



www.ChinaOrganHarvest.org

Press Conference & Panel on
**Latest Developments in
China's On-demand
Killing of Prisoners of
Conscience for Organs**

Monday July 15, 1:00-4:00pm
13th Floor, First Amendment Lounge
National Press Club
529 14th Street Northwest, Washington, DC

Side Event at State Department's Second Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom

"Forced organ harvesting has been committed for years throughout China on a significant scale," concluded the independent China Tribunal last month. Unlike black market operations, this on-demand killing of prisoners of conscience for their organs is driven by the state and carried out by both military and civilian institutions. This press conference and panel brings together experts and leaders of international human rights communities to present the latest findings based on over a decade of research. Presenters will discuss its scale, nature, organ sources, and victims, as well as explore strategic measures being implemented around the world to counter this human rights disaster.

Organizations:

China Organ Harvest Research Center (COHRC)
International Coalition to End Transplant Abuse in China (ETAC)
Human Rights Law Foundation (HRLF)
Citizen Power Initiatives for China (CPIC)

1:00-1:30: Opening and Press Conference
1:30-2:45: Panel Presentations
2:45-3:00: Break with Coffee, Tea, and Snacks
3:00-4:00: Panel Discussion and Q&A

Panelists and moderators:

Grace Yin, Founder and Lead Researcher, COHRC, and co-author, COHRC reports
Ann Corson, Editor, COHRC Reports, and Chief Editor, Doctor Against Forced Organ Harvesting Newsletter
Can Sun, Researcher, COHRC 2019 Report, and Fellow, Human Rights Law Foundation
William H. Boericke, Editor, COHRC Reports, and Legal Advisor, COHRC
Benedict Rogers, East Asia Team Leader, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, and Co-founder and Deputy Chair, U.K. Conservative Party Human Rights Commission
Yang Jianli, President & Founder, CPIC, Research Consultant, Harvard University
Louisa Greve, Member, ETAC International Advisory Committee, and Director of External Affairs, Uyghur Human Rights Project
Sean Lin, Political Commentator, Sound of Hope Radio Network

For more information and RSVP, please contact: info@ChinaOrganHarvest.org

[Press Release Embargoed Until 12am July 15, 2019]

Media Package: <https://www.chinaorganharvest.org/app/uploads/2019/07/dc-media-package.pdf>

New Report Details Extrajudicial Killings of Prisoners of Conscience for Organs and the Eradication of Faith Groups in China

Washington DC, July 15—Unlike black market organ trafficking operations elsewhere in the world, the on-demand killing of prisoners of conscience for organs in China is driven by the state, run on an industrial scale, and carried out by both military and civilian institutions. A new report published by the China Organ Harvest Research Center (COHRC) sheds light on “one of the most hideous human rights disasters of the 21st century.”

COHRC’s new report will be released at a joint press conference and panel presentation at the National Press Club the day before the U.S. State Department opens its Second Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom. The report incorporates recent developments in China’s transplant system since June 2016, highlights new testimonies from relatives of suspected organ harvesting victims in China, as well as from those who were tortured for their faith in China, but escaped organ harvesting.

"Forced organ harvesting has been committed for years throughout China on a significant scale ... forced organ harvesting is of unmatched wickedness," concluded the China Tribunal, an independent tribunal comprised of international legal and academic experts, last month.

Building on more than a decade of research, COHRC’s new [2019 Fact-Finding & Analysis Report](#) provides up to date evidence and in-depth analyses of the organ sources and victims within the context of the Chinese Communist regime’s (CCP) systematic campaign to eradicate Falun Gong in violation of international human rights conventions and international criminal law.

Since 2000, the Chinese government has prioritized organ transplantation in its national development strategies and continuously incorporated organ transplantation into its Five-Year Plans for multiple ministries. Led by heavy investments in research, development, promotion, industrialization, and personnel training in transplantation technology, China’s transplant industry has grown exponentially and become the most prolific in several years despite a declining rate of death-row executions and the lack of even a basic voluntary organ donation system until 2010. This striking rise in organ transplant volume coincided with the genesis of the CCP’s campaign to eradicate Falun Gong.

“Falun Gong is neither the first nor the last group to be persecuted by the Chinese communist regime, but it is the only group that has been openly targeted for eradication. Ample evidence has been accumulated to allow for a detailed study with respect to the development, methods, and outcomes of the persecution. The scale, sophistication, cruelty and longevity of the campaign against Falun Gong make it one of the most hideous human rights disasters of the 21st century”.

—Authors of the new COHRC Fact Finding & Analysis Report

Falun Gong is a traditional meditation practice whose adherents seek to cultivate the qualities of truthfulness, compassion and tolerance. By the end of the 1990s, the Chinese government estimated that over 70 million citizens were practicing Falun Gong. On July 20, 1999, the CCP, in violation of China's Constitution, announced a ban on Falun Gong, mobilized the state's massive resources to eradicate it, and began one of the most brutal human rights abuses in history.

While both the European Parliament and the U.S. Congress have passed resolutions condemning China's killing for organs, and some countries have passed laws prohibiting their citizens from traveling to China to receive transplants from illicit sources, the international community has yet to take a strong stance to stop these atrocities.

As a result of this silent acquiescence, the emboldened Chinese government has been emboldened to strengthen and broaden its suppression to other religious groups, including Uyghur Muslims, Tibetans Buddhists, House Christians, and all who defend and speak out for freedom of belief. Using the latest technologies, the CCP's fast-growing system of surveillance and violent repression now encompasses a much wider population than it has ever before.

"Studying the genocide of Falun Gong provides a lens through which the world can understand the persecution of other faiths in China. Addressing the persecution of Falun Gong is a crucial step towards ending religious persecution in China and the atrocities being committed against humanity and morality itself," the authors of the updated report explain.

The latest COHRC report demonstrates that China's transplant system continues to be supported by the killing of innocents and that by expanding the influence of its organ donation and transplant system and entering into agreements to share organs with other parts of Asia, One Belt One Road regions, and beyond, China is making the international community complicit in its crimes.

Read the new report at:

<https://www.chinaorganharvest.org/app/uploads/2019/04/COHRC-Factual-Findings-Report.pdf>

About China Organ Harvest Research Center

The China Organ Harvest Research Center (COHRC) is a U.S. nonprofit organization that conducts and presents authoritative research on organ transplant abuse in China, including the killing of prisoners of conscience for organs. Our researchers seek out and analyze evidence from a wide range of Chinese and overseas sources. In addition to publishing reports and providing consultation to government entities and non-government organizations, the center has presented its research findings at ethical and medical conferences around the world. Before establishing this organization, the group's lead researchers had studied the Chinese organ transplantation system for over a decade and contributed to reports cited by CNN, BBC, PBS, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *The Times of London*, and *Forbes*.

www.ChinaOrganHarvest.org

P.O. Box 2433, Middletown, NY, 10940. USA

Contact us at info.chinaorganharvest.org or 360-228-5508

Key findings of the New 2019 Report

- **The scale and trajectory of China’s organ transplant industry:** Beginning in 2000, the transplant industry in China began growing exponentially, and China came to perform more transplants than any other nation in just a few years despite a declining rate of death-row executions and the absence of a voluntary organ donation system. Its transplant industry continued to grow after the killing of prisoners of conscience for organs first gained international attention in 2006.

Based on government-imposed minimum transplant bed requirements for transplant centers, the 164 Ministry-approved transplant hospitals would have the capacity to conduct more than 70,000 transplants per year. The actual number of transplants performed yearly in China is likely to be much higher than the minimum system capacity and an order of magnitude greater than the officially cited figures of between 10,000 to 15,000 transplants per year. Despite its claim that voluntary donations have become the sole organ source since 2015, China continues to perform transplants on demand on a scale far greater than its official figure. Additionally, large numbers of foreigners continue to travel to China for organ transplants despite official statements to the contrary.

- **Regulation has not kept pace with claimed reform:** The national organ donation and allocation system (COTRS) is used as a façade to launder illicitly obtained organs. Given the ratio of registered and actual donors in the United States, the number of registered donors in China, as of the end of 2017, would likely have yielded fewer than 29 donors in total. Furthermore, the number of reported donations from various regions, including from hospital intensive care units, also cannot support the official number of transplants, which is already understated. Most organs used for transplants do not, and could not, come from the national donation and allocation system that is presented to the international community as the primary source of transplant organs in China.
- **An alternate source of organs must exist** because voluntary donations simply cannot support the actual number of transplants performed every year. Experts acknowledge a decline in the number of criminal executions in recent years, while evidence exists that organs continue to be procured systematically from prisoners of conscience via extrajudicial killings. The harvesting of organs from this source serves the Communist Party’s campaign to destroy what it declared to be an “enemy of the state.” It also serves the Communist Party’s “United Front” efforts to gain influence with foreign dignitaries and the elite among overseas Chinese, and provides renown and financial gain with which to incentivize hospitals and doctors to participate in these killings.
- **The main source of transplanted organs must be prisoners of conscience.** The campaign to eradicate Falun Gong was ordered by the central leadership of the Chinese Communist Party and carried out by both military units and civilian government agencies, including law enforcement, the judiciary, and the penal system. As a result, Falun Gong practitioners have been systematically imprisoned, tortured, and forcibly subjected to blood tests and other medical examinations related to organ function, both in state custody and in their homes, after which many, numbering in the hundreds of thousands, have simply disappeared.
- **China is expanding its transplant system outside of its borders** and is seeking to redefine its position as a global leader in the transplant industry through organ sharing agreements and other forms of engagement by international parties with Chinese transplant hospitals and personnel, including academic collaboration, commercial transactions, and transplant tourism.

Background

China's transplant abuse is undergoing increased scrutiny by the international community. Over the past decade, COHRC has analyzed hundreds of transplant hospitals across China and evaluated the implementation of its organ donation system in conjunction with government and industry statements, policies, legislation, regulations, projects, funding, medical journals, archived hospital websites, and media reports. In 2016, the researchers finished the research for a comprehensive report. Last year, COHRC released a [336-page report](#) during the 27th International Congress of The Transplantation Society and made [five presentations at the 2018 American Transplant Congress](#), regarding the nature, severity, scale, organ sources, and post 2016 developments of China's organ harvesting program.

Documents dating from 1962 show that the Chinese Communist Party's Central Military Commission initiated a policy, still in place today, that all death row prisoners and serious offenders may be treated according to the needs of national and socialist development and can be dealt with according to "revolutionary protocol" under which enemies of the state are deprived of all rights and utilized as state resources.

China began to conduct experiments in organ transplantation in the 1960s. The first recorded instance of organ harvesting from a Chinese political prisoner during execution was in 1978. In 1984, multiple government bodies and ministries jointly promulgated a regulation allowing the bodies and organs of prisoners to be used at will by the State under certain conditions. China later started using organs from prisoners of conscience and minorities, including Uyghurs, in the 1990s.

There were no major developments in this industry until 2000, when the Chinese government started prioritizing organ transplantation in its national strategy with significant investment in research, development, industrialization, and personnel training. The number of transplant centers in China grew from 150 before 1999 to 570 by the end of 2004 and more than 1,000 in 2007. In the year 2000, the number of liver transplants performed reached ten times the number performed in 1999; by 2005, the number had tripled further.

China did not have a voluntary organ donation system until March 2010, when it first piloted a program when the death-row executions had decreased, and its transplant industry had become "a stream without a source." Despite receiving only 207 donations in its first two years, the program was expanded nationwide with the announcement of a national organ allocation system, the China Organ Transplant Response System (COTRS), in August 2013. Official accounts indicate that the percentage of organs sourced from donations jumped from 23% in 2013 to 80% in 2014, with voluntary donations officially becoming the sole official organ source in 2015. Chinese officials claim that the donation framework was developed in just a few years, a process that took other countries decades.

However, this is not plausible because longstanding cultural prohibitions in China, and a lack of public trust in China's medical system, prevent organ donation on a large scale. The disparity between the number of available donors and the number of transplants actually performed, together with other factors, including evidence of on-demand transplants and data falsification, means that many organs must be coming from other sources.

On June 17, 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."

COHRC's new [2019 Fact-Finding & Analysis Report](#) provides up-to-date evidence and in-depth analyses of the organ sources and victims, as well as the methods and consequences of China's transplant programs, within the context of international law and the CCP's campaign to eradicate Falun Gong.