

Medical Community Disturbed by China's Organ Centers

By [Pamela Tsai](#) On March 6, 2012 @ 3:39 am In [National News](#) | [No Comments](#)



Photo of professor Arthur Caplan, director of Bioethics Center at the University of Pennsylvania giving a speech at Doctors Against Forced Organ Harvesting (DAFOH) forum Global Transplant Community at Medical Crossroads in Philadelphia on May 1, 2011. (The Epoch Times)



A recent report by a human rights watchdog group linking would-be defector and former police chief Wang Lijun with research into organ harvesting has brought outspoken condemnation of Wang's mixture of police work and medical innovation from members of the medical community within the United States.

The [report](#), released by the World Organization to Investigate the Persecution of [Falun Gong](#) (WOIPFG), shows that while serving as police chief in Jinzhou City, Wang Lijun founded the On-Site Psychology Research Center (OSPRC) on the subject of human organ

transplant inside the building of the Public Security Bureau.

Prior to Wang's research, victims of forced organ harvesting were typically executed with a shot to the head, and then their organs would be harvested. A team working under Wang's supervision developed an injection method that is claimed to yield organs in better condition for transplantation. Wang, upon receiving an award for this, bragged in a speech that he had overseen thousands of organ harvesting operations.

David Matas, the international human rights lawyer and investigator into forced organ harvesting in China (author, with former Canadian Secretary of State David Kilgour of the 2009 book "[Bloody Harvest](#)") had previously told The

Epoch Times that with the injection method, “In effect they’re not killing by injection, but paralyzing by injection, and taking the organs out while the body is still alive.”

‘Terrifying’

Arthur Caplan, professor of Bioethics and director of the Center for Bioethics at the University of Pennsylvania, reacted to the report, calling it “terrifying.”

“For a research center run by police authorities to study anything regarding how people die—on its face—is ethically, legally, highly suspicious. It makes no sense other than to try and facilitate the immoral practice of killing people to get their [body] parts.”

“I can’t take anything like it,” said Dr. Caplan, who writes a regular column on MSNBC.com and often testifies before Congress on bioethics issues.

The report provides well-sourced materials on OSPRC, mostly from the CCP’s own state-run media reporting. A Chinese state-run newspaper reporter who visited the OSPRC is quoted in the report, saying that he witnessed the entire process of

“executing a death penalty criminal by injection method.” The reporter stated, “The execution site was crowded with experts, making it look like a scientific research lab.”



Photo of professor Gabriel Danovitch M.D., medical director of Kidney and Pancreas Transplant Program at UCLA, giving a speech at Doctors Against Forced Organ Harvesting (DAFOH) forum Global Transplant Community at Medical Crossroads in Philadelphia on May 1, 2011. (The Epoch Times)

OSPRC researchers told this same reporter that the data collected would “contribute greatly to the research on subjects like the dying process of the criminal, the physiological changes before and after the injection into a healthy person, the residual toxin in different organs after the injection of the toxin, psychological

changes of a person facing death, organ transplant after the injection,” and “on-site rescue from the toxin effect.”

Caplan responded that observing people’s psychological reaction during their dying process is absolutely unaccepted in the international medical community. “I’ve never heard of such a thing,” he said.

When asked if there was precedence historically to something similar to OSPRC, Caplan said the human experiments conducted by Japanese invaders of China during World War II could be a more provocative analogy than Nazi’s concentration camps.

The most notorious Japanese human experiment center in China during World War II was unit 731, located in the Pingfang District of Harbin City in Northeast China. The center was responsible for some of the most notorious crimes against humanity in modern history.

Victims were subjected to such human experiments as being hung upside down to see how long it would take for them to choke to death, having air injected into their arteries to determine the time until the onset of embolism, and having horse urine injected into their kidneys, among other atrocities.

The WOIPFG report quotes Wang Lijun praising the OSPRC: “For a veteran policeman, to see someone executed and within minutes to see the transformation in which this person’s life was extended in the bodies of several other people, it was soul-stirring.” Wang described the OSPRC to be the “transplant scene, the very spot of anatomization, the very spot of organ transplantation into the organ recipient.”

The report also shows Wang Lijun as instrumental in carrying out Bo Xilai’s campaign to eradicate the practice of Falun Gong. According to a policeman who worked under Wang in Linzhou City, Wang gave orders regarding Falun Gong that we must “arrest them all and kill them all,” the report said.

‘Vociferous Condemnation’

Caplan said the OSPRC “requires vociferous condemnation” from the international medical community. “Governments around the world should be condemning such activities, too,” he added.

According to Caplan, not doing so would be simply allowing barbaric practices to be conducted under the banner of science.



Photo of Police Chief Wang Lijun (R-1) supervising a group of "researchers" at OSPRC. Wang was the chief and Chinese Communist Party (CCP) secretary of Public Security Bureau Public Security Bureau of Jinzhou City, Liaoning Province, and deputy mayor of Jinzhou City. (Screenshot from CCP official website)

The WOIPFG report also indicates that the organ harvesting center is receiving technological support and participation from Western medical institutes in the United States and Europe. Caplan said it is hard for him to imagine that Western medical partners are aware of China's practice.

He urged the science and medical community to be on guard with China, and any medical collaboration related to human organs.

To raise awareness over China's organ harvesting practice, Caplan, who served as senior editor of the American Society for Clinical Investigation, jointly wrote an editorial [piece](#) with Howard A. Rockman, incoming editor-in-chief, and Laurence A. Turka. The article called on American medical journal editors and editorial boards to boycott research data and papers on human organ studies from China.

University of California at Southern California (UCLA) professor Gabriel Danovitch, M.D., who serves as the medical director of Kidney and Pancreas Transplant Program at UCLA, said he finds the report about OSPRC "terribly disturbing."

Dr. Danovitch is actively involved in the development of national management guidelines for clinical transplant care. Together with medical colleagues M. E. Shapiro and J. Lavee, the three expressed grave concerns over China's organ harvesting practice in an [article](#) published in the American Transplant Journal in February 2011.

Danovitch and his colleagues wrote, "We are distressed and outraged by the fact that, despite uniform and consistent international condemnation, those euphemistically described as 'donating' their organs and dutifully recorded in a national registry were prisoners, whose 'severe brain injury' was most likely a result of execution by a gunshot to the head."

They urged international medical societies and journals to be critical of

Chinese transplant centers. "As history has painfully taught us, in the face of a self-admitted crime against humanity, it is our moral obligation as individuals and a community to raise our voice and do our utmost to bring the process to a complete halt.

"If another 18,000 executed prisoners with 'severe brain injury in all cases' become organ donors in China, and we have not done our utmost to put an end to this practice, we will all have blood on our hands," concluded the article.

When asked what the international medical community can do to help, Caplan said, "We need to continue to urge medical journals around the world to endorse the notion of boycott. We need to continuously speak out in professional meetings and forums."

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