

# China's Denial of Universal Human Rights

## A Call for Courageous Action at the 2024 Universal Periodic Review

As the global community convenes for the 2024 Universal Periodic Review in Geneva, a significant opportunity arises to affirm an unwavering truth: No nation is exempt from the tenets of human rights, and no government stands above the law of human dignity.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a cornerstone of global ethics, underscores the inviolability of human life and the security of the individual. These principles are not mere political positions, they are fundamental rights that every citizen of the world inherently deserves.

Yet, these rights are egregiously violated by the practice of forced organ harvesting - a heinous act requiring a state machinery capable of such large-scale atrocity. After 2000, the People's Republic of China has been implicated in such practices against Falun Gong, motivated by the intent to extinguish practitioners and their belief in the principles of truthfulness, compassion and forbearance.

China has failed to provide plausible answers to questions regarding the origin of organs and instead engages in opaque practices in organ transplantation, which violate the WHO Guiding Principles of transparency and traceability.

On January 23, 2024, China faces scrutiny by the international community at the Universal Periodic Review. Since the previous Review in 2018, the landscape has significantly shifted:

- ✿ Independent investigations and assessments, such as the one by the China Tribunal published in 2020, have concluded that forced organ harvesting has occurred in China and labeled China a 'criminal state' for its role in forced organ harvesting.
- ✿ Despite the Tribunal's findings and other sources of credible evidence, which have emerged in the last few years, research tells us

conclusively that the practice of forced organ harvesting of Falun Gong practitioners, Uyghurs and other prisoners of conscience continues unabated in China.

- ✿ Academic research demonstrates that the ongoing persecution of Falun Gong practitioners constitutes a 'Cold Genocide.'
- ✿ China's handling of the COVID-19 outbreak raised serious questions about its transparency and cooperation with global health mandates.
- ✿ The erosion of human rights in Hong Kong and aggressive foreign policies witnessed throughout the globe, including support for contentious, malevolent global actors, highlight China's progressive deviation from international norms.

China's actions reflect a disturbing ideology that a 'perfect world' necessitates the elimination of dissenting voices. This is antithetical to the principles of human rights, which advocate for coexistence and understanding through values such as those practiced by Falun Gong.

After over two decades of ongoing forced organ harvesting of Falun Gong practitioners in China we have to acknowledge a stark reality: As an international community, we have failed to stop this crime against humanity and cold genocide.

A decisive stance against practices like forced organ harvesting and the persecution of Falun Gong practitioners is not just a test of political will but a moral imperative for the preservation of human dignity and universal rights.

The call for an immediate end to forced organ harvesting of Falun Gong practitioners is not only a call for their right to life, but also a call for our right to learn about their practice of truthfulness, compassion and forbearance.

### WHAT SHOULD BE DONE?

1. All United Nations member states can critically and courageously question China's human rights record during the Universal Periodic Review. We urge each of them to do so.
2. We propose the creation of a Special Rapporteur on forced organ harvesting of living prisoners of conscience in China. DAFOH offers to contribute to this effort by providing the expertise of a DAFOH rapporteur to provide objective findings and additional information to the UNHRC and any government.
3. We call for the establishment of an International Criminal Tribunal for Forced Organ Harvesting in China.

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