

**Statement by Ethan Gutmann for International
Coalition to end Organ Pillaging in China
Brattle Theater
Harvard University
10 Oct 2017**

**(statement was prepared and emailed for delivery but for time shortage
reasons was not read to audience)**

We have all heard about the Chinese claims of reform over the last year, specifically that the Chinese medical establishment has ended the practice of organ harvesting of prisoners. Before we accept that at face value, we have to grapple with four questions:

1) Should we verify China's self-proclaimed medical reform by arranged visits to a few Chinese transplant hospitals?

In the words of Dr. Jacob Lavee, at that time a member of the TTS ethics committee, and currently a contributor to DAFOH and EndOrganPillaging:

"As a son of a Holocaust survivor, I feel obliged to not repeat the dreadful mistake made by the International Red Cross visit to the Theresienstadt Nazi concentration camp in 1944, in which it was reported to be a pleasant recreation camp."

2) Should we trust the assurances of the Chinese medical establishment?

At this point, it would be an act of willful blindness, because only two months ago that same medical establishment allowed a Nobel Peace Prize laureate to die through blatant medical neglect in full view of the entire world.

3) What is the current evidence?

The World Organization to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong just came out with an investigative study based on a large number of phone calls to

hospitals and transplant centers throughout China. Two clear patterns emerged: 1) Hospitals are strictly forbidden to speak about sourcing of organs and they are following this command, and 2) there is simply no sign of any decrease in organ supply. No reform.

Instead, we see an 8-9 billion-dollar Chinese transplant industry engaged in business as usual. And Human Rights Watch sees a comprehensive Chinese program – they already claim to be 98% there – to gather the DNA, and blood samples of the entire Uyghur population of Xinjiang. These DNA samples can ultimately be used for tissue-matching the organs of 17 million innocent people.

4) Should we worry that our investigation might “hurt the feelings of the Chinese people” as Beijing likes to put it?

Americans value trade with China. Many Americans value human rights as well. How do we balance this? It cannot be denied that Beijing treats politics and economic trade as inseparable. Mongolia paid a price in trade for the Dalia Lama visit. Taiwan has paid a price in tourism for electing a Green. And yet, Israel, Spain, Taiwan, and most recently, Italy banned organ tourism to China with no retaliation. Why? Because at the highest levels of the Chinese Communist Party they are fully aware of their own culpability.

You will note that I have not asked you to accept a characterization of China, the country, in my remarks. It is a land of contradictions and I am not sure I can give you one. So, if you believe that China is a great market opportunity? That’s fine, perhaps that’s right.

But what we have spoken about today is true as well. And that is why we ask you for your time, your thoughts, and perhaps, if this speaks to you, your direct involvement in the cause to put an end to these abuses.

Thank you.