



Zhen Shan Ren
Truthfulness Compassion Forbearance

Falun Dafa Association of Australia Inc

The Hon Kevin Andrews MP
Chair of the Human Rights Sub-Committee
Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600

18 May 2020

Dear Mr Andrews

Inquiry into the use of targeted sanctions to address human rights abuses

Supplementary Submission – Coronavirus Impact

I write on behalf of the Falun Dafa Association of Australia to ask that the Sub-Committee accept this supplementary submission, in addition to our submission lodged on 30 January 2020.

During preparation of our initial submission, the impact of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) was yet to be felt in Australia. Now, in May 2020 we are all too aware of the impact and the tragic loss of life and economic damage suffered in Australia and around the world.

There have been many reports on how the Chinese government responded to the coronavirus outbreak in Wuhan and other Chinese cities. The Chinese Communist Party employed its methods of threatening doctors who raised the alarm, suppressing whistleblowers, censoring online and social media, and police warnings against *“illegal acts of fabricating, disseminating, spreading rumours and disturbing social order.”*¹

What has not been widely reported is the impact of the coronavirus on the Chinese Communist Party’s ongoing organ harvesting industry. We believe an examination of this topic will be informative and helpful to the Inquiry when determining whether to impose sanctions upon individuals who commit human rights abuses.

At the end of February this year, Communist Party-aligned media in China reported the *“World’s first double-lung transplant for COVID-19 infection succeeds in China.”*² It was alleged that the donor was brain-dead and transported 500 miles to Wuxi from Henan Province.³ Other media noted it would be a miracle in any other country to find a pair of matching lungs within a few days.⁴ Yet such “miracles” continue to be routine in China.

¹ <https://www.news.com.au/national/nsw-act/covid19-chinas-hitech-methods-of-censoring-coronavirus/news-story/28e0436f0a8abac79555f1176999027f>

² <https://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1181228.shtml>

³ http://www.china.org.cn/china/2020-03/02/content_75764377.htm

⁴ https://www.theepochtimes.com/lung-transplants-cast-doubt-on-chinas-organ-donation-program_3290203.html

There are other reports of coronavirus related transplants in China.⁵ *“Whilst around the world waiting times for a single lung from a suitable donor could be years, China has shown this week that it need only be days, for two perfectly matched lungs to be rustled up.”*⁶

The China Daily article of 1 March 2020 reports that, *“The first double lung transplant for a patient infected with novel coronavirus pneumonia was successfully performed in Wuxi, East China's Jiangsu province, on Saturday.”*⁷ It is reasonable to assume “Saturday” refers to the Saturday prior to publication of the article which would be 29 February. The article goes on to say, *“Doctors used endotracheal intubation on Feb 7 and the extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) on Feb 22. The patient later was transferred to Wuxi No 5 People's Hospital on Monday.”* The 22 February was a Saturday, so it is reasonable to assume that “Monday” refers to 24 February. Given that Chinese media reports note the day of the double lung transplantation was Saturday 29 February, it indicates that only a 5-day period was needed to ‘rustle up’ matching lungs.

We also note the November 2019 article in the BMC Medical Ethics journal, titled, *Analysis of official deceased organ donation data casts doubt on the credibility of China's organ transplant reform*, by Matthew P. Robertson, Raymond L. Hinde & Jacob Lavee.⁸ The article concluded that China is, *“artificially manufacturing organ transplant donation data,”* and *“that the new system of voluntary donations operates alongside and not instead of forced extractions.”*

We trust that the Sub-Committee will be interested to consider these implications of ongoing organ harvesting in China as it reviews the suitability of targeted sanctions on individuals who commit gross abuses of human rights.

If you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to let us know.

Yours sincerely

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⁵ <https://nationalfile.com/video-china-reportedly-harvesting-political-prisoners-lungs-for-coronavirus-transplants/>
<https://mercatornet.com/is-the-coronavirus-epidemic-increasing-forced-organ-harvesting-in-china/47408/>
http://m.cnr.cn/news/20200302/t20200302_524999799.html

⁶ <https://bitterwinter.org/is-coronavirus-increasing-organ-harvesting-in-china/>
⁷ <http://global.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202003/01/WS5e5b4260a31012821727b535.html>

⁸ <https://bmcmethics.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12910-019-0406-6>