

Submission to the inquiry into human organ trafficking and organ transplant tourism by the Human Rights Sub-Committee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

My name is Yang Lin. I appreciate the opportunity to make this submission to the Human Rights Sub-Committee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade (the Committee).

Reason for Supporting the Terms of Reference

I am making this submission as I believe China is collecting a data bank of Falun Gong practitioners blood types and the health of their organs for transplant purposes. I am concerned Australians might go to China for an organ transplant and thus cause a person, a prisoner of conscience, Tibetan, Muslim Uighur, Buddhist, House Christian, human rights lawyer or a democracy activist to be killed for their organs. I am sure most Australians would not knowingly do this, have someone killed on demand for their much needed organ.

I have personal experience of the practice of organ harvesting/trafficking in China and I believe it is happening on a much wider scale than most people believe.

I was sentenced to 3 years of forced labor in July 2000 for my belief in Falun Dafa and was detained at the notorious Sanshui Forced Labor Camp.

During my detention, I suffered from serious of tortures, including being shocked by electric baton, severe beatings, corporal punishment such as standing at attention for a long time. I also suffered from psychological torture. I was confined in a solitary compartment and suffered from sleep deprivation and restriction in going to toilets etc.

In earlier 2002, I underwent a thorough medical examination in the detention centre and was also blood tested. It was said that the examination was for the good of my health. They said they wanted to make sure that I did not suffer from an infectious disease.

With the forced organ harvesting by the Chinese Communist Party being exposed I came to know that the health examination I experienced in the detention centre was probably for

the purpose of collecting data needed for the live organ bank. I was really scared in recalling the experience and knew I was lucky to have escaped death and the prison centre and China. I want Australia to have the protect Australians and follow my recommendations below.

Response to Terms of Reference

I ask the Human Rights Sub-Committee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade to recommend

1. An amendment to the Federal Criminal Code to include transplant tourism as an offense for all Australians. I believe Australia should pass legislation to prevent citizens of this country travelling to other countries for an organ transplant where there is any suspected irregularity in the source of the organs offered for transplant in the country of destination. There are other similar Australia laws that have extraterritorial jurisdiction.
2. I support the proposal that Australia accede to the 2014 Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs, and further propose that appropriate domestic legislation be passed to ensure that the terms of the Convention are carried out.
3. A thorough and detailed alert on the DFAT website regarding organ harvesting and transplant tourism, highlighting the main countries of concern. In particular I believe China should have a separate mention as one of the key offenders, where prisoners of conscience (Falun Gong practitioners, Uighur Muslims, House Christians, Tibetans) continue to be unwilling organ sources.
4. I urge for a formal hearing to be conducted, with key representatives/experts who have investigated these allegations to be given due notice to testify on the subject.
5. To stop all medical training programs offered in Australia for all Chinese doctors and medical staff who may return to China and become part of forced organ harvesting of prisoners of conscience.
6. Implement a compulsory reporting and register of all patients who have received and organ from overseas, requesting copies of all documents verifying the ethical collection of organs.

Name and Contact Details

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