

ORGAN PILLAGING FROM FALUN GONG IN CHINA
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Permit me to stress immediately the respect and affection I hold for the Chinese people. Both as Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) for Canada and as a private citizen, I visited China. It was an honour to represent in Canada's Parliament during almost 27 years many families of origin in the Middle Kingdom. They and others taught me much about its history, culture, inventions, national resilience and other strengths.

The same sentiments compel friends of China around the world to speak up for the dignity of its people. The Communist party accuses its critics as being 'anti-China.' It is the party which is 'anti-China' because of how it has continued to exploit fellow citizens and their natural environment for six decades (I'll not here go into its similar role in Burma, Sudan/Darfur, Zimbabwe and elsewhere in the world.). Most Chinese continue to be abused by the party-state and employers, which operate today across their country like 19th century American robber barons. This explains partly why the prices of consumer products 'made in China' seem so low—the externalities are borne by workers, their families and the natural environment.

Chinese human rights advocates, such as the Nobel-Peace Prize-nominated and currently vanished Gao Zhisheng, and their international supporters care deeply about improving the general well-being of the people.

Gao family:



It is certainly true that any government of China faces enormous challenges with regard to sustaining growth and creating jobs on a massive scale. Living standards for some have improved since the government discarded 'command and control' economics. This has come at a very high cost in terms of human dignity for many others and cannot be sustained in the long run. The people of China, whether on the streets of Beijing, Lhasa, Urumqi or countless

other locations across the country, have said quite clearly that "enough is enough". The friends of the Chinese people everywhere must support voices crying for justice.

Forced Labour Camps

In doing our final report on organ pillaging from Falun Gong practitioners since 2001, David Matas and I visited about a dozen countries to interview adherents sent to China's forced labour camps since 1999, who managed later to leave the camps and the country itself. They told us of working in appalling conditions for up to sixteen hours daily with no pay, little food, being cramped together on the floor for sleeping, and being tortured. They made export products, ranging from garments to chopsticks to Christmas decorations at times as subcontractors to multinational companies. This, of course, constitutes gross corporate irresponsibility and violations of WTO rules and calls for an effective response by all governments who are trading partners of China.

The labour camps, being outside the legal system, allow the party to send anyone to them for up to four years with neither any form of hearing nor appeal. There is a causal link between the involuntary labour done since 1999 by Falun Gong practitioners and other prisoners in these camps and the resulting loss of manufacturing jobs in Europe, Canada and elsewhere. One estimate of the number of the camps across China as of 2005 was 340, having a capacity of about 300,000 inmates. In 2007, a US government report estimated that at least half of the inmates in the camps were Falun Gong. It is the combination of totalitarian governance and 'anything is permitted' economics that allows such inhuman practices to persist. The European Union, Canada and other countries should ban forced labour exports by legislation, which puts an onus on all importers to prove before entry that their products are not made in effect by slaves.



Crystal Chen

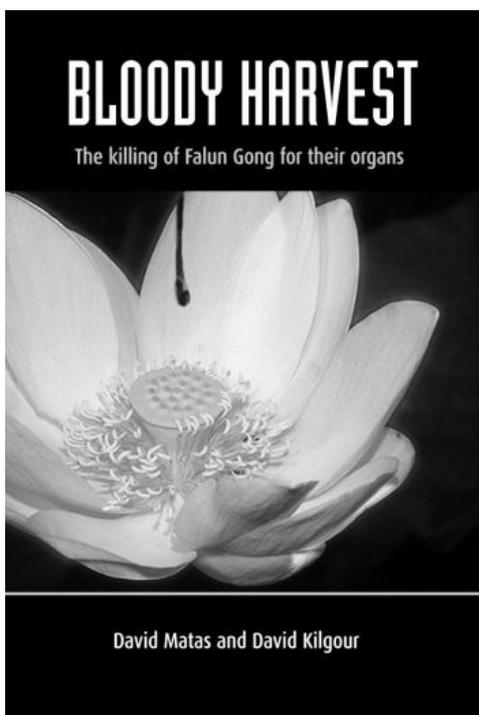
Take Falun Gong practitioner Crystal Chen, for example, who spent three years in a camp. Her experiences with severe beatings, being tied up and shackled, being stretched, and prolonged sleep deprivation includes this incident. In the Tianhe detention centre, she was thrown on the floor of her cell and four large men held her down. A water bottle was cut in half to be used as a funnel. A one-pound bag of salt was poured inside the bottle, a small amount of water added. Guards shoved the opening of the bottle against Chen's teeth and tried to pry her mouth open with a used toothbrush. She resisted, knowing the salt could kill her. Chen: "The salt went

everywhere into my mouth and up my nose...I vomited salt and blood for the following days and could not eat. My gums were full of blood, I could hardly talk. They still handcuffed me." A male practitioner, Gao Xianmin, died after being subjected to the same salt torture.

Despite all, Chen stresses that Falun Gong practitioners, while understandably unsympathetic towards the Party, seek no role in Chinese politics- "only to stop the persecution which has continued for more than ten years... I love China, I'm proud of thousands of years of Chinese civilization and proud of being Chinese...I look forward to the renaissance of genuine Chinese values and dignity, including truthfulness, compassion and tolerance."

Killing of Falun Gong practitioners for their organs

David Matas and I came to the conclusion that Falun Gong practitioners in China have been and are being killed for their organs. We wrote a report that came to this conclusion, which came out first in July 2006. There was a second version in 2007. A third in book form was published this month as *Bloody Harvest*.



Book launch, Nov 17, hosted by Canadian Parliamentary Friends of Falun Gong on Parliament Hill, Ottawa



Falun Gong is a set of exercises with a spiritual foundation which began in China in 1992. Initially the government encouraged the practice as beneficial for health. By 1999, it had grown so popular that the Party became afraid that its own ideological and numerical supremacy was being threatened. The numbers of persons practising Falun Gong across China had grown from virtually none in 1992, according to a government estimate, to 70-100 million. The practice was accordingly banned.

Practitioners were asked to recant. Those who did not and continued the practice and those who protested the banning were arrested. If they recanted after arrest, they were released. If they did not, they were tortured. If they recanted after torture, they were then released. If they did not recant after torture, they disappeared into the Chinese detention and forced labour system.

What happened to the disappeared? Our conclusion is that many of them were killed for their organs, which were sold to transplant tourists. It would take too much time to set out how we came to that conclusion. We invite you to read our report, which is on the internet (accessible at www.david-kilgour.com), or our book. Briefly, three of the dozens of evidentiary trails we followed which led to our conclusion are these:

1) Only Falun Gong practitioners in work camps and prisons are systematically blood tested and physically examined. This testing cannot be motivated by concerns over the health of practitioners, because they are also systematically tortured. Testing is necessary for organ transplants because of the need for blood type compatibility between the organ source and the recipient. Crystal Chen, for example, mentioned above during three years in a camp was medically tested several times, including two blood tests.

2) Traditional sources of transplants-prisoners sentenced to death and then executed, voluntary donors, the brain dead/cardiac alive-come nowhere near to explaining the total number of transplants in China. There is no organized system of organ donations. There is a cultural aversion to organ donation. There is no national organ matching or distribution system in China.

The only significant source in China of organs for transplants before the persecution of Falun Gong practitioners began was prisoners sentenced to death and then executed. The volume of organ transplants in China went up dramatically shortly after the banning of the practice of Falun Gong. Yet, the numbers of those sentenced to death and then executed did not increase.

3) We had callers phoning hospitals throughout China posing as family members of persons who needed organ transplants. In a wide variety of locations, those who were called asserted that Falun Gong practitioners (known to be healthy because of their exercise regime) were the source of the organs.

Since our report came out, laws and practices in China have changed: A Chinese law on transplants in May 2007 required that transplants be performed only in registered hospitals. The Ministry of Health announced that from June 26, 2007 Chinese patients would be given priority access to organ transplants over foreigners. The announcement also banned all medical institutions from transplanting organs into foreign transplant tourists. The government announced in August 2009 that the Red Cross Society of China was launching an organ donation system, but only as a pilot project in ten locations.

With these changes, however, severe abuse continues. The recipients have changed from foreign to local, but the sources remain substantially the same. The government denies that organs for transplants are being sourced from prisoners who are Falun Gong practitioners. Yet, it accepts that organs for transplants are being sourced from prisoners. The only debate we have with the Government is which group of prisoners is the source of organs.

"Non consenting parties"

Sourcing of organs from prisoners is done without consent. Deputy Health Minister Huang Jieifu, at a conference of surgeons in Guangzhou in November 2006, said in a speech, "too often organs come from non consenting parties". The government of China accepts that sourcing of organs from prisoners is wrong. Huang at the time of the announcement of an

organ donor pilot project stated that executed prisoners "are definitely not a proper source for organ transplants". This principle, that prisoners are not an acceptable source for organs, is followed by the Transplantation Society and the World Medical Association.

So the question becomes, what is the rule of law world going to do about the Chinese party-state's abuse of global transplant ethics? Our report and book have a long list of recommendations. Given the shortness of time, I mention here only two.

One possibility is extraterritorial legislation. The 2007 policy giving priority to Chinese patients has cut down on transplant tourism to China, but such legislation would nonetheless be a useful statement of universal principle. The sorts of transplants in which the Chinese medical system engages are illegal everywhere else in the world. But it is not illegal for a foreigner from any country to go to China, obtain a transplant which would be illegal at home, and then return home. Foreign transplant legislation everywhere is territorial; it has no extraterritorial reach. Many other laws are global in their sweep. For instance, child sex tourists can be prosecuted not just in the country where they abuse children, but often at home as well. This sort of legislation does not exist for transplant tourists who pay for organ transplants without bothering to determine whether the organ donor has consented.

A second recommendation is that any person known to be involved in trafficking in the organs of prisoners in China should be barred entry by all foreign countries.

Conclusion

Anyone with uncensored Internet access-which unfortunately does not include Chinese users of the Internet-can obtain the latest details about the appalling condition of human dignity across China from among other independent sources the following:

Human Rights in China: <http://www.hrichina.org>

Human Rights Watch: <http://www.hrw.org>

Amnesty International: <http://www.amnesty.org>

Falun Gong: <http://faluninfo.net>

In a 2007 UPI/Zogby opinion poll, 79 percent of Americans said they had a favourable opinion of the Chinese people, but 87 percent had an unfavourable opinion of their government. My guess would be that a similar survey done in any rule-of-law nation today would produce very similar findings. What would the vast majority of the Chinese people tell a pollster, if they could without serious risk of consequences, about the Party?

The attempted crushing of democracy movements, truthful journalists, Buddhist, Falun Gong, Christian, Muslim and other independent faith groups, human rights lawyers and other civil society communities in recent years indicates that China's party-state must be engaged with great caution despite the severe ongoing world economic problems. If it stops abuses of human rights and takes steps to indicate that it wishes to treat its trade partners in a mutually-beneficial way, the new century will bring harmony for China, its trading partners and neighbours. Its people have the numbers, perseverance, self-discipline, entrepreneurship, intelligence, culture and pride to help make this new century better and more peaceful for the entire human family.

Thank you.