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SENATOR THE HON BOB CARR

MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
CANBERRA

The Hon John Murphy MP  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Petitions  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

4 SEP 2012

Your reference: 451/1120

Dear Mr Murphy

Thank you for your letter of August 20 2012 conveying a petition on the treatment of Falun Gong practitioners submitted to the Standing Committee on Petitions.

The Australian Government has long held concerns about the treatment of Falun Gong practitioners in China. Although the Government takes no position on Falun Gong beliefs, it considers that China's ban on Falun Gong and the treatment of its practitioners are in breach of international human rights standards.

The Government takes a strong and principled approach to engaging the Chinese Government on human rights. We have consistently raised Australia's concerns about the treatment of Falun Gong practitioners and about reports of organs being harvested from executed prisoners. These representations have been made through diplomatic channels in Canberra and Beijing. Most recently, we raised our concerns about freedom of religion and organ harvesting at the Australia-China Human Rights Dialogue held in Canberra in July this year.

Thank you for bringing this petition to my attention. I trust that this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Bob Carr

