

CANADIAN MPS SHOULD VOTE THAT THE CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY AGAINST UYGHURS AND OTHER TURKIC MUSLIMS IN CHINA SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED AS VIOLATIONS OF THE UN GENOCIDE CONVENTION.

Message of Hon. David Kilgour, J.D., co-founder, International Coalition to end Organ Transplant Abuse in China (ETAC) (<https://endtransplantabuse.org/>) ; volunteer advisor to NGO International Support for Uyghurs (ISU)

**Parliament Hill Support Rally, 11am
Feb. 22, 2021**



Some of Uyghur Canadians gathering today near Parliament Hill from Windsor, London, Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, and Gatineau

The vote for Canadian MPs today is on whether to term the well-documented crimes against humanity escalating in East Turkistan/Xinjiang against Muslims as genocidal, thereby opting for a plain-meaning interpretation of the U.N. Genocide Convention. Canada was part of the unanimous UN General Assembly passage of the Convention in 1948.

Instead of ratifying the Convention, the U.S Congress in 1988 passed its own similarly-worded anti-genocide law. Successive U.S. administrations did apply the term “genocide” to Bosnia, Rwanda, the killing of Iraqi Kurds in 1988, the slaughter in Darfur in 2004 and similar acts in regions under the control of ISIS in 2016/17. The new Secretary of State Antony Blinken has endorsed Mike Pompeo’s view that Beijing is “committing genocide and crimes against humanity” in Xinjiang, but has not said whether the U.S. should participate in the 2022 Olympics in Beijing.

The UN Genocide Convention includes as genocide “measures intended to prevent births within the group” and forced transfers of “children of the group to another group.” There is now extensive evidence of both these inhuman practices against Uyghurs provided by NGOs, journalists and other observers in Xinjiang. Beijing is clearly engaged in continuing to erase the identity of the Uyghurs as a distinct people even if there have not been mass slaughters to date.

As many around the world now realize, Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims are rounded up and arbitrarily detained in so-called “re-education camps.” Estimates vary, but nearly two million from these communities are detained in these camps, making them the largest mass detention of a minority since the Holocaust.

Detainees are used for forced labour, and, according to a recent study by the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI), the supply chains of well-known multinational corporations are implicated.

It has been documented recently by victims, who are now refugees in democracies, on both the BBC World Service and CNN that detainees are subject to unimaginable crimes in the camps, including systematic torture and rape.

In October 2020, following hearings the all-party House of Commons Subcommittee on International Human Rights was “persuaded that the actions of the Chinese Communist Party constitute genocide as laid out in the Genocide Convention.” The subcommittee then explicitly called on the Government of Canada to “recognize the acts being committed in Xinjiang against Uyghurs (as constituting) genocide.”

In November 2020, Friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Center (FSWC) and the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights (RWCHR) called on the Government of Canada to implement the Subcommittee’s recommendations and recognize the atrocities as constituting genocide.

RWCHR Chair/former Minister of Justice Irwin Cotler wrote that “the mass atrocities targeting the Uyghurs constitute acts of genocide under the Genocide Convention” and urged “the Canadian Parliament (to) make (this) determination.” He has recently also suggested a reference to the Supreme Court of Canada for a declaratory judgement on the issue.

China is unique among about 200 independent countries today in that its organ transplant commerce system is state-run rather than a criminal offence done by unscrupulous surgeons. In mid-2006, David Matas and I as volunteers investigated independently claims of forced organ harvesting from Falun Gong practitioners across China. We released two reports and a 2009 book entitled *Bloody Harvest*.

Ethan Gutmann, author of *The Slaughter* (2014), later placed the persecution of the Falun Gong, Tibetan, Uyghur, and Christian communities in context. He explained his “best estimate” that organs of 65,000 Falun Gong and “two to four thousand” Uyghurs, Tibetans and house Christians were pillaged in the 2000- 2008 period.

Organ pillaging from Uyghurs in fact appears to have preceded that from Falun Gong. Dr. Enver Tohti, a Uyghur, has detailed how in 1995, as a general surgeon in a Ürümqi hospital in Xinjiang, 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, which expedites the transport of organs to global recipients. Xi Jinping himself has been quoted saying that Uyghurs should be shown “absolutely no mercy”.

The U.K.-based Independent People's Tribunal into Forced Organ Harvesting from Prisoners of Conscience in China was instituted by ETAC. It heard 54 witnesses on the persecution of Falun Gong members and the harvesting of their organs to determine whether or not criminal offenses had been committed by the PRC government.

In delivering the unanimous judgement, Sir Geoffrey Nice, QC, stressed the independence of the Tribunal and reluctance to find Beijing complicity on the basis of its unwillingness to engage in the proceedings. Despite silence from the party-state and refusal to defend its role in the organ commerce, the Tribunal found there was enough evidence to reach a damning verdict. The final report (Mar 2020) is 608 pages.

The Tribunal concluded that Falun Gong members were the primary victims of the harvest, but since 2017 a comprehensive DNA collection of every man, woman, and child from Xinjiang's 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, 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 "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 Tribunal's final judgement, Dr John Chisholm, British Medical Association (BMA) 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..." 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."

There are a number of initiatives the government and Parliament of Canada should take to end organ trafficking in China as a despicable commerce with an export component, but for today I'd urge you all to contact your MPs to vote to characterize the mentioned crimes against humanity upon Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims as genocide.

Thank you

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