

# Kilgour: The world must take action against China's persecution of the Uyghurs

As with adherents to Falun Gong, this minority population is now subject to organ pillaging by a state that denies it is trampling human rights conventions.

DAVID KILGOUR ([HTTPS://OTTAWACITIZEN.COM/AUTHOR/DAVID-KILGOUR](https://ottawacitizen.com/author/david-kilgour)) Updated: December 10, 2019



This file photo taken on June 4, 2019 shows the Chinese flag flying over the Juma mosque in the restored old city area of Kashgar in China's western Xinjiang region. *GREG BAKER / AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES*

Uyghurs have been sent to more than 1,300 camps in Xinjiang in western China without trial or any legal procedure, according to Adrian Zenz, European academic and expert on China's ethnic policies. They endure endless hours of brainwashing that "kill the memory of who they are, wipe out their separate identity, language and history ... Even having a phone copy of the Koran or making a contact abroad can result in incarceration" Zenz says ([https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/china-finally-admits-it-is-building-a-new-archipelago-of-concentration-camps-will-the-world-respond/2018/10/11/fb3b6004-ccc6-11e8-a3e6-44daa3d35ede\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/china-finally-admits-it-is-building-a-new-archipelago-of-concentration-camps-will-the-world-respond/2018/10/11/fb3b6004-ccc6-11e8-a3e6-44daa3d35ede_story.html)).

The recent leak from a courageous whistle-blower inside China's Communist Party is important: The 403-page set of internal papers (<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/11/16/world/asia/china-xinjiang-documents.html>), provided to the New York Times makes it more difficult for President Xi Jinping and other party leaders to avoid culpability for the mass detention of Uyghurs. Six internal party documents obtained later by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (<https://www.icij.org/>) list draconian orders on managing the rapidly growing indoctrination camps.

In 2017, Xi began constructing a "re-education" network of camps for Muslim communities similar to those established elsewhere in China after mid-1999 for Falun Gong, a large exercise/meditation group that had been encouraged by the government until mid-1999. Both networks accept anyone arrested by police without any hearing or appeal.



*(Author Ethan) Gutmann notes that by 2017, every Uyghur man, woman and child in Xinjiang appeared to have been blood- and DNA-tested - likely for tissue-matching for organ transplant purposes.*

Author Robert D. Kaplan (<https://www.wsj.com/articles/why-china-is-brutally-suppressing-muslims-1537129695>) observes that China's massive Belt and Road Initiative necessitates the "complete subjugation of ... Uyghur(s)."

Organ pillaging from Uyghurs pre-dates that from Falun Gong. In 2011, author Ethan Gutmann published "The Xinjiang Procedure, (<https://longform.org/posts/the-xinjiang-procedure>)," detailing information obtained from Uyghur eyewitnesses living outside China. A former Uyghur surgeon in a Xinjiang hospital relates how he was ordered in 1995 to an execution ground to remove the kidneys and liver from a wounded, but living, man. Agonizing over what he had done, he later fled China.

In his 2014 book, The Slaughter (<https://www.amazon.com/Slaughter-Killings-Harvesting-Solution-Dissident/dp/161614940X>), Gutmann provides the rationale for his estimate that organs of 65,000 Falun Gong and "two to four thousand" Uyghurs, Tibetans and Christians were "harvested" across China from 2000 to 2008.

Gutmann notes that by 2017, every Uyghur man, woman and child in Xinjiang appeared to have been blood- and DNA-tested – likely for tissue-matching for organ transplant purposes. The first of nine crematoria was completed in Ürümqi, the capital, in early 2018; three fast-track lanes are now open for the transport of human organs in regional airports.

Uyghur witnesses at the recent China Tribunal in London described medical examinations in custody similar to Falun Gong experiences. An independent international people's tribunal, the China Tribunal (<https://chinatribunal.com/>), subsequently reported its conclusions to the United Nations Human Rights Council.

Although Beijing insists that it stopped extracting organs from executed prisoners in 2015 and instituted a system of voluntary organ donation, there is overwhelming evidence to the contrary.

The latest is a report in the British Medical Ethics journal (<https://bmcmethics.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12910-019-0406-6>) indicating that claims of reform involve the "systematic falsification and manipulation of official organ datasets in China." Beijing is artificially manufacturing organ transplant donation data; its reforms were "a mask for the continued use of non-voluntary donors who are coerced into giving

organs (<https://www.healtheuropa.eu/chinas-failure-exposes-organ-harvesting-crimes/94940/>)." "

Canadian human rights lawyer David Matas summarizes what is occurring in Xinjiang: "demonization (and) systematic blood testing/organ examination of Uyghurs; their disappearances/unexplained deaths or movement out of Xinjiang ... ; travel of transplant tourists into, and movement of organs out of Xinjiang ... (signs at airports); a depleting Falun Gong organ source ... "

The responsible international community must respond:

- Muslim-majority nations and other trading partners of China should urge Beijing to cease mass persecution of Uyghurs;
- Governments and international organizations should impose a global blacklist on the import of all goods produced in Xinjiang;
- Global Magnitsky legislation should be used to impose targeted financial/visa sanctions against officials identified as responsible for abuses in Xinjiang;
- Tourism to Xinjiang should cease; and
- The Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics should be boycotted.

Miles M. Yu, an historian on East Asia, concludes: "The rush (to construct) ... a large number of 're-education' ... camps ..., the systematic round-ups/arrests of Uyghur(s)..., the ominous surge in the number of new crematoria in Xinjiang – all sound the alarm of another genocide or even holocaust in the making ... Will the pogroms of the 20th century find their evil twin in the 21st century?"

Canada and the world should hope not. And take action.

*David Kilgour served in the House of Commons from 1979 to 2006, including a stint as Secretary of State for Asia-Pacific (2002-2003). In 2009, he published with David Matas *Bloody Harvest-The Killing of Falun Gong for their Organs*. <http://www.david-kilgour.com> (<http://www.david-kilgour.com/>).*

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