

**Engaging Beijing On Organ Pillaging**  
Falun Gong Parliamentary Friendship Group, Canada  
Hon. David Kilgour, J.D.  
House of Commons  
Ottawa  
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Permit me to state first that I admire the people of China greatly, including their often heroic protests against acts of misfeasance by their government. To his credit, the outgoing premier, Wen Jiabao, has spoken often about the necessity for democratic reform. He also took the major role in blocking the advance of Bo Xilai to the nine-member Standing Committee of the Communist Party. Bo and his mentor, former President Jiang Zemin, have been among the worst offenders in the ongoing persecution of the Falun Gong movement since July, 1999. The next to go will hopefully be Zhou Yongkang, the Party head of security, who worked closely with Zemin and Bo on the persecution of Falun Gong ([http://www.david-kilgour.com/2012/IOWA\\_TALK\\_BY\\_DAVID\\_KILGOUR\\_2012.pdf](http://www.david-kilgour.com/2012/IOWA_TALK_BY_DAVID_KILGOUR_2012.pdf).)



**Premier Wen Jiabao**

Photo credit: zimbro.com

### **Falun Gong**

Falun Gong (or Falun Dafa) is a spiritual discipline which seeks to improve body and ethics. It contains features of traditional systems, like Buddhism and Daoism (Taoism), combined with a set of gentle exercises. Its core principles are “truth, compassion and forbearance”, which, of course, echo those of Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and other faiths. In China, where it first became public in 1992, Falun Gong grew within seven years to 70-100 million practitioners by the government’s own estimate. (Some Party leaders in early 1999 reacted negatively at seeing citizens from all walks of life, including party members, engaging publicly in a form of exercise, which had a belief system behind it different from Marxism-Leninism. The exercises, moreover, could be done anywhere at any time, singly or in groups, indoors or outdoors. The amorphous nature meant it was impossible for the Party to control. )

The party-state has repressed Falun Gong savagely since July 1999. Torture, rapes, beatings to death, detentions in forced labour camps, brainwashing—all became the daily lot of many Falun Gong across China. Practitioners responded

with a non-violent, but an energetic defence of human dignity both within China and in many other countries.

After 1980, the party-state had begun withdrawing funds from the health system as a whole across China, obliging it to make up the difference through service charges to mostly uninsured patients. Selling the organs of executed convicts soon became a major source of funds because of world demand. Falun Gong later became a major additional source of organs for patients from China and elsewhere who did not question whether the "donors" were convicted prisoners sentenced to death. Organ price lists were posted on Chinese websites.

### **Forced Labour Camps**

In doing our final report on organ pillaging, David Matas and I visited about a dozen countries to interview Falun Gong practitioners sent to China's forced labour camps, who managed later to leave the camps and the country itself. Many were sent to camps after mid-1999 without any form of hearing on only a police signature. The system was created in Stalin's Russia and Hitler's Third Reich and copied in the 1950s by Mao.

The practitioners told us of working in appalling conditions for up to sixteen hours daily with no pay and little food, crowded sleeping conditions and torture. They made export products, ranging from garments 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 three 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 Canada and elsewhere. One estimate of the number of the camps across China as of 2005 was 340, having a capacity of about 350,000 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 U.S., Canada and other countries should ban forced labour exports by legislation, which puts an onus on all importers to prove their goods are not made in effect by slaves.

## Chen Ying



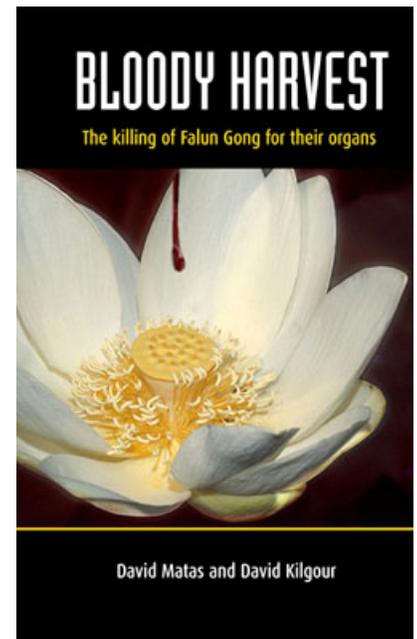
Consider the experience of Falun Gong practitioner Chen Ying, who was later awarded refugee status by the government of France:

“Because I would not renounce my Falun Gong convictions, between February 2000 and November 2001, I was imprisoned three times without any judicial process...” “Each time, I was mistreated and tortured by the police...At the end of September, 2000, as I would not tell them my name, I was called out by the police and taken to a hospital for a complete medical examination: cardiac, blood, eyes, etc. I had to carry chains on my legs and I was attached to a window frame. The police injected me with unknown substances. After the injections, my heart beat abnormally quickly. Each one gave me the impression that my heart was going to explode...”

## 41,500 Transplants

Falun Gong today comprise about two-thirds of the torture victims and half of those in forced labour camps across China. According to research David Matas and I have done, set out in our book *Bloody Harvest*, practitioners have been killed in the thousands since 2001 so that their organs could be trafficked to Chinese and foreign patients. For the period 2000 –2005 alone, Matas and I concluded that for 41,500 transplants done the only plausible explanation for sourcing was Falun Gong.

The main conclusion of our book is 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.” Our revised report is accessible in 18 languages from [www.david-kilgour.com](http://www.david-kilgour.com)



## **Gao Zhizheng**

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



Gao, aged 47, is often called "the conscience of China". He gained worldwide acclaim for donating his lawyer's skills to defend workers, evicted farmers, miners, dissidents and the disabled. His criticism of the persecution of Falun Gong practitioners triggered seven weeks of torture for himself. It stopped only when he agreed to "confess" in an article saying that the party-state treated his family well and that Falun Gong had tricked him into writing a letter to the U.S. Congress. Shortly after his release for a brief period, Gao wrote a letter detailing his ordeal and authorized its release to the public in February, 2009, although threatened with death if he spoke publicly about his torture. The UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention has called on the party-state of China to release Gao, terming his detention a violation of international law.

## **Liu Xiaobo**



Another example was the Christmas day sentencing in 2009 of Liu Xiaobo, the Charter 08 co-author and 2010 Nobel Peace Prize laureate, to eleven years in prison for peacefully advocating democracy. It is difficult for those of us living outside China to understand that trials there are mere theatres. The deciding 'judges' usually don't even hear the evidence given in 'courts'.

Clive Ansley of Canada practised law in Shanghai for 13 years, handling about 300 cases in their courts, before returning to British Columbia. His article in the March 2007 B.C. trial lawyers' publication, *Verdict*, explains the reality of what happened to Liu and so many others. In short, most cases are decided behind closed doors, completely away from any public view:

"There is a current saying amongst Chinese lawyers and judges who truly believe in the Rule of Law and this saying, familiar throughout all legal circles in China, vividly illustrates the futility of Canadian attempts to 'assist China in improving its legal system' by training judges. It is 'Those who hear the case do not make the judgment; those who make the judgment have not heard the case' "...Nothing which has transpired in the 'courtroom' has any impact on the 'judgment'."

Ansley's article can be accessed at

[http://organharvestinvestigation.net/events/verdict112\\_mar07.pdf](http://organharvestinvestigation.net/events/verdict112_mar07.pdf)

### **Recent Developments**

Have the efforts of many in China and around the world to stop these appalling crimes made any difference? Our book points at various developments within and beyond China occurring since our first report in 2006, but, to save time, I'll only mention two:

1. The government of China now accepts that sourcing of organs from prisoners is improper. Deputy Health Minister Huang Jiefu in 2009 stated that executed prisoners "are definitely not a proper source for organ transplants." In 2005, he was reported to say that as many as 95% of the transplanted organs in China derived from executions. In Bo Xilai's region as governor, the persecution and organ pillaging of organs from Falun Gong was among the worst in China.
2. Belgian senator Patrik Vankrunkelsven and former MP Borys Wrzesnewskij have introduced into their parliaments extraterritorial legislation banning "transplant tourism". Both would penalize any transplant patient who receives an organ without consent of the donor where the patient knew or ought to have known of the absence of consent.

### **Present Realities**

Unfortunately, such developments have not yet ended the murders and trafficking in organs across China. Since we began, the number of convicted persons sentenced to death and then executed has decreased overall quite dramatically, but the number of transplants, after a slight decline, rose to earlier levels. Since the only other substantial source of organs for transplants in China besides Falun Gong is prisoners sentenced to death, a decrease of sourcing from that population means an increase of sourcing from Falun Gong.

In 2007, a US government report estimated that at least half of the inmates in the camps were Falun Gong. Those profiting include surgeons, hospitals and the military, whose surgeons do a good deal of the organ pillaging and whose aircraft fly organs from rural labour camps to hospitals in major cities where patients await compatible organs based on prior computer matching of blood and tissue type.

## **Recommendations**

For organs trafficked in China, Matas and I would encourage each of you, your colleagues and constituents to consider our recommendations, including:

### Urging the party-state in China to:

- cease the repression of Falun Gong;
- cease organ-pillaging from all prisoners;
- remove its military from the organ transplant business;
- establish and regulate a legitimate organ donor system;
- open all detention centres, including forced labour camps, for international investigation;
- free Liu Xiaobo, Gao Zhisheng and many other prisoners of conscience.

### Implement the following measures until organ pillaging from prisoners ceases:

- medical professionals in Canada and every country which respects human dignity should actively discourage their patients from going to China for transplant surgery;
- no government should issue visas to Chinese MDs seeking training in organ or body tissue transplantation;
- MDs from outside China should not travel there to give training in transplant surgery;
- contributions submitted to medical journals outside China about its experience with transplants should be rejected;
- pharmaceutical companies everywhere should be barred by their national governments from exporting to China any drugs used solely in transplant surgery.

## **Conclusion**

Anyone with uncensored Internet access can obtain the latest details about the condition of human dignity across China from among other independent sources the following:

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

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

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

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

The attempted crushing of democracy movements, truthful journalists, Tibetan Buddhists, Falun Gong, Christians, Muslims and other independent faith groups (<http://www.david-kilgour.com/2011/convivium2011.pdf>), human rights lawyers

and other civil society communities indicates that China's party-state must be engaged with great caution on all issues.

The Chinese people want the same things as Canadians, including, respect for all, education, good jobs, the rule of law, accountable governance and a sustainable natural environment.

If the party-state ends the systematic violations of human dignity and takes major steps to indicate that it wishes to treat its trade partners in a mutually-beneficial way, the new century can bring harmony for China and its partners. The Chinese people have the numbers, perseverance, self-discipline, intelligence and other qualities to help make this new century better and more peaceful for the entire human family if given the opportunity.

Thank you.

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