

Magnitsky Legislation Sanctions Needed for 14 Party-state Officials involved in 21-year Persecution of Falun Gong

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Today marks 21 years since the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) launched its inhuman persecution of 70-100 million peaceful Falun Gong practitioners, which has resulted in vast numbers of arbitrary arrests, torture, murders, and forced organ pillaging for a vile commerce across China.

On June 17, 2019, an independent tribunal in the UK, chaired by Sir Geoffrey Nice, who led the prosecution of Slobodan Milosevic at the International Criminal Court, released its final report, concluding: "Forced organ harvesting has been committed for years throughout China on a significant scale and that Falun Gong practitioners have been one-and probably the main-source of organ supply." The tribunal also concluded the large-scale killing of Falun Gong practitioners for their organs constituted a crime against humanity.

Canada's recent campaign for a two-year UN Security Council (UNSC) seat could turn our loss into a win for our national values. Kaveh Shahrooz, a Harvard-educated lawyer formerly at Global Affairs, criticized our campaign for omitting issues such as Beijing's mass human rights abuses. "(W)e chased a prize of questionable value, betrayed our values in the process, and still failed."

Recent nationwide polling for the Macdonald-Laurier Institute (MLI) indicates that Canadians strongly believe that we should speak up much more against gross human rights abuses by Beijing.

Beijing has just imposed an Orwellian security law on Hong Kong intended to crush its democracy movement and rule of law. Its concealment of the COVID-19 outbreaks in Wuhan for several weeks resulted in the worldwide pandemic.

After more than 557 days of incarceration, Canada's "Two Michaels" - Kovrig and Spavor - have been charged with espionage - a crime punishable by life in prison - undoubtedly hostage diplomacy retaliation for Meng Wanzhou's arrest.

The CCP spares no effort in silencing criticisms of its human rights violations. Canada and other responsible members of the international community must cease kowtowing about Beijing's barbaric activities.

Canada can now take a harder line on regimes, such as China, which take political prisoners and kill their citizens without a trace of the rule of law. Whether it's imposing Magnitsky sanctions on 14 officials (documented in 300

pages of evidence) for their crimes against Falun Gong practitioners, shutting out their politically-controlled technology companies, such as Huawei, or leading multilateral campaigns to isolate Beijing criminals internationally, Canada must again re-align with democracies to advocate against human rights abusers and push for changes that will keep the worst regimes out of the UN Human Rights Council.

We must put our focus on pursuing international goals that matter to Canadians and the world. That way, the next time we seek a Security Council seat, we can be proud of what we stand for, win or lose.

Part of what is needed is a much more determined stand against the persecution of Falun Gong, Uyghurs, Tibetans, Christians, and other minorities across China.

Practitioners of Falun Gong feel ignored, sensing that the media, politicians, the government and even human rights advocates have become silent over the years about their plight. Even those who have become vocal in recent months about the CCP's contempt for human dignity rarely mention Falun Gong, as if it were taboo.

The media could help greatly by reporting on the recent advisory that listed the names of the 14 Chinese officials who've committed crimes against Falun Gong practitioners. They could also help by attending and reporting on today's rallies in front of the PRC embassy. It is time to break this silence.

Thank you.