

Cover Letter

WHAT IS FALUN GONG: Falun Dafa or Falun Gong is a Chinese spiritual practice, whose key features are five meditative *qigong* exercises, with particular emphasis on the tenets of **Truth, Compassion and Tolerance**. Nearly 100 million people practiced it in China in the nineties, it is also peacefully practiced in 114 countries all over the world.

PERSECUTION IN CHINA: In 1999 the Chinese Dictator Jiang Zemin began a ruthless persecution of Falun Dafa in China. Millions of people were arrested, tortured and sent to prison or labor camp for their belief in Truth Compassion and Tolerance. Thousands of people are confirmed murdered and hundreds of thousands are imprisoned extrajudicially as prisoners of conscience.

- **Freedom House 2017 Annual Report¹:** Falun Gong practitioners across China are subject to widespread surveillance, arbitrary detention, imprisonment, and torture, and they are at a high risk of extrajudicial execution. Freedom House independently verified 933 cases of Falun Gong adherents sentenced to prison terms of up to 12 years between January 1, 2013, and June 1, 2016, often for exercising their right to freedom of expression in addition to freedom of religion. This is only a portion of those sentenced, and thousands more are believed to be held at various prisons and extralegal detention centers.
- **U.S. State Department 2007 Human Rights Report: China²:** "In March 2006 UN Special Rapporteur Nowak reported that Falun Gong practitioners accounted for 66 percent of victims of alleged torture while in government custody. Since the crackdown on Falun Gong began in 1999, estimates of the number of Falun Gong adherents who died in custody due to torture, abuse, and neglect ranged from several hundred to a few thousand."
- The Public Security Bureau in Beijing determined that up to April 2001 a total of 830,000 Falun Gong practitioners had been registered or arrested. This figure does not include those who refused to give their names to police.

LABOR CAMPS IN CHINA- Using Human Tragedy and Human Suffering as a Money making Enterprise:

CNN and Fox have reported that notes found in items sold in Kmart, Wal-Mart came from prisoners of conscience forced in labor camps who worked 20 hour days in terrible conditions. In an era of Globalization, what is happening in China can have international impacts.

https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/11/07/chinese-prisoner-letter-identified_n_4233949.html

<https://www.foxnews.com/us/arizona-woman-discovers-note-from-chinese-prisoner-in-purse-bought-at-walmart>

https://www.oregonlive.com/happy-valley/index.ssf/2012/12/halloween_decorations_carry_ha.html

ORGAN HARVESTING: There have been credible evidences suggesting that beginning in the early 2000s, Falun Gong detainees were killed for their organs on a large scale. David Matas, a Canadian human rights lawyer; and David Kilgour, former member of the Canadian Parliament and ambassador to the Asia-Pacific region, and Independent researchers Ethan Gutmann; have concluded after extensive research that the majority of these pillaged organs are from live prisoners of conscience, predominantly Falun Gong practitioners. See <http://bloodyharvest.info>

- **David Kilgour, Ethan Gutmann & David Matas, "Bloody Harvest/The Slaughter: An Update", June 22, 2016³:** The ultimate conclusion is that the Chinese Communist Party has engaged the state in the mass killings of innocents, primarily practitioners of the spiritually based set of exercises, Falun Gong, but also Uyghurs, Tibetans, and select House Christians, in order to obtain organs for transplants.

¹ https://freedomhouse.org/sites/default/files/FH_2017_BattleForChinasSpirit_Falun_Gong_0.pdf

² <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2007/100518.htm>

³ <https://endtransplantabuse.org/an-update/>

- **Freedom House 2017 Annual Report⁴:** It is in the context of dehumanizing propaganda, severe abuse in custody, and economic inducements that the ultimate form of financial exploitation has been reported: the killing of Falun Gong detainees and the extraction of their organs to be sold at high prices to Chinese patients and foreign “transplant tourists” as part of a multibillion-dollar industry. The allegations first surfaced in 2006, and several investigations by foreign journalists and legal specialists have found them to be credible; some members of the medical community have voiced their own concerns.
- **The United Nations rapporteurs** on torture and religious intolerance asked in the years 2007 and 2008 for the Government of China to account for the large discrepancy between the volumes of transplants they claimed to have made and the volume of sources they were prepared to acknowledge. The Government of China answered these queries in 2007 with silence, in 2008 with propaganda, and in 2015 with fiction.
- **BBC⁵ and a Korean TV station (TV Chosun) Documentary⁶**
Waiting time for an organ is from a few days to 7 weeks; and that if recipients pay (called a ‘donation’) more, they can get an organ even sooner.

Florida Resident Experience: Iris Lu is a staff working for USF. Her mom was sentenced to prison twice because of her belief. On February 24 2017, her Mom was sentenced to 6 years in prison⁷. **University of South Florida Student Government** have passed a resolution to support her family and to call for an end of the persecution.

State Resolutions in US: The following U.S. states have passed resolutions condemning the persecution as well as forced organ harvesting: Arkansas House Resolution 1022 (2019), **Georgia** House Resolution 944 and Senate Resolution 629(2018), **Arizona** House Concurrent Memorial 2004 (2018),**Pennsylvania** House Resolution 27 (2017), **Missouri** Senate resolution SCR8 (2017),**Minnesota** Senate Resolution SF2090 (2016), **Illinois** House Resolution 0730 (2014), **Pennsylvania** House Resolution 1052 (2014), **Maine** Senate-House Joint Resolution 0105.

US House Resolution 343: On June 13, 2016, the U.S. Congress unanimously passed House Resolution 343 sponsored by Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen expressing concerns over China’s organ procurement from non-consenting prisoners of conscience

It is my sincere hope that Florida can pass a resolution to call for the end of the persecution of Falun Gong in China and expose the crime of forced organ Harvesting. Such measures can have a global impact, giving hope to people of conscience in China. I look forward to working with you to help Florida stand on the side of humanity and the right side of history. Feel free to let me know if you have any questions.

⁴ https://freedomhouse.org/sites/default/files/FH_2017_BattleForChinasSpirit_Falun_Gong_0.pdf

⁵ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/w3csxy14>

⁶ <https://dafoh.org/page/20/>

⁷ Congressional Executive Commission On China: <http://ppdcecc.gov/QueryResultsDetail.aspx?PrisonerNum=11844>

State Resolution (Draft)

Expressing solidarity with Falun Gong practitioners who have lost lives, freedoms, and rights for adhering to their beliefs and practices and condemning the practice of forced organ harvesting in China, and for other purposes.

WHEREAS Falun Gong is a spiritual practice with key values of truthfulness, compassion and forbearance for achieving physical and spiritual well-being through exercise and meditation; it became immensely popular in China in the 1990s, with multiple estimates placing the number of practitioners upwards of 70,000,000¹;

WHEREAS in July 1999, the Chinese Communist Party launched an intensive, nationwide persecution designed to eradicate the spiritual practice of Falun Gong, reflecting the party's long-standing intolerance of large independent civil society groups²; and

WHEREAS a review of the Government of the People's Republic of China by the United Nations Human Rights Council's Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review in October 2013 recommended that China "Stop the prosecution and persecution of people for the practice of their religion or belief including Catholics, other Christians, Tibetans, Uyghurs, and Falun Gong"³;

WHEREAS persecution of Falun Gong practitioners involves the widespread use of torture, forced labor work, brainwashing and other abuses in extralegal reeducation-through-labor camps, detention centers and prisons⁴; and

WHEREAS Freedom House reported in 2015 that Falun Gong practitioners comprise the largest portion of prisoners of conscience in China, and face high risk of dying or being killed in custody⁵;

WHEREAS Ms. Deng Cuiping, the mother of a Florida resident, had been mentally and physically tortured in prison from 2006 to 2008, and was sentenced to six years by Chinese authorities again in early 2017 for pursuing her right to hold and exercise her spiritual belief⁶;

¹ Freedom House Special Report: The Battle for China's Spirit--Religious Revival, Repression, and Resistance under Xi Jinping, February, 2017, pg. 3

https://freedomhouse.org/sites/default/files/FH_2017_BattleForChinasSpirit_Falun_Gong_0.pdf

² H.Res.343. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-resolution/343/text>

³ <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G13/188/55/PDF/G1318855.pdf?OpenElement>

⁴ Congressional-Executive Commission on China 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

<https://www.cecc.gov/publications/annual-reports/2017-annual-report> and Freedom House Special Report: The Battle for China's Spirit--Religious Revival, Repression, and Resistance under Xi Jinping, February, 2017, pg. 7

https://freedomhouse.org/sites/default/files/FH_2017_BattleForChinasSpirit_Falun_Gong_0.pdf

⁵ H.Res.343. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-resolution/343/text>

⁶ Political Prisoner Database (PPD) <http://ppdcecc.gov/QueryResultsDetail.aspx?PrisonerNum=11844>; "Mother's Day wish from Chinese daughter: Free my mom", *USA Today*, May 12, 2017,

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2017/05/12/mothers-day-china-daughter-religious-persecution-column/101523502/>; and "Temple Terrace woman plans roadside plea to Chinese president over imprisoned mother", *Tampa Bay Times*, Apr 6, 2017

<http://www.tampabay.com/news/humaninterest/temple-terrace-woman-plans-roadside-plea-to-chinese-president-over/2319304>

WHEREAS, according to overseas Falun Gong and human rights organizations, since 1999, a few thousand Falun Gong adherents have died in custody from torture, abuse, and neglect⁷;

WHEREAS many Falun Gong prisoners of conscience are forced to undergo medical exams, blood testing, urine testing and x-rays, despite being tortured⁸; and

WHEREAS the organ transplantation system in China does not comply with the World Health Organization's requirement of transparency and traceability in organ procurement pathways; and

WHEREAS organs were forcibly harvested from Falun Gong practitioners in detention centers and prisons without voluntary and informed consent⁹; and

WHEREAS hospitals receive organs from these prisons and the harvested organs are then used for transplants; and

WHEREAS recipients for these transplants are Chinese or individuals from abroad, including United States citizens¹⁰; and

WHEREAS in June 2001, Chinese doctor Wang Guoqi testified before the United States House of Representatives International Relations Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights that hospitals work in collusion with state security agencies to extract organs from executed prisoners without written consent of the organ donors and that these transplants were a lucrative source of income¹¹; and

WHEREAS in 2006, Canadian researchers David Matas, human rights attorney, and David Kilgour, former Canadian Secretary of State for Asia-Pacific, conducted an independent investigation into allegations of organ harvesting from Falun Gong prisoners in China, and concluded that Falun Gong practitioners being killed for their organs was highly probable¹²;

WHEREAS, the United States Department of State, in its 2011 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices stated, "Overseas and domestic media and advocacy groups continued to report instances of organ harvesting, particularly from Falun Gong practitioners and Uighurs"¹³; and

⁷ http://en.minghui.org/emh/special_column/death_cases/

⁸ Organ Harvesting of Falun Gong Practitioners in China: A Summary of the Evidence, pg.4

⁹ David Matas & David Kilgour, "Bloody Harvest: Revised Report into Allegations of Organ Harvesting of Falun Gong Practitioners in China", Jan. 31, 2007

http://organharvestinvestigation.net/report0701/report20070131.htm#_Toc160145132

¹⁰ Gill J, Madhira BR, Gjertson D, Lipshutz G, Cecka JM, Pham PT, Wilkinson A, Bunnapradist S, Danovitch GM. [Transplant tourism in the United States: a single-center experience.](#) *Clin J Am Soc Nephrol.* 2008 Nov;3(6):1820-8.

¹¹ Craig S. Smith, "Doctor Says He Took Transplant Organs From Executed Chinese Prisoners", *The New York Times*, JUNE 29, 2001 <http://www.nytimes.com/2001/06/29/world/doctor-says-he-took-transplant-organs-from-executed-chinese-prisoners.html>

¹² <http://organharvestinvestigation.net/>

¹³ 2011 Human Rights Report: China, Page 6: Paragraph 2
<https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/186478.pdf>

WHEREAS in May 2012, the World Organization to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong released telephone transcripts and audio recordings of conversations between undercover investigators and senior Chinese Communist Party officials, in which several officials indicated that central authorities were aware of or involved in organ harvesting from Falun Gong prisoners¹⁴; and

WHEREAS in 2016, Matas, Kilgour, and journalist Ethan Gutmann published findings that the true number of transplants conducted in China is much higher than the official numbers¹⁵; and

WHEREAS a 2017 report by Freedom House concluded that there was “credible evidence suggesting that beginning in the early 2000s, Falun Gong detainees were killed for their organs on a large scale”¹⁶; and

WHEREAS voluntary and informed consent is the precondition for ethical organ donation and international medical organizations state that prisoners deprived of their freedom are not in the position to give consent¹⁷; and

WHEREAS the practice of sourcing organs from prisoners is a violation of ethical guidelines in medicine; and

WHEREAS the killing of prisoners for the purpose of selling their organs for transplant is an intolerable violation of the fundamental right to life: Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives calls upon the Government of the People's Republic of China to immediately end the persecution of the Falun Gong, and the immediate release of all Falun Gong practitioners; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives call upon the Government of the People's Republic of China to immediately end the practice of forced organ harvesting from all prisoners, particularly from Falun Gong prisoners and members of other religious and ethnic minority groups; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives call upon the Government of the People's Republic of China to increase accountability and transparency in the organ transplant system and punish those responsible for abuses; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the United States Government to commence a full and transparent investigation into forced organ harvesting practices in the People's Republic of China; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives call upon the United States Government to prohibit any

¹⁴ <http://www.stoporganharvesting.org/phone-investigations/>

¹⁵ James Griffiths, “Report: China still harvesting organs from prisoners at a massive scale”, *CNN*, June 24, 2016, <http://www.cnn.com/2016/06/23/asia/china-organ-harvesting/index.html> and David Kilgour, Ethan Gutmann & David Matas, “Bloody Harvest/The Slaughter: An Update”, June 22, 2016, <http://endorganpillaging.org/an-update/>

¹⁶ Freedom House Special Report: The Battle for China’s Spirit--Religious Revival, Repression, and Resistance under Xi Jinping, February, 2017, pg. 13

https://freedomhouse.org/sites/default/files/FH_2017_BattleForChinasSpirit_Falun_Gong_0.pdf

¹⁷ The Transplantation Society. Policy & Ethics.

https://www.tts.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=11&Itemid=223

Accessed 28 Jan 2017.

doctors involved in unethical organ procurement or transplantation surgery using organs harvested from living prisoners in China from gaining entry into the United States; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage the medical community of this Commonwealth to help raise awareness of unethical organ transplant practices in China.