
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER PERSISTENT AND CREDIBLE REPORTS OF
SYSTEMATIC, STATE-SANCTIONED ORGAN HARVESTING FROM NON-
CONSENTING PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE, IN THE PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF CHINA, INCLUDING FROM LARGE NUMBERS OF FALUN
GONG PRACTITIONERS IMPRISONED FOR THEIR RELIGIOUS BELIEFS
AND MEMBERS OF OTHER RELIGIONS AND ETHNIC MINORITY GROUPS.

1 WHEREAS, the People's Republic of China implemented
2 regulations in 1984 that permitted the harvesting of organs from
3 executed prisoners; and

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5 WHEREAS, due in part to traditional views on the importance
6 of preserving the body intact after death, China has very low
7 rates of voluntary organ donations; and

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9 WHEREAS, the People's Republic of China performs more than
10 ten thousand organ transplantations per year, yet as of May
11 2013, it did not have an organized or effective public system of
12 organ donation or distribution; and

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14 WHEREAS, in June 2001, Chinese doctor Wang Guoqi testified
15 before the United States House of Representatives' International
16 Relations Subcommittee on International Organizations and Human
17 Rights that hospitals worked in collusion with state security
18 agencies to extract organs from executed prisoners without
19 written consent of the organ donors, and that these transplants
20 were a lucrative source of income; and

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22 WHEREAS, the United States Department of State's Country
23 Report on Human Rights Practices for China for 2011 stated,
24 "Overseas and domestic media and advocacy groups continued to
25 report instances of organ harvesting, particularly from Falun
26 Gong practitioners and Uighurs"; and

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28 WHEREAS, in September 2012, experts testified before the
29 United States House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs



1 Committee that United States patients continue to travel to
2 China for organ transplants and that the medical community
3 continues cooperation and training with Chinese colleagues,
4 creating the risk that they may be indirectly aiding abusive
5 practices; and

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7 WHEREAS, China's former Vice-Minister of Health Huang Jiefu
8 admitted publicly that more than ninety per cent of transplant
9 organs extracted from deceased donors stemmed from executed
10 prisoners in China; and

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12 WHEREAS, voluntary and informed consent is the precondition
13 for ethical organ donation and international medical
14 organizations state that prisoners, deprived of their freedom,
15 are not in a position to give free consent and that the practice
16 of sourcing organs from prisoners is a violation of ethical
17 guidelines in medicine; and

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19 WHEREAS, Falun Gong is an ancient spiritual discipline
20 which emphasizes moral teachings of truthfulness, compassion,
21 and tolerance, also includes meditation and exercises, and
22 became immensely popular in the 1990s, reaching over seventy
23 million practitioners in China; and

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25 WHEREAS, in July 1999, the Chinese Communist Party launched
26 an intensive, nationwide campaign of persecution designed to
27 eradicate the spiritual practice of Falun Gong, reflecting the
28 party's long-standing intolerance of large and independent civil
29 societal groups; and

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31 WHEREAS, since 1999, hundreds of thousands of Falun Gong
32 practitioners have been detained illegally in reeducation-
33 through-labor camps, detention centers, and prisons, where
34 torture and abuse are routine; and

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36 WHEREAS, the number of organ transplant operations in China
37 increased significantly after 1999, corresponding with the onset
38 of the persecution of Falun Gong; and

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40 WHEREAS, this increase does not appear to be attributable
41 either to an overall increase in the number of death row inmates
42 or to an increase in voluntary donations, and, in fact, human
43 rights groups and legal experts believe there has been a



1 decrease in the number of executions in China in recent years;
2 and

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4 WHEREAS, Chinese hospitals have advertised waiting times of
5 two to four weeks for kidney and liver transplants, and
6 documented cases of scheduled heart transplantations with three
7 weeks advance notice; and

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9 WHEREAS, because organs have a very limited survival period
10 outside the body, such short wait times are best explained by
11 the existence of a large pool of living donors whose organs can
12 be harvested on demand; and

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14 WHEREAS, interviews conducted with previously imprisoned
15 Falun Gong practitioners suggest that, while in custody, they
16 were targeted for medical exams, including blood and urine
17 tests, x-rays, ultra-sound tests, and selective physical exams;
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20 WHEREAS, the targeted nature of these exams suggests they
21 are intended to assess the health of the practitioners' vital
22 organs and their potential candidacy for organ harvesting; and

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24 WHEREAS, other prisoner groups are generally not subjected
25 to such medical tests; and

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27 WHEREAS, in 2006, doctors from seventeen Chinese hospitals
28 admitted in phone calls with undercover investigators that they
29 used or could obtain vital organs of Falun Gong prisoners of
30 conscience for transplant, with some of the doctors implicating
31 local courts and security agencies in the organ procurement
32 process; and

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34 WHEREAS, the United Nations Committee Against Torture and
35 the Special Rapporteur on Torture have expressed concern over
36 the allegations of organ harvesting from Falun Gong prisoners,
37 and have called on the Government of the People's Republic of
38 China to increase accountability and transparency in the organ
39 transplant system and punish those responsible for abuses; and

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41 WHEREAS, the killing of religious or political prisoners
42 for the purpose of selling their organs for transplant is an
43 egregious and intolerable violation of the fundamental right to
44 life; now, therefore,



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2 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
3 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
4 Session of 2014, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature
5 calls on the Government of the People's Republic of China to
6 immediately end the practice of organ harvesting from prisoners,
7 and particularly from Falun Gong prisoners of conscience and
8 members of other religious and ethnic minority groups; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Department of
11 State is urged to issue a travel warning for United States
12 citizens traveling to China for organ transplants informing them
13 that the organ source for their operation may be a prisoner of
14 conscience; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
17 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
18 United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of
19 Representatives, Hawaii's congressional delegation, the United
20 States Secretary of State, and the Ambassador of the People's
21 Republic of China to the United States.
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OFFERED BY: _____

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