

Declan Lyons

22 March, 2022

Thank you for the invitation to address this meeting on the topic of the cold and calculated genocidal campaign which has been underway against members of the Falun Gong movement in China for well over 2 decades. My name is Declan Lyons, I'm a Psychiatrist and Medical Doctor from Dublin, Ireland and I wish to draw the attention of the meeting today to an aspect of the brutal crackdown that shames and assaults us all, and which we may barely find credible such is the horror of the violation against the person and the human body that we will hear about.

I have spoken out against the persecution of Falun Gong shortly after the start of the CCP's onslaught against its own defenseless citizens in 1999. I was initially appalled to learn that Falun Gong practitioners were subject to incarceration in psychiatric hospitals and forced to endure torture and physical and psychological mutilation, in an attempt to force them to renounce their beliefs in the core principles of truthfulness, compassion and forbearance. I was not alone in condemning this crusade of savagery against defenseless spiritual observers- all the professional bodies that I have held membership of including the World Psychiatric Association have spoken out against the misuse of psychiatric diagnosis and politically repressive psychiatry which labels dissent as mental illness.

And we have been here before – the Soviet Union was well versed in falsely diagnosing political dissidents with severe mental illness and subjecting people to involuntary treatment in custodial mental asylums. Chinese forensic psychiatrists have been expertly taught by their Russian counterparts to force such interventions as Electroconvulsive treatment, painful acupuncture and injectable antipsychotic drugs without any genuine clinical indication, effectively rendering anyone who spoke out against the persecution of Falun Gong to be a candidate for a chemical straitjacket.

A new frontier of the perversion and corruption of the basic tenets of medical ethics was therefore well on the way to being opened up. The principle, that medical skills should only be deployed for the improvement of life and health, is summed up in the Hippocratic injunction "First do no harm". Sadly, in The People's Republic we have seen the pressing of some Chinese doctors to unethically deploy their skills for State-directed purposes of political and religious repression. This means however that the entire medical profession is at risk of being politically corrupted.

By far the most sinister dimension to the persecution however has been the assertion that Falun Gong practitioners have become a source of human organs to be transplanted into paying patients from abroad who travel to China in search of a kidney, a liver, a heart or a cornea. It has been well acknowledged that executed prisoners have provided a steady supply of organs for harvesting and transplant for many years but the number

of actual transplants at 60,000 to 100,000 per year, often taking place at military hospitals, far exceeds the number available through execution or voluntary post mortem donation. Forced organ harvesting is removal of a person's organs for the purpose of transplantation while the person is still alive- murdering the victim in the process. It is a process that kills victims on demand and is extremely lucrative with a potential return on each body (with usable organs) totaling up to half a million dollars. If, as suspected, Falun Gong practitioners, who are generally in a good state of physical health, are the primary source of these organs and account for the discrepancy between any potential sources of organ donation and the actual transplants that occur, then this must represent the most deliberate eradication campaign ever undertaken against a religious group since the holocaust.

Can you imagine the trauma and anxiety of clinging to life within the labor camp system in China, knowing that your very existence is in peril as at any moment your body parts could be extracted and sold to the highest bidder on the international organ donor market. Transplantation is always undertaken with the objective of improving patient survival, and society rightly valorizes those who donate organs voluntarily in life or who bequeath them to a stranger in need after death. The evidence for the widespread practice of forcible extraction of organs from prisoners of conscience you will have already heard. I do not need to repeat this. Why you may ask, does the world and some in the Chinese medical community and some in the medical profession elsewhere, choose to avert their eyes from this atrocity? Why is this cruelty institutionalized and normalized and existing on a such scale that it seems easier and more convenient to dismiss as speculation and rumor, or even Sinophobic propaganda?

The answer lies in the indifference and apathy of bystanders to cruelty, that they feel does not directly inconvenience them or impact on their daily lives. This is all a political system that has no moral compass, needs to perpetrate terror and savagery on its own citizens and history is full of examples of this today and yesterday. Aided by the perversion of science and technology, and comforted by censorship and narrowed access to free reporting, regimes are free to revel in corruption, brutality and horror. All the while citizens such as Falun Gong practitioners suffer and agonize knowing that just for expressing their spiritual beliefs they run the risk of not just arrest, detention and torture but also slave labor, disappearance and organ evisceration. If they are released having survived this massive organized violence, they are dehumanized, traumatized and permanently vulnerable to major depression, anxiety and suicide as I have personally witnessed. If deliberate and planned medical killing remains unprohibited, then who can be trusted within the medical community to deliver care when it is subsequently needed?

Yet we have seen that unacceptable breaches of human rights are being confronted today in Ukraine. These violations are unacceptable globally – unacceptable to governments, citizens, corporations, athletes and artists who have boycotted and isolated the Russian state in a massive and spontaneous wave of condemnation.

Deliberate acts of genocide are becoming difficult to conceal in an era of portable media platforms. Yet we need to do much more elsewhere and especially in China— Medics everywhere need to become aware of atrocities perpetrated by our Chinese counterparts and should embargo cooperation, research and academic partnership with Chinese transplantation services as many have already done. We call on the Chinese authorities to allow inspection of their transplant facilities, open transplant registers and reform the military hospital system. We should have a dialogue with our Chinese counterparts about the iniquities within our health systems which indeed are far from perfect, but to allow this conversation to even begin, there must be an immediate end to unethical transplantation practices and the gross obscenity of plundering organs to sell to the highest bidder. We call on the UN to investigate these concerns and collectively demand that an immediate end is put to the horrendous practice of forced organ harvesting in China which is one of the permanent members of the security council.

The cancellation of the Nordstrom 2 gas pipeline shows in my view that people are willing to advocate for human rights in other nations and even in this interconnected world to pay a price for this and to open their homes and hearts to those fleeing persecution. Let us sound the alarm for human rights once again as we see that the Chinese revolution is unfinished and that another long march is required so that China will no longer demonize, persecute or tyrannize its own citizens. Only then will it be a nation of wisdom and a worthy home to Falun Gong, one of the great spiritual movements of the 20th century.