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Let me begin by thanking “CAP – Liberté de Conscience” for organizing this important side-event to the 49th session of the UN Human Rights Council.

It is with honor, but also with sadness, that I speak today in memory of the countless victims who were killed for their organs. While we mourn the people who are losing their lives in senseless wars, we have to realize that we have failed to mourn the people who lose their lives due to forced organ harvesting in concealed hospitals and detention camps.

Over the past 23 years, an undisclosed number of Falun Gong practitioners — probably more than a million people — were killed for their organs in China. Yet, have we mourned for them?

Is the direction advocacy in human rights takes simply dependent on the public attention generated by social media and news reports? Everyone is now rightfully shocked to watch the human tragedy and the loss of human lives in the Ukraine, but how would we react if we saw all of the hundreds of thousands of people being organ harvested in China on social media and TV?

Then, why do we gather here today? Because we believe in the potential of humankind and in the basic rights of human beings. Human rights advocacy is to engage for those who are not in the position to advocate for themselves and for their own rights. Human rights advocacy gives a voice to those whose God-given rights have been stolen.

In the field of human rights violations, cameras, media reports and human rights organizations play an important role: they can divert attention and, by staying silent and failing to report on the crimes, can disguise a human tragedy, and even make it disappear. Conversely, they can bring these crimes to the main media stage. Thus, we have to remind ourselves that the God-given rights that come with our human existence must not be obscured by disinformation, cover-ups or silence.

Then let us take a deeper look at the practice of forced organ harvesting.

In 2006 independent witnesses came forward publicly and reported that organs were harvested from living Falun Gong practitioners. How did it come to this point? — In 1999, the Chairman of the Chinese Communist Party, Jiang Zemin, initiated a brutal persecution

against Falun Gong practitioners for the single reason that they are good, kind-hearted and honest people. They live by the principles of truthfulness, compassion and forbearance and practice peaceful, Qigong-like exercises in their daily lives for their spiritual enrichment, personal improvement and health. In other words, Falun Gong represents what the whole world so desperately needs today.

Let me say this in a different way: in China living people who strive to be kind and tolerant are being killed for their organs. If one does not have a gut-wrenching, visceral reaction at this point, then one has not comprehended the horror and terror that Falun Gong practitioners are living through in China every day. Living prisoners of conscience just wait in dread for the day when their organs and blood type match the needs of a patient who seeks and pays for a transplant organ.

China has successfully deceived the international community in making the world believe that it has an ethical transplant system. It has become the largest transplant market without having a transparent organ donation program, and without meeting the criteria of the Guiding Principles on Organ Donation and Transplantation set forth by the World Health Organization. Investigators have shown that the Chinese transplant market is heavily based on payments for organs and lacks transparency and traceability.

For the past 16 years, various groups of investigators and researchers have gathered overwhelming evidence about the Chinese transplant system and forced organ harvesting. The conclusion of forced organ harvesting in China is mostly based on three major areas:

1. Implausible and excessive transplant numbers combined with a vast expansion of the transplant infrastructure;
2. Implausible and manufactured organ donation numbers;
3. A plethora of eyewitness reports, both from Falun Gong practitioners and non-Falun Gong practitioners.

When combined, these three areas show beyond any reasonable doubt that the main source of organs for China's transplant market are Falun Gong practitioners. This has been extensively reviewed, examined and concluded in 2019 by the China Tribunal, chaired by Sir Geoffrey Nice.

Let me put these findings in a different perspective. The Chinese government has clandestinely delegated the executions of Falun Gong practitioners from court houses to hospitals, has successfully established a self-propelling execution machine that maintains itself through a profitable transplant market. The killing of prisoners of conscience is now covered up as a medical charity practice.

Transplant tourists might not be aware of this mechanism and are dragged into complicity with these crimes against humanity by signing up and paying for a transplant operation. By allowing transplant tourists to come to China, a new, unprecedented level of evil has been reached as the perpetrators of this cold genocide have channeled people from around the world to participate in the eradication of Falun Gong practitioners.

Whenever a transplant tourist demands a transplant organ, the process of killing a Falun Gong practitioner for their organs is set into motion. I am asking everyone, do Falun Gong practitioners not deserve the same level of attention and support as other victims of human rights violations?

We have established that the presence or absence of cameras and news media has a significant influence on the response to human rights violations. Another aspect of our inaction might be that we don't know enough or misunderstand the victims. Please allow me to round up my talk by briefly describing again what Falun Gong practitioners aspire to and stand for. Falun Gong practitioners simply want to improve themselves in their spiritual life; they simply ask for the freedom and right to practice their spiritual practice. They are kindhearted and compassionate members of our societies. They are the bedrock of goodness in today's world of arguments, wars and lies.

Humankind exists with a mission and has a meaning. In your heart, you know what your mission is. By speaking up for Falun Gong you not only help goodness to win in today's world, but you also reconnect to your original mission in life, reconnect to your original motive that made you choose to engage in the field of human rights.

Let me refer again to the camera. A camera is a device that has an aperture that allows light to enter a dark chamber. Either literally or figuratively, we need the same light to enter the dark chambers where organs are being forcibly harvested from Falun Gong practitioners and other prisoners of conscience in China. We need independent inspectors from the United Nations who, like the light in the camera, enter the dark chambers where the forced organ harvesting occurs.

I am not here to instruct others in what to do. I am just here to say that one has to make a choice, whether one likes it or not. Some might wish to avoid getting involved, yet that does not work. If one chooses not to row, the river will carry the boat downstream.

Silence is not neutral.

Silence allows forced organ harvesting to continue.

Silence is a missed opportunity.

Silence means that one has decided not to actively choose goodness.

By persecuting Falun Gong for over two decades the Chinese government has pursued a genocide against goodness in humankind. However, as long as we are free, we are free to make a choice and break the silence. So, what do we choose? To make a true statement: By advocating for Falun Gong you actually advocate for yourself and for your own good future.

Thank you.