

## ORGAN PILLAGING FROM PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE ACROSS CHINA

Message (virtual) by Hon. David Kilgour, J.D.,

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Permit me to address immediately the grisly topic: state-run organ harvesting across China. The PRC appears to be unique among approximately 200 independent countries today in that its organ transplant commerce is regime-administered rather than a criminal offence done by unscrupulous surgeons/brokers.

In mid-2006, David Matas and I as volunteers did an independent investigation into persistent claims of forced organ harvesting from Falun Gong practitioners across China. We published two reports and a 2009 book titled *Bloody Harvest*.

We concluded that since 2001 the Beijing party-state directed a network of forced vital organ-harvesting from prisoners of conscience--primarily Falun Gong killed for their vital organs. They were then sold to wealthy recipients in China and foreign 'organ tourists'. Specifically, we concluded from 18 kinds of evidence that beyond any doubt between the years 2001 and 2005, 41,500 organs were sourced from Falun Gong prisoners of conscience, whose bodies were then burned.

Canada's much loved Rabbi Emeritus Dr. Reuven Bulka, who has now unfortunately passed, commented: "This is murder, brutal murder: taking organs from the bodies of live people... Even though there was irrefutable evidence this was happening, the Chinese authorities denied it... They are liars as well as murderers..."

Ethan Gutmann, author of *The Slaughter* (2014), later placed the persecution of the Falun Gong, Tibetan, Uyghur, and 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 pillaged in the 2000- 2008 period.

Matas, Gutmann and I released an Update in 2016 (accessible from [www.endorganpillaging.org](http://www.endorganpillaging.org)). It provided a careful examination of the transplant programs of hundreds of hospitals across China, drawing on medical journals, hospital websites, and deleted websites found in archives. We concluded cautiously that over two decades, the party-state has directed a network of organ harvesting from prisoners of conscience— primarily Falun Gong since 2001. Our findings helped the US Congress and the European Parliament to pass nearly identical resolutions condemning the Chinese State for the harvesting of prisoners of conscience.

Organ pillaging from Uyghurs in fact preceded that from Falun Gong. Dr. Enver Tohti, a Uyghur, has detailed how in 1995, as a general surgeon in a Ürümqi hospital, he was sent to an execution ground to remove the kidneys and liver from a living prisoner. In 2019, Tohti publicized a photograph of the "Human Organ Transportation Green-Path (HOTGP)" at Ürümqi Airport in Xinjiang, which expedites the transport of organs to global recipients. Xi Jinping himself has been quoted saying bizarrely that Uyghurs should be shown "absolutely no mercy".



Chair Sir Geoffrey Nice, Q.C.      Tribunal presenting its findings in UK

The Independent Tribunal into Forced Organ Harvesting from Prisoners of Conscience in China, was instituted by ETAC in the UK. It heard witnesses on the persecution of Falun Gong members in China and the harvesting of their organs to determine whether or not criminal offenses had been committed by the PRC government.

Based on the 2019 Independent China Tribunal findings, we learned that Beijing CCP authorities are still at it. Ninety-thousand transplants a year, coupled with a waiting time of just a few weeks and the assurance of a back-up organ should the original organ fail, is a toxic combination that has no equal anywhere. That is the reality in China... and can only be explained as resulting from the murders of readily available 'prisoners' – Falun Gong, Tibetans, Uighur Muslims and Christians.

In delivering the unanimous judgement, Sir Geoffrey Nice stressed the independence of the Tribunal and its reluctance to infer PRC government complicity on the basis of its unwillingness to engage in the proceedings. Despite silence from Beijing and its disinclination to defend its role in the organ commerce, the Tribunal determined there was enough evidence to reach a damning verdict.

Short waiting times for organs promised by PRC doctors and hospitals, the number of transplant operations performed, which far outnumbered the government and hospital statistics for voluntary donations, and a "massive infrastructure development of facilities and medical personnel for organ transplant operations," even before the voluntary donor scheme was planned, were some of the conclusions, which, when combined, led to the unavoidable final conclusion that forced organ harvesting has been committed for years throughout China.

The Tribunal concluded that Falun Gong practitioners were the primary victims, but since 2017 a comprehensive DNA collection of every man, woman, and child from Xinjiang's indigenous Uyghur community in China has created a large pool of potential donors from which evidence of harvesting might later emerge. The incarceration since 2017 of up to 3 million Uyghurs in concentration camps has added to the concern that this has become a particularly vulnerable group. The Tribunal summary judgement report states that "it has had no evidence that the significant infrastructure associated with China's transplantation industry has been dismantled and the absence of a satisfactory explanation as to the source of readily available organs concludes that forced organ harvesting continues till today."

## Misleading Party Statistics

Exponential increases in organ transplantations in the PRC have combined with an inexplicable mismatch in the availability of voluntary donors. Since executed prisoners ceased officially being a source of organs in 2014, the number of transplants continued to rise.

The Tribunal, assessing the anomalous data provided by the PRC became convinced that the government's official statistics had been falsified. Taking as credible that between 60,000 and 90,000 transplant operations are carried out each year, and the number of official eligible donors in 2017, stood at 5,146, the Tribunal concluded there was "an incomprehensible gap," leading to the conclusion that, "there must have existed another source or other sources of tissue-typed organs." The stark deduction was that, "there must have existed a body of donors unidentified in the PRC material."

The Tribunal was unanimous in declaring it a crime against humanity.

Responding to the publication Tribunal's final judgement, Dr John Chisholm, British Medical Assoc. medical ethics committee chair, stated: "The practice of forced organ harvesting represents a gross and continuing violation of a series of inalienable, fundamental human rights, including the right to life and in some cases, the right to be free from torture or from cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.... Any involvement of physicians in the forced harvesting of organs is therefore unlawful, unethical and in contravention of the professional codes set down by the World Medical Association. The primary duty of all physicians is to promote the wellbeing of their patients – and, first and foremost, to ensure they do no harm."

The BMA called on the People's Republic of China to "facilitate a thorough, independent investigation into forced organ harvesting, and to protect physicians' core professional obligations by ensuring that physicians are never involved in such practices."

The Tribunal concluded by calling on governments and individuals, activists and motivated politicians to decide for themselves whether crimes had been committed in the face of the findings, and "do whatever they might think is their duty in the face of any revealed wickedness of the kind shown in any finding that forced organ harvesting has happened or is continuing to happen in the PRC."

## Conclusion

Beijing doesn't hesitate to use trade and business incentives to further silence weak governments, nor does it hesitate to continue to undermine our Western democracy and values to advance fascist objectives:

The U.S. and all responsible governments must take every opportunity to condemn publicly the Beijing regime on its ongoing persecution of prisoners of conscience;

The entire international community should join the list of other countries that ban travel to China for transplant surgery. Any deal with China, on any matter, must include an insistence

that this barbaric practice stop immediately, coupled with a mechanism whereby such stoppage is verifiable.

The United States should apply its Magnitsky laws and other targeted sanctions against any Chinese government official known to be involved in the persecution of organ harvesting; if we and other democracies show more commitment to our values, the despicable commerce might end.

The United States should, like Australia, adopt a 'Foreign Interference Law' to stop Chinese officials from interfering with Canadians anywhere in our country;

All United Front organizations posing as community groups should be registered as Foreign Agents in the U.S., Canada and elsewhere; and

Ottawa must robustly call for the release of Canadian citizens, including our two Michaels, Ms. Sun Qian, who has been suffering in prison for 3 years as a Falun Gong practitioner. It's time to stop currying favor with one of the world's worst human rightsabusers. Instead, stand on the human dignity side of history.

Thank you.