



Ongoing Killing of Prisoners of Conscience for Organs in China

- Official figure of 10,000-15,000 transplants each year significantly understates the real volume
- Number of donations cannot supply transplants performed
- Reform of organ sourcing announced in 2015 not implemented in practice
- Most organs still taken from unwilling prisoners of conscience, mainly Falun Gong practitioners
- Directed by the state with military and civilian involvement

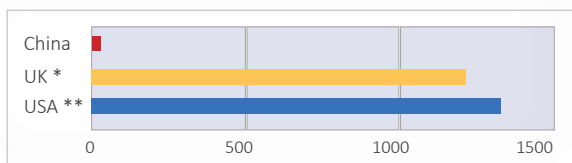
Transplant Abuse Continues Despite Claims of Reform

Investigators concluded in 2006 that prisoners of conscience in China were being systematically killed and their organs taken for transplants. While most of the world looked the other way, China's transplant industry continued to grow despite garnering few voluntary donations. The atrocity continues today despite the Chinese authorities' announcement of a full transition to voluntary donations in 2015.

ON-DEMAND TRANSPLANTS

In China, organ transplants are conducted on demand. They are scheduled in advance, have short wait times, and use organs taken from living sources.

Median Kidney Wait Time in Days



Sources: * *The Guardian* ** *United States Renal Data System*

Since 2000, hospitals have quoted wait times between days and weeks, including for re-transplants in case of failure. China Liver Transplant Registry reported in 2006 that more than 25% of cases were emergency transplants, for which organs were found within days or even hours.

One transplant hospital advertised “donors seeking matched recipients” and promised, “in case of failure, to continue to perform transplants until successful.” There are recorded cases of doctors excising several organs (8 sets of kidneys in one case) for one patient before a match was found. Some patients received second, third, or even fourth transplants. Hospitals are on record performing 10, 20, or even more transplants in a single day, sometimes carried out concurrently.

OFFICIAL VOLUME CHALLENGED

Since 2000, China's transplant volume has grown dramatically, including by thirty-fold between 1999 and 2005. The number of transplant hospitals increased from about 150 in 1999 to over 1,000 in 2007. China quickly came to perform the most transplants in the world despite the absence of a voluntary organ donation system. This industry has continued to grow after the killing of prisoners for organs attracted international scrutiny in 2006.

Chinese officials have claimed that China performs 10,000-15,000 transplants per year. However, this figure is surpassed by just a few hospitals alone. The U.S. performs an average of 6,000 liver transplants a year, a figure matched by just a handful of hospitals in China.

The Oriental Organ Transplant Center in Tianjin has more than 500 dedicated transplant beds. In October 2017, an onsite investigation by Korean journalists found that the center also housed foreign patients in a nearby hotel and continues to perform thousands of transplants each year. This observation contradicts China's statements that it no longer performs transplants for foreign patients.

The First Affiliated Hospital of Sun Yat-sen University reported in 2010 that “tens of thousands” of patients had received liver or kidney transplants there. China Economic Weekly reported in 2013 that Peking University People's Hospital had conducted 4,000 liver and kidney transplant operations within a particular year.

Implausible Transition to Ethical Organ Sourcing

Before 2010

No organ donation system
Almost complete reliance on death-row prisoners and prisoners of conscience

2010-2015

2010: first organ donation systems piloted
2013: national donation/allocation system started
23% of organs said to be donated
2014: 80% of organs said to be donated
2015: 100% of organs said to be donated

2015 to present

End of 2017: China's 373,536 registered donors would have yielded less than 12 donors, and the sum of reported donation numbers (including both registered and non-registered donors in ICUs) in each region could not have covered even the official number of 15,000 transplants performed.

International investigators joined forces and researched hundreds of transplant hospitals throughout China by reviewing media reports, official statements, medical journals, hospital websites, and web archives. In June 2016, former Canadian Secretary of State for Asia-Pacific David Kilgour, human rights lawyer David Matas, and investigative journalist Ethan Gutmann jointly published a 680-page report. The investigators found that China's transplant system likely operated at a minimum capacity of 60,000 to 100,000 transplants each year, or more than one million total transplants since 2000. They concluded that "China has engaged in the mass killing of prisoners of conscience, primarily practitioners of the spiritual based exercises Falun Gong, but also Uyghurs, Tibetans, and House Christians for transplants."

China asserted in 2015 that it had stopped using organs from death-row prisoners and transitioned entirely to voluntary donations. However, building a donation system and removing cultural prohibitions and impediments cannot be accomplished overnight. China Organ Harvest Research Center (COHRC) examined the implementation of China's organ donation system, actual donation figures from various regions, laws and regulations surrounding organ donation, and the abuse of brain death criteria in China. COHRC published a new report in 2018, which concluded that the officially acknowledged organ sources can account for only a small fraction of all transplants performed in China, and that large numbers of organs continue to be sourced from prisoners—primarily prisoners of conscience—in extrajudicial killings.

COHRC's new report provides up-to-date evidence and in-depth analyses of China's organ harvesting crimes within the context of the communist regime's systematic campaign to eradicate faith groups. Upon consideration of the evidence, these activities clearly fulfill all the criteria of genocide and crimes against humanity under international law. The report demonstrates that the campaign against Falun Gong is one of the most hideous human rights disasters of the 21st century in terms of its scale, sophistication, cruelty and longevity. China is also expanding the influence of its organ donation and transplantation system, entering into agreements to share organs with other parts of Asia, One Belt One Road regions, and beyond.

Who are the victims?

China first harvested organs from executed prisoners in the 1970s. It later started using organs from prisoners of conscience and minorities on a small scale.

Since 2000, those targeted for organ harvesting have been primarily practitioners of Falun Gong, a traditional meditation practice, whose adherents seek to cultivate the qualities of truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance. By the end of the 1990s, over 70 million Chinese citizens were practicing Falun Gong. Yet, the Communist Party's former leader Jiang Zemin saw Falun Gong's popularity as a threat to his rule and launched a campaign in 1999 to ruin their reputations, bankrupt them financially, and destroy them physically. Falun Gong practitioners have been systematically arrested and tortured in prisons, labor camps, and secret detention facilities for refusing to renounce their faith.

In 2001, the campaign against Falun Gong was included in China's Tenth Five-Year Plan. Meanwhile, organ transplantation has been prioritized in China's national development strategy without a voluntary organ donation system.





Worldwide Response

In June 2016, the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously passed House Resolution 343 condemning "the systematic, state-sanctioned organ harvesting from non-consenting prisoners of conscience" in China.

In December 2013, the European Parliament adopted an emergency resolution calling on the Chinese regime "to end immediately the practice of harvesting organs from prisoners of conscience and members of religious and ethnic minority groups."

Israel, Spain, Italy, Taiwan, Norway, and Belgium have passed laws criminalizing organ trafficking and restricting transplant tourism to China.

Freedom House released a report in 2017 citing its own review of "credible evidence suggesting that ... Falun Gong detainees were killed for their organs on a large scale."

In June 2019, the China Tribunal announced its final judgement: "Forced organ harvesting has been committed for years throughout China on a significant scale and that Falun Gong practitioners have been one—and probably the main—source of organ supply ... forced organ harvesting continues till today."

How You Can Help

- Learn about this issue at ChinaOrganHarvest.org and tell others about it.
- Contact your representatives to draft and support legislation to prevent individuals and institutions from becoming complicit.
- Sign a petition and join the millions who have spoken out against this crime.

The China Organ Harvest Research Center conducts and presents authoritative research on non-consensual organ harvesting in China. Our decade-long systematic study has formed the basis of reports cited by CNN, BBC, PBS, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, and *The Times of London*.

