

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Notes for Hon. David Kilgour, J.D., of International Coalition
to End Organ Abuse in China (ETAC),
Raise Your Voice Festival Against Human Trafficking, Technopolis Building
Athens, Greece
Nov. 18, 2018



Human-trafficking is a renewed scourge today. The reasons include lack of general awareness, poor data, weak legal systems, governments without genuine concern for co-citizens, and insufficient resources to combat traffickers. The EU, UN and all responsible national governments need to pull together in a really determined and co-ordinated response worldwide.

I congratulate all involved in holding this event to encourage 'standing up' instead of 'standing by' by Greeks and the rest of the world. (You can access information about the Ottawa Coalition against Human Trafficking at: www.endhumantrafficking.ca. The International Coalition to end Organ Abuse in China (ETAC) site is <https://endtransplantabuse.org/>.)

Sex Slaves

Canadian journalist Victor Malarek has written about the wave in the global sex trade, sparked by the breakup of the Soviet Union. At least 800,000–900,000 impoverished young women were lured with promises of jobs as waitresses, nannies or maids in Western Europe or North America. Instead, they found themselves imprisoned in massage parlors or brothels with "ruthless efficiency," by organized crime syndicates. Malarek recounts first-person stories of victims.

PACT, an anti-human trafficking group, reported a few years ago that a minimum of 150 women and girls in the Ottawa region alone, all of whom were Canadian citizens and some as young as 12, had been recruited by force into prostitution. Aboriginal girls and women constitute a large share of the victims. On *CBC Radio*, 'Sarah' recounted being kidnapped while a university student by a criminal gang pimp and spending four years as his prostitute/slave in our national capital. She estimates that she brought him about \$1 million over those years while she went through sheer hell. She blamed 'johns' as much as the pimp for her ordeal.

Canada's new "Nordic Model" of legislation used in Sweden, Norway and Iceland has replaced our 125-year-old Criminal Code notion that prostitution was a nuisance to

'polite society'. From the best information available, it appears that about 2-3 per cent of sex workers today are not subject to regular abuse, misery and violence. Julia Roberts' role in the film "Pretty Woman" represented virtually nothing that the overwhelming majority of sex workers experience daily in Canada and elsewhere. The new legislation in part bans the purchase of sexual services by 'johns' for being inherently exploitative and a commodification of persons. It sanctions 'johns' and pimps who fuel demand for prostitution with tougher penalties on conviction, including ones for advertising sex services in print or online. It seeks to immunize persons of both genders, who sell their own sexual services from criminal liability for any part they have in the purchase, benefits, procuring or advertising offences.

Forced Labour

One of Canada's most successful civil society organizations, We Charity, formerly known as Free the Children, was founded in 1995 by brothers Craig and Marc Kielburger. Craig, aged about 11, was so concerned about the violent fate of a boy about his age in Pakistan, who had managed to free himself temporarily from the loom to which he was normally chained, that he founded Free the Children with some school friends in his parents' home. Today, We Charity seeks to empower change to create sustainable impact.

Some years ago, I recall reading about a restaurant in San Francisco. One of its regular customers discovered to his dismay that one of its kitchen employees was to all intents and purposes a slave and toiled long hours without any pay. There is forced labour in a wide variety of occupations today in many places in Europe, North America and across the world.

Bloody Harvest

The scourge of organ pillaging/trafficking has targeted and victimized innocent people across China for almost twenty years.

In 2006, the Coalition to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong in China (CIPFG) asked David Matas and me as volunteers to investigate claims of organ 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). We concluded that for 41,500 transplants done in the years 2000-2005 in China, the sourcing beyond any doubt was Falun Gong prisoners of conscience.

Our overall conclusion was that there "continues today to be large-scale organ seizures from unwilling Falun Gong practitioners (...) 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 two of the 18 kinds of evidence that led to our finding:

- 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 approximately 15 such facilities across the country were then trafficking in Falun Gong organs.

- Falun Gong prisoners, who later got out of China, indicated that they were systematically blood-tested and organ-examined while in forced-labour camps across the country. Since they were tortured, this could not have been for their health, but was necessary for successful organ transplants and for building a bank of live “donors”.

The Slaughter



Ethan Gutmann

Nobel Peace Prize nominee and co-founder of the International Coalition to end Organ Abuse in China Ethan Gutmann’s 2014 book, *The Slaughter*, places the persecution of the Falun Gong, Tibetan, Uyghur, and Eastern Lightning Christian communities in context. He explains how he arrived at his “best estimate” that organs of 65,000 Falun Gong and “two to four thousand” Uyghurs, Tibetans and Christians were “harvested” in the 2000-2008 period

The closing words of *Slaughter* are addressed to responsible governments, organizations and persons: “No Western entity possesses the moral authority to allow the (P)arty to impede the excavation of a crime against humanity in exchange for promises of medical reform. As a survival mechanism of our species, we must contextualize, evaluate, and ultimately learn from every human descent into mass murder ... The critical thing is that there is a history. And only the victims’ families can absolve the (P)arty from its weight.”

Mid-2016 Update

Matas, Gutmann and I released an *Update* on our two books in June 2016 in Washington, Ottawa and Brussels (accessible from www.endorganpillaging.org).

- It provides a thorough 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, state funding and other factors.
- We conclude cautiously that a minimum of 60,000 transplants per year are being done across China as of mid-2016, not the approximately 10,000 the government claims. There is a very small pool of ‘volunteer donors’ plus a few thousand convicted prisoners. This means that about 150 persons daily are killed for their organs.
- We provide much evidence of a state-directed organ transplantation network, controlled through national policies and funding, and implicating both the military and civilian healthcare systems.

The party-state's current narrative asserts that all transplantation organs since Jan 2015 are voluntarily provided through the semantical trick of reclassifying prisoner organs as "voluntary donations".

Some professionals who should know better have accepted the party line, skipping over, as Louisa Greve of the International Coalition to End Organ Abuse in China puts it (www.endtransplantabuse.org), "the admission that China's billion-dollar transplant industry was built on prisoners' organs".

Beijing has no credible answers to the work of independent researchers who have demonstrated the mass killings of innocents. Given the scale of the transplantation industry in China, it is impossible to deny this research in any credible manner. Party propaganda, denying official data, pretending what is there is not there, can persuade only the gullible or the wilfully blind. One can only hope that a willingness to confront the truth about China will prevail generally in the transplantation profession before many more innocents are killed for their organs.

Forced Labour Camps

David Matas and I visited a dozen countries to interview Falun Gong practitioners who had managed to leave both the camps and China. These prisoners of conscience have been the major source of organs since 2001 across China. They told us of working in appalling conditions for up to sixteen hours daily in these camps with no pay and little food, crowded sleeping conditions and torture. Inmates make a range of export consumer products as subcontractors to multinational companies. This constitutes gross corporate irresponsibility and a violation of WTO rules, calling for an effective response by all trading partners of China.

Conclusion



Former Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao noted before leaving office, "Without the success of political structural reform, it is impossible for us to fully institute economic structural reform. The gains we have made...may be lost...and such a historical tragedy as the Cultural Revolution may happen again."

Governments and business everywhere should examine why they are supporting the violation of so many basic human rights in order to increase trade and investment with China. It has resulted mostly in national jobs being outsourced to China and continuous increases in bi-lateral trade and investment deficits. Are we so focused on access to inexpensive consumer goods that we ignore the human, social and natural environment costs paid by abused Chinese nationals to produce them?

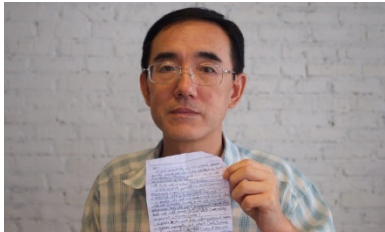
A first step in a better direction by Canadians is to end "organ tourism" to China by all of us now. Ponder the reality that even if only 60,000 transplants per year are now done across China it means about 150 persons per day on average are being killed for their organs. Permit me to invite all of you to join our International Coalition against Organ Abuse in China, which you can do easily at www.endorganpillaging.org.

Finally, thank you to this festival for showing two excellent films today which relate to human trafficking:

Letter from Masanjia and Human Harvest.

Thank you.

(www.david-kilgour.com)



Sun Yi holding the SOS letter he wrote, which made its way around the world and back to him. (Courtesy Flying Cloud Productions).

['Letter from Masanjia' Moves Ottawa Audience to Tears](#)

[A Firm and Resolute Chinese Hero](#)