

An Intercontinental Criminological Focus: The Killing and Forced Organ Harvesting of China's Falun Gong for the Profitable Purpose of Transplant Tourism



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Abstract

This article will examine the vicious killing of imprisoned Falun Gong for the sole purpose of harvesting their organs for profit, unbeknownst to them, in the country of China. The purpose of this article is four-fold. Firstly, it will clarify why the Falun Gong have been specifically chosen by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) to experience this horrific fate. Secondly, it will expose the unethical, fatal organ harvesting in China as absolute, inhumane carnage. Thirdly, it will provide proof that these slaughters actually occur according to tourists' timetables for China's financial gain. Finally, the article will show why individuals worldwide are consistently flooding to China for what is now known as transplant tourism, despite the source of the organs and the circumstances under which they are acquired.

Keywords: Falun Gong; Chinese Communist Party; Human beings; Criminological Focus; Crime scenes; Surgery; Human skin.

Introduction

Only seventy years ago in the year 1954, the first human organ procurement and transplantation was deemed a success; the organ was a kidney. Following this victorious surgical procedure in the late 1960s, a human liver, heart, and pancreas were also fruitfully procured and transplanted. Finally, in the early 1980s, human lung and intestinal organ procurement and transplants were efficaciously achieved. When organ acquisition is conducted in an ethical manner, and the donors offer them willingly upon their demise, transplantation is a triumphant feat for all parties involved. However, a very dark side to this practice exists in which organs are harvested from uninformed, unconscious, healthy, living human beings, resulting in the brutal deaths of these unapprised individuals. These unethically harvested organs are then transplanted into the bodies of recipients, but these beneficiaries are neither the country's poor, nor are they citizens who need the organs most desperately. The receivers are outsiders – tourists – who travel to China willing to pay top dollar, upon which the unwilling, unaware donors are timely slayed and their bodies scavenged for organs. While it sounds like the stuff of nightmares, it is the verified truth for the Falun Gong of China.

Who are the Falun Gong and Why are they Targeted?

The Falun Gong, or Falun Dafa as they are sometimes called, are participants in a spiritual movement that is referred to by the very same name. Simply stated, the Falun Gong practice Falun Gong. "The emergence and growth of the Falun Gong in the 1990s is part of a religious explosion of religious activity that has marked Chinese society since the 1980s" [1]. Falun Gong is a calming mixture of qigong exercises, Taoist and Buddhist teachings of morals and values, and calming meditation. The leader, Li Hongzhi, "is viewed by adherents as a deity-like figure" [2]. Essentially, Falun Gong "tenets are truth compassion and tolerance" [3].

The Chinese government supported Falun Gong, originally, because they believed that allowing the public to meditate and practice beneficial breathing exercises would decrease their costs on healthcare drastically. However, by the late 1990s the Chinese government changed their minds on account of Falun Gong's extremely rapid development. In fact, by the year 1999 Falun Gong exploded to having 70-100 million followers. This considerably outnumbered the membership of the CCP which was 60 million

at the time [3]. Any group that outnumbers the CCP is seen as a threat, and with the commands of several top officials, China banned the practice of Falun Gong, labeling it an unregistered religion, deeming it a cult, and propagandizing against it in a very harsh manner. Despite this, the Falun Gong wanted to continue their practices, standing firmly against governmental control, becoming known for their opposition to the CCP. Falun Gong who “continued to practice were arrested and offered a chance to rebuke it and if not, they were detained and tortured in labor camps” [3]. For the reason of lack of compliance to the demands of the CCP, the Falun Gong were specifically chosen, once imprisoned, to experience the most horrific of fates. That is the fate of forced, fatal organ harvesting.

Verified Accounts of Butchery and Carnage

With regard to China’s methodical persecution of the Falun Gong, specifically the completely unethical harvesting of their organs resulting in their deaths, Vice President of European Parliament, Edward MacMillen-Scot, stated “I never expected to see this in my lifetime” [3]. Showing less shock to the same, David Matas, senior legal counsel of B’nai Brith Canada and Nobel Prize nominee offered, “We do know for a fact that there are large scale executions in China. We do know for a fact that executed prisoners have their organs harvested unwillingly, without their consent. We do know for a fact that the Falun Gong are depersonalized, dehumanized, marginalized, repressed, persecuted, both in word and in deed, in the most foul ways possible” [3]. Stunned or not, the abundance of confirmed accounts regarding organ theft killings of the oblivious Falun Gong are numerous.

Former Canadian Secretary of State, David Kilgour, attested to meeting with Chinese expatriates including the wife of a former Chinese surgeon “who is now a refugee living in the US. Between 2001-2003 her husband removed the corneas from the eyes of about 2,000 unconscious Falun Gong practitioners. Then they’d be taken into another room and their heart and lungs and all other vital organs would be removed for sale purposes” [3]. A minute amount of torture camps was located secretly within hospital walls where awaiting doctors and nurses would simply do as directed. Since public access to operating rooms was not permitted, no uninvolved witnesses were ever present. Since hospital operating rooms are sterilized after each surgical procedure, no crime scenes ever existed. In fact, according to Chinese officials, the operating rooms would not be considered crime scenes because no crimes were ever committed. Everything from the rendering of a prisoner into unconsciousness to the surgical removal of his heart is indeed legal in Communist China. According to Jacob Lavee, MD, who has researched and written extensively on the subject, “for more than twenty years, organ procurement in China from executed prisoners has been taking place under official, legal knowledge of all authorities in China” [3]. Whatever remains of the corpses of the prisoners, after the foraging for organs has concluded, is

simply thrown into the incinerator located in the hospital’s boiler room. The incinerator was used as a crematory oven. The remains of the Falun Gong were “burned without leaving a trace” [3] and all is forgotten.

Not all organs are harvested from Falun Gong within hospital walls, as most torture camps were not even located near hospitals. Killing and harvesting are often conducted in the prisons themselves, including the Sujiatun concentration camp where live organ harvesting would be performed. Former Falun Gong torture camp survivor, Tsao Dong, was interviewed and discussed what was translated from Mandarin to English as “seeing bodies of fellow prisoners with holes where organs should be”. A former officer who worked for the Public Security System in Communist China admitted to “witnessing illegal arrests and torture of Falun Gong practitioners from the streets in China”. He then proceeded to discuss what one woman, a teacher and mother of a twelve-year-old boy, endured once arriving at one of the torture camps. He explained that the woman had “wounds and scars covering her entire body after a week of torment and forced food intake. Then when fully conscious, given no anesthetics whatsoever, they cut her chest open with a scalpel. Blood gushed out. She shouted out in pain. She said Falun Gong is great and you may kill me but you can’t kill us all. The doctor hesitated and then cut the veins and carved out her heart and her kidney, but when they cut her cardiac veins she started twitching. It was horrible. Her mouth and eyes were wide open. I don’t want to continue” [3].

Furthermore, a surgeon who worked in the Xinjiang province of China, Dr. Enver Tohti, attests to having performed forced organ harvesting from Falun Gong prisoners immediately after they were shot in his midst. Dr. Tohti shared that the Chief of Surgery at the hospital that employed him ordered him and two nurses to go to the hospital’s entrance gate where a car would pick them up. He obliged, as did the nurses. He asked the driver where they were headed and was told that they were going to the Western Mountain Execution Ground. He was worried that he was going to be shot. When they arrived, the hospital’s Chief of Surgery was already there waiting for him and the nurses. Dr. Tohti was told to come around the bend after the gunshot noises stopped, and he did. He was just relieved that they were not planning to shoot him. The nurses were young and afraid, but complied. Around the bend were “more than ten, maybe twenty corpse two or three meter apart. All with front of skull blown off. All wearing prison uniform. They say go to far right. The last one is yours” [4]. The Chief of Surgery ordered Dr. Tohti to remove the kidneys and the liver of the man who laid before him on the ground. That prisoner had been shot, but was not dead. “I was just robot to carry out the program. He was struggling and too weak to resist. He was bleeding and he was still alive. I took his liver out and both kidneys out. Chief said nothing happened today. I know what that mean living in Communist China. In UK need wait two year for pair of lung. In China fifteen day” [4].

Yet another substantiated account was that of Cheng Pei Ming, a Falun Gong and survivor of a torture camp named Daqing Prison. While in detention, Cheng had parts of his organs harvested without his knowledge. He shared, "They said that I had to undergo an operation, but I firmly refused. They held me down and gave me an injection, and I quickly lost consciousness. When I woke up, I was in the hospital and felt terrible pain in my side." [5]. Cheng had awoken to finding himself attached to his hospital bed with shackles, with an intravenous tube in his foot, a tube draining fluid from his chest, and a very large incision to the side of his chest that measured over a foot long. After he healed, back to the torture camp Cheng went, having no idea what type of surgery he had actually endured. "Sometime after his first forced surgery the prison guards told Cheng he would be forced to undergo a second surgery. Doctors told him this surgery had an eighty percent mortality rate." [5]. On the evening prior to this second scheduled surgery, Cheng was in the hospital where the guard failed to re-shackle him after returning him from the restroom. Unwilling to undergo the fatal surgery the following day, and being restraint-free, Cheng fled the hospital via the internal fire stairs. He made it to Thailand and was permitted to stay at a United Nations camp as a refugee. Later, Cheng made it to US soil. It was in America that the truth was revealed. Medical examinations revealed that "segments of his liver and a portion of his left lung had been surgically removed". These were surely transplanted. Cheng was only kept alive until the next organ recipient could make it to China, as a way to keep the organs fresh and functional, at which time he was scheduled for that fatal surgery. Luckily it never happened due to his prison escape. That second surgery would have been Cheng's demise, as he was strategically being sold for parts. "Cheng got a lucky break and escaped with his life. He hopes hearing his account of this heinous crime will motivate the international community to act and hold the CCP accountable" [5].

In addition, another verified account exists regarding a conversation between Knesset member, Professor Aryeh Eldad, MD, and an unnamed Chinese surgeon. The discussion left Dr. Eldad speechless. Dr. Eldad shared, "I read a paper in the medical literature saying they developed a method in China where they cover the severely burned patients, almost 90% burned, with human skin as temporary coverage. We use the same method all over the world with narrow strips of skin that are taken from cadavers, but this article from China said that they use a whole-body skin like a whole envelope". When Dr. Eldad questioned the Chinese surgeon regarding the methodology utilized in freezing such a large piece of skin, the surgeon's response was "we are using only fresh". Puzzled, Dr. Eldad inquired asking, "How do you happen to have fresh skin in such a huge dimension?". The Chinese surgeon's response was, "In any given moment, people in China are waiting for their death sentence, and we call the prison so they shoot a person in the right dimension to the patient I need to treat". Dumbfounded, Dr. Eldad continued onward stating that for ethical reasons, he would never participate in the utilization

of this method.

Deep Pockets of Transplant Tourists

Substantial proof exists that the slaughter of the imprisoned Falun Gong actually does occur according to the timetables of transplant tourists for the purposes of the CCP's financial gain. Evidence exists that the killing of the incarcerated Falun Gong occurs according to the itinerary of transplant tourists who have paid for their organ(s) and surgical procedures in advance. The aforementioned Professor of Cardiac Surgery, Jacob Lavee, MD, of Sheba Medical Center's Heart Transplantation Unit, shared that one of his patients who had been on his ward for over twelve months stated to him, "I'm about to go to China in two weeks' time. They have scheduled me for a heart transplantation". Precisely fourteen days later, that patient was in China and received a heart.

Considering the fact that a heart can only be ischemic, or outside the human body, for a certain amount of time in order to be successfully transplanted, there is no way that China could have guaranteed this transplant tourist a matching heart two-weeks in advance had they not medically tested Falun Gong inmates previously and killed the matching inmate in accordance with that transplant tourist's hospital check-in time after his long flight from Israel. Transplant surgeons are well aware of organ ischemia times. Kidneys can only be outside the human body for twelve to twenty-four hours, livers for only twelve hours, and hearts for a mere four to six hours. Therefore, the transplant tourist's airport arrival time, hospital check-in time, and surgical prep time must have been tabulated to coincide with the Falun Gong prisoner's execution and organ harvesting time. Timetables must run smoothly, like a well-oiled machine, in order for the transplant to be successful. Gabriel Danovitch, MD, Medical Director of UCLA stated "we know that some of the executions are timed for the organ transplants... we have a recipient and we have a donor; when are you going to shoot him? It's nauseating, it's disgusting, its criminal" [6].

A Canadian physician named Professor Maria Cheung of the Canada's University of Manitoba, testified that approximately fifty of her own patients traveled to China for organ transplants in the year 2014 alone [7]. "Wealthy recipients are put at the head of the line in poorer countries where organs can be found cheaply, and in which local poor recipients suffer from lack of supply" [7]. Reiterating Dr. Cheung, Dr. Lavee stated that "executions are scheduled accordingly for who could afford to get the organs... flocking from all over the world" [3].

How can China be sure that the organs of a specific Falun Gong prisoner will not be rejected by the travel tourist recipients? How do they know which prisoner's organs will be a proper match for each travel tourist? A Falun Gong survivor by the name of Jana Bin Li shared, "Everyone was taken to do a physical check-up and blood test. They did not care about our health, so why do they do a check-up for us?". Li was also examined with ultrasound

technology which, according to Former Canadian Secretary of State, David Kilgour, was “to see if her organs were in good enough condition to be sold”. As per researcher and attorney, David Matas, Esq., while blood compatibility tests and sonograms were always performed on the imprisoned Falun Gong, the doctors and nurses “would avoid any tests that had no use except for those used for organ transplants”. Kilgour divulged that all of the health information obtained by medical examination of the Falun Gong is put “into a computer bank. When you arrive for your kidney, a match is made by the computer, and ‘Miss Lee’ is taken out of the camp to a hospital, she is given some kind of anesthetic, and both kidneys are taken. All vital organs are taken. She is dead; her body is burned and counted as a suicide and you get your new kidney” [3].

The numbers don't lie. “Transplant volumes on a multi-year basis were pretty constant before the persecution of the Falun Gong and then shot up after the persecution... the explanation is the killing of Falun Gong for their organs” [3]. During the year prior to the persecution and imprisonment of the Falun Gong, only three liver transplants occurred in all of China. After the CCP targeted the Falun Gong to prison camps, by the year 2005, two-thousand-two-hundred-forty-eight liver transplants had occurred [8]. Most hospitals in China advertise wait times and pricing for organ-shopping transplant tourists. The China International Transplant Network website boasts phrases including “Organ providers can be found immediately” and “Organs do not come from brain dead patients because the organs may not be good”. Similarly, the Orient Transplant Center website states “12 liver transplants have been done this week” [3]. Twelve weekly is a far stretch from three yearly before the CCP besieged the Falun Gong.

Additionally, dated telephone call logs and telephone recordings to prisons and hospitals indicate that China informs travel tourists that they do indeed have access to Falun Gong organs on demand, as per the licensed interpreters who have translated the conversations from Mandarin to English. The spokesman of the Armed Police General Hospital in Beijing stated “Our organ transplant center is our main department for making money” [3], marking kidneys at \$62,000, lungs at \$160,000, and hearts \$145,000. The wealthy pay out of pocket, but the middle-class often get their insurance to reimburse them. This was the case for Israelis for quite some time. “70-80% of Israeli insurance companies” [3] use to reimburse Israeli citizens who traveled to China for organ transplants. However, after recognizing the unethical nature of China's practices, Israel has banned “reimbursement for transplants for Israelis abroad” because it violates both International and Israeli Law to kill for an organ. “Since March 2008, no Israeli has gone to China for an organ transplant” [3]. Similarly, in the United States, “Texas recently passed legislation that makes it difficult to seek a transplant in China by forbidding insurers to cover transplants there or transplants of organs acquired there” [9]. Like the country of Israel and the State of Texas, the professional hepatology journal, *Liver*

International, showed their dismay for the unethical practices permitted by the CCP regarding forced organ harvesting. In 2017, the journal withdrew an article by Chinese surgeon, Dr. Zheng, due to his failure to provide evidence that 563 of the liver transplants he completed had been conducted using the livers of consenting donors. Dr. Zheng was the lead surgeon on 1,957 liver transplants, including five on a single day. It is a statistical impossibility for one surgeon to ethically source five livers from five consenting donors in a twenty-four-hour period. While countries like Israel, states like Texas, and professional journals like *Liver International* stand firmly against the butchering of the Falun Gong and the rummaging through their chest and abdominal cavities for high-priced organs, people the world over are still taking part in China's transplant tourism. The question now is why.

Why is this Still Happening?

On the far-right end of the spectrum are some very ethically-inclined patients waiting on organ transplant lists who have staunch morals and values. These individuals state that they would refuse a Falun Gong prisoner's organ, even in their very dire straits. “Some say if I knew someone was killed on that day so I could get the organ I still wouldn't do it even though he was on death row”. They feel this way because the CCP does not comply with the ethical standards of free, informed consent being in place for an organ to be procured from an individual. They also feel this way because prisoners are innately under duress and, therefore, are unable to consent. These patients are the people who will accept their own deaths before compromising their principles. The slaughter of the Falun Gong for organs is not occurring on account of these individuals on the far-right, but on account of those in the middle of the spectrum and on the far-left.

Some patients in organ-failure do indeed choose to travel to China to acquire organs, but are sure to remain ignorant regarding the process and methodology. These patients are considered mid-spectrum. They will avoid any negative information regarding organ sources and circumstances of organ procurement. These people focus on the basic biological instinct of self-preservation, and can remain guiltless as long as they stay uninformed. Most patients “don't ask where the organs come from and couldn't face it if they knew” [3]. On the far-left end of the spectrum are fully-informed individuals who flood to China for transplants despite the source of the organs, and despite the circumstances under which they are procured. These individuals are aware that “Communism is the root cause of human rights violations” [3]. They are aware that between two and four million people are slave laborers in China, yet still buy their products. The far-left see the organs as products, and themselves simply as consumers of these products. It is “that whole Walmart psychology of going for cheaper goods”. They know that Falun Gong prisoners exercise regularly, do not smoke, and do not consume alcohol. They know that this ensures a healthy product and explains why China can assure the quality of their operations and results. China is viewed by many of the world's countries as a quick fix for products, and

according to NTD Television Anchor, Kean Wong, "What most people don't realize is that the Chinese regime believes they could get away with almost anything, and that the West doesn't really care about what they do to their own people so long as their own interests aren't effected" [3]. Wong's statement rings true, considering that "China's organ transplant trade is worth \$1 billion a year" [10]. Desperate patients will die if they patiently and ethically wait for a suitable organ, as an average wait time for a heart is eight months, a liver is twenty-six months, and a kidney is thirty-seven months [11].

Conclusion

The vicious killing of the imprisoned Falun Gong facilitates organ harvesting for profit to benefit Communist China. The Falun Gong were targeted by the CCP to be torn open and sold in chunks for financial gain on account of their religious movement that was viewed as a threat to the government. The bloodshed and organ theft occurs in accordance with transplant tourists' timetables. With regard to individuals worldwide flowing into China for this purpose, there is no end in sight. This is occurring because when supplies are low and demands are high in what are literally life-and-death situations, ethics are forsaken. What is seen as a modern-day genocide to some is viewed as a necessity to others.

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