

Inaugural Ceremony to Present Friends of Falun Gong Human Rights Award

Capitol Hill lawn, Washington, D.C

Thank you remarks by David Kilgour

20 June, 2018



Dear friends of Falun Gong, chers amis/cheres amies,

There are evidently more than 5000 of us here this morning from about 110 nations.

Imagine any government in the 21st century committing an ongoing genocide against an exercise and meditation community, which practises “truth, compassion and forbearance”?

Freedom of religion is the first freedom in any rule of law nation. When it goes, other liberties soon disappear too.

David Matas and I are honoured to accept this award on behalf of millions of FG practitioners across China and much of the world. We grieve the tens

of thousands of innocent victims, who have been killed for their vital organs because of their beliefs.

The inhuman Beijing government-directed commerce has now been going on for 18 years. Our mid-2016 update with Ethan Gutmann of two books, *Bloody Harvest and The Slaughter*, concluded that at least 60,000 Chinese citizens-mostly Falun Gong prisoners of conscience-were then being killed for their vital organs yearly. That's an average of about 150 daily.

Uyghurs, Tibetans and Christians were also being victimized in much smaller numbers as of mid-2016.

The American baseball icon once said, "It is hard to beat a person who never gives up".

None of us here today-and many not here-must ever give up either until the Beijing party-state ceases to murder innocent people. Let's all re-resolve today to continue our peaceful protests until this terrible genocide ends.

Thanks to the Friends of Falun Gong and Alan Adler, Doctors Against Forced Organ Harvesting (DAFOH), the International Coalition to End Organ Transplant Abuse in China, and all other groups and persons involved in our common cause.

A number of democracies have already banned 'organ tourism' to China by their nationals, including Spain, Israel, Norway, Chile and Taiwan.

If your own country is not among this leadership group, please urge your transplant surgeons and legislators to do likewise this year.

Thank you/merci.