

ENDING ORGAN TOURISM FROM JAPAN TO CHINA

Notes for David Kilgour,
Diet of Japan and other events

Tokyo

Jan. 20-25, 2018



Transplant surgeon Jacob Lavee, David Matas and David Kilgour speaking in Japan Diet (Parliament) hall on Jan 24, 2018

BLOODY HARVEST

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

Our main conclusion reads 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 OF ORGAN PILLAGING

Here are three of the 18 kinds of evidence that led to our conclusion:

- 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.
- 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. This could not have been for their health since they

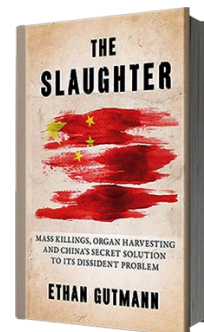
- were regularly tortured, but is necessary for successful organ transplants and for building a bank of live “donors”.
- We interviewed “Annie”, the ex-wife of a surgeon from Sujiatun in Shenyang City, Liaoning. The surgeon told her that he had removed corneas from 2,000 Falun Gong prisoners between 2001 and 2003. He told her that none of these sources survived because different surgeons removed other organs and their bodies were then burned. As a Crown Attorney for most of a decade, I found her to be both credible and convincing. She was the first person to disclose the grave issue to the world beyond China.

THE SLAUGHTER



Ethan Gutmann

A Nobel Peace Prize nominee and co-founder of the International Coalition to end Organ Pillaging in China, Ethan Gutmann’s 2014 book, *The Slaughter*, places the persecution of the Falun Gong, Tibetan, Uyghur, and house 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 House Christians were “harvested” in the 2000- 2008 period.



The closing words of *The 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 the International Coalition to end Organ Pillaging in China at 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, training programs, 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 its government claims. This means that on average 250 persons a day were then being 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.

Gutmann recently noted: “For governments and the media, our (2016 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”.

FORCED LABOUR CAMPS

Many of the Falun Gong prisoners of conscience who are unwilling organ “donors” are in the estimated 350 forced labour camps across China. Matas and



Charles Lee

I visited about a dozen countries to interview Falun Gong, who managed to leave both the camps and the country. 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 products as subcontractors to multinational companies, including Christmas decorations and



Jennifer Zeng

McDonald’s restaurants toys. As indicated by Jennifer Zeng and Charles Lee in the film, *Free China-The Courage to Believe*, inmates make numerous exports for consumers in the West. This constitutes gross corporate irresponsibility and a violation of WTO rules; it also calls for an effective response by all trading partners of China. Every government should place an onus on importers to prove their goods are not made in effect by slave labour.

On October 10, after a screening of the Peabody award-winning film documentary *Human Harvest* at a theatre in Harvard Square, I stressed some points made earlier by my colleague David Matas in Prague (<http://endorganpillaging.org/party-profession-organ-transplant-abuse-china/>):

1. Transplant professionals today and mental health professionals in the past faced similar dilemmas but have responded quite differently. In the days of the Soviet Union, mental health professionals globally faced the abuse of psychiatry in the Soviet Union and acted strongly against it. Today, transplant professionals globally face the abuse of transplant surgery in Communist China, but their response has been quite different...
2. The global transplantation profession can be broken down into three groups – the aware, the naive and the foolish. The aware have bothered to take the trouble to read the research and realize that what is going on in China with transplantations is mass

killing of innocents and cover up. They react accordingly, distancing themselves from the Chinese transplant profession and encouraging others to do likewise. The naive do not consider the research and claim that doing so falls outside their area of responsibility. They hear the research conclusions on the one hand and Chinese Communist Party propaganda on the other and draw no conclusions one way or the other. They encourage change in China and welcome claims from China of change.

3. The foolish buy Chinese propaganda hook, line and sinker. They parrot the Party line that the research demonstrating mass killing of innocents for transplantation is based on rumour, though it is not. They echo the Party line that the research is unverifiable, though it is both verifiable and verified. They repeat the Party claim that abuses are in the past, when they are not. They make the outlandish claim that disinterested researchers are political and that Chinese Communist Party officials are academics. They accept Theresienstadt facades as reality. They endorse what they are misled into thinking is happening in China wholeheartedly.
4. The Vatican hosted a Summit on Organ Trafficking and Transplant Tourism in February 2017. The invitation to the summit of Chinese Communist Party/ state health officials became a flash point of controversy. The Party news paper *Global Times* wrote:

“Senior Chinese health officials are preparing to attend a high-level summit at the Vatican on organ trafficking Tuesday, an invitation which recognizes China’s recent achievements in the field.”
5. Chinese Party/state health officials hosted a transplant conference at Kunming, Yunnan, China in August 2017 in which many international transplant figures issued supportive statements for the Chinese transplantation program. While the international media ignored the conference, other than for a passing reference in an Associated Press story, the Communist Party press gave it a great deal of attention.
6. Even if the global transplant leadership (the World Health Organization (WHO), The Transplantation Society (TTS) and the Declaration of Istanbul Custodian Group (DICG)) does not have the time to read research into transplant abuse in China, or the grace to invite researchers to the events the leadership helps organize, they should at least listen to what they themselves are saying. People in China, especially state officials, who deviate from the Party line get arrested. That is pervasive across all areas of policy, and not just something which happens in the transplantation field. They get released only if they undertake, after release, to conform to the Party line. There is no other basis for release, except for extreme illness. For foreign transplant leaders to then take at face value what a released official says, without investigation or verification, means that they too are adopting the Party line.

Outside of China, organ sources are either dead, at least brain dead, both before and after the sourcing or alive both before and after. China is the only country where sources are killed by organ extraction, where sources are alive before and dead afterwards.

7. This practice, as well as being murderous, presents unusual transplantation problems, because the practice increases the amount and type of pharmaceuticals required to be injected into the source. That increase can potentially cause problems for the patient who receives the organ. Substantial Chinese transplant research has gone into addressing this problem, trying various combinations of drugs which can create the desired impact on the source without harming the organ being transplanted.
8. There is an equation here of Chinese law and policy with practice, showing a lack of awareness that the law in China cannot be enforced against the Party, since the Party controls all aspects of the enforcement of the legal system... The four organizations (World Health Organization (WHO), the Vatican's Pontifical Academy of Sciences (PAS), The Transplantation Society (TTS) and the Declaration of Istanbul Custodian Group (DICG)) are pleased that the Party said what they wanted to hear.
9. Generally, repressive regimes, when faced with criticism of their human rights records, produce one of two responses. Either they say, "go away, this is our business, your own country has many human rights violations which should concern you". Or, they say, "you are right, come help us, we need your expertise", but nothing changes. In both cases, the result, in terms of respect for human rights is the same. The only difference is that in the second case the beguiled are disgraced. Lack of expertise in human rights includes ignorance of this pattern, an ignorance the four organizations manifest...

The Chinese Communist Party has no credible factual answers to the work of independent researchers who have demonstrated the mass killings of innocents for transplantation. Indeed, given the massive scale of the transplantation business 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. A main line of defence has become the statements of these gullible or wilfully blind, what Communists refer to as useful idiots. The Party publicizes and exaggerates the endorsements of the naive and the foolish. One can only hope that a willingness to confront the truth about China will prevail generally in the transplantation profession before many other innocents are killed for their organs.

The global psychiatric profession at the time of Soviet abuse of psychiatry was part of the solution to that abuse. The global transplantation profession, with notable exceptions, for transplantation abuse in China, has become part of the problem.

CONCLUSION

James Mann, author of *China Fantasy* and former Beijing bureau chief of the *Los Angeles Times*: "...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..."



Wen Jiabao

Chinese former 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, new problems that have cropped up in China's society cannot be fundamentally resolved and such a historical tragedy as the Cultural Revolution may happen again."

Governments, investors and business people might examine why they are supporting the violation of so many basic human rights in order to increase trade and investment with China. This 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?

The world's democrats, including our national governments and civil society institutions, should continue to engage with Beijing and the broadest possible range of citizens across China. Democracy with very Chinese features is probably much closer than many suppose. No-one on the democratic side should forget that the values we represent include dignity for all, the rule of law and independent judges, multi-party democracy, corporate social responsibility, transparency and accountability.

The people of China seek the same things as the rest of the world: safety and security, the rule of law, respect, education, good jobs, democratic governance and a good natural environment. If the party-state ends its systematic violations of human rights and begins to treat its trade partners fairly, the 21st century can move towards harmony and coherence for China and the world. The first step in a better direction is to end organ pillaging/trafficking/tourism now.

Ponder the reality that even if only 60,000 transplants per year are now done across China it means 250 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 Pillaging in China, which you can do easily at www.endorganpillaging.org.