



Forced Organ Harvesting of Living Falun Gong Practitioners in China

A) Timeline:

- 2006: Chinese whistleblowers reveal that organs from detained Falun Gong practitioners have been forcibly removed and that practitioners are killed in the process; first investigative report on forced organ harvesting by David Kilgour and David Matas
- 2013: China claims to implement an organ donation program; COTRS introduced as a computerized organ allocation system that eliminates tracing of organ sources
- 2015: China claims to have stopped using executed prisoners as primary organ source
- 2016: U.S. Congress passes H.Res. 343; the EU Parliament passes Written Declaration 48; Updated report by Kilgour, Gutmann, Matas
- 2017: Film crew from Korean TV Chosun films with hidden camera inside Tianjin Hospital
- 2018: Publication of the research paper “Cold Genocide – Falun Gong in China”
- 2019: Judgment by the China Tribunal
- 2020: COVID-pandemic: several cases of ‘emergency’ lung transplants within 1-3 days
- 2021: 12 UN Special Rapporteurs and Experts on human rights express alarm about forced organ harvesting in China

B) Evidence:

- Atypical course of annual transplant numbers with sudden, exponential increases beginning in 2000 and then a sudden drop in 2006, the same year the news of forced organ harvesting of Falun Gong practitioners was first exposed.
- Wait times for any transplant organ ranges between 2 days and 2 weeks; organs are supplied on demand, i.e. when the recipients ask for it; unprecedented and unseen in any other country with a public organ donation system.
- The organ donation program in China is relatively young and the number of registered organ donors is comparatively small; in 2017, 400,000 organ donors were registered, yet over 5,000 people donated organs—the ratio of *actual* organ donors compared to the available *registered* organ donors is unseen in other countries; in other countries it would require millions of registered organ donors to yield 5,000 actual, eligible organ donors.
- Witness reports: for over two decades Falun Gong practitioners have been persecuted and detained; thousands have reported being subject to forced blood tests and medical examinations without health-related issues, countless disappearances from detention camps and open threats by detention guards that if they don’t obey their organs would be removed. — One such witness account could be counted as an anecdote, but when thousands of detainees report the same experience, it then becomes evidence.
- Lack of transparency about transplant sources in China; organs are not traceable; transplant surgeries for transplant tourists are scheduled with two weeks advance notice; Kilgour/Matas conducted telephone calls to Chinese hospitals pretending to need fresh organs from Falun Gong practitioners—in 14 such calls the Chinese doctors replied that they use this type of organs “because they are fresh.”