part to audience)

The Chinese Communist Party for years has been killing *en masse* prisoners of conscience for their organs. The evidence in support of this crime is detailed, consistent, verifiable, corroborated and unrefuted. Most of the information on which the conclusions are based comes directly from official Chinese sources.

The overwhelming majority of the victims have been practitioners of the spiritually based set of exercises Falun Gong. But there have also been many Tibetan and Uighur victims and House Christian victims.

The Chinese Communist Party can not answer the evidence of mass killings of political prisoners for their organs directly, since that evidence is irrefutable. Nor can they afford to ignore the issue. So, the Party has engaged in a variety of evasive techniques.

The techniques used have been:

1) Pretence

Party and state officials pretend that researchers have written something different from what was actually written and disagree with the pretend statements, attributed falsely to the researchers. A common false attribution is the claim that researchers relied on rumour. Yet, none of the research is based on rumour.

2) Denial

Party/state officials deny direct quotes coming from them, even when the quotes are taped and videoed. The Party/state even denies quotes from its own officials while those quotes remain on official websites.

3) Attacks on motives

The Party/state attacks the motives of researchers, claiming they are anti-China. Yet, a person truly anti-China would be indifferent to the mass killing of innocents in China.

4) Claims of manipulation

The Party/state claims that the researchers are being manipulated by Falun Gong/ Tibetans/ Uighurs/ House Christians in order to further the political agendas of these populations. This charge ignores the genesis of the research. The data and the results came from the work of the researchers and not from the victim populations.

5) False attribution

The Party/state attacks the victim populations directly pretending that they are the source of the research. This false attribution is then accompanied by a continuation and amplification of the demonization of the victim population, the sort of attack which led to its victimization in the first place.

6) Nonsense statistics

The Party/state sometimes pulls rabbit out of the hat statistics to attempt to claim that the

work of researchers must be wrong. For instance, they claim that the volume of anti-rejection drugs used in China shows that transplant volumes must be a lot less than the researchers show they are. Yet, the statistics the Party produce about volume of anti-rejection drugs are unverifiable.

7) Theresienstadt displays

The Party/state engages in pre-arranged displays to attempt to show visitors that nothing untoward is happening in their hospitals. The efforts are reminiscent of the Nazi effort to present the Theresienstadt concentration camp in Nazi occupied Czechoslovakia to the International Committee of the Red Cross. Unannounced inspection visits and access to the files are forbidden.

8) Political leverage

For multilateral institutions and bilaterally, China uses political muscle. The weight of China with some governments and in some inter-governmental institutions is such that China has an actual or effective veto, preventing action contrary to the wishes of the Party.

9) False sourcing

The Party acknowledges that the vast organ transplantation numbers require at least some explanation of sourcing. The Party has flip flopped through the years on the explanation.

The initial explanation was donations, even though China did not then have an organ donation system. The Party then abandoned the donation explanation and switched to prisoners sentenced to death, without releasing death penalty statistics.

The Party then abandoned the death penalty prisoner explanation and switched back to the donation explanation, pretending that a fledging donation system which produces tiny numbers is producing much more. Most recently, the Party has just given up, stating that the figures their own hospitals produce about volume of transplants can not be real.

10) Wilful blindness

Transplantation involves two medical teams, the organ extraction team and the organ insertion team. The organ insertion team pretends not to know what the organ extraction team is doing.

11) Praise

The Party/state falsely attributes praise to authority figures in the field of transplantation. Global professional actions which did not have that intent are distorted into endorsements and acceptances of Chinese transplant practices.

12) Acceptance

Some foreign transplant professionals take Party/state professions of reform at face value. The Party/state then hides behind what they claim to be international acceptability to deny the data implicating them in the mass murder of innocents.

My colleague David Kilgour will address in more detail these last two techniques.

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