

Statement of David Matas, 9 August, 2024 Press Conference, Washington DC

Forced organ harvesting with prisoner of conscience victims exists throughout China. The victims are killed through organ extraction of vital organs and their bodies cremated. The primary victims have been practitioners of spiritually based set of exercises Falun Gong and also, in large numbers, Uyghurs. In lesser numbers, Tibetans and House Christians, mostly Eastern Lightning or Almighty House of God, have also been victimized.

The scale has been industrial and state organized. A whole sequence of independent researchers, independent from both the victim communities and the Government of China, over a period of eighteen years, have come to the same conclusion beyond any reasonable doubt.

David Kilgour and I did the first report on this subject in 2006. Ethan Gutmann, an American journalist, did his own research on the subject published in 2014. The three of us then did an update to our joint works looking at transplant volumes only. Rather than rely on Government of China official figures, we did our own calculations, by adding up transplant numbers, available from adding up individual hospital totals posted on their websites and newsletters. We calculated that the volumes ranged from 60,000 a year in the early years of persecution of Falun Gong to 100,000 a year in later years.

Investigations show that only a small number of these organs are today sourced from donors. The bulk are unsourced from unwitting and unwilling prisoners of conscience. Since 2017, and the depletion of the Falun Gong arbitrarily indefinitely detained Falun Gong through forced organ harvesting, Falun Gong numbers have been supplemented by large numbers of Uyghur victims, whose organs have been shipped *en masse* from Xinjiang.

The slaughter has not received the media attention commensurate with the scope and gravity of the wrong. One reason for that is that the victims are not alive to tell what happened to them. For most mass atrocities, one can see the bodies or hear the testimony of the survivors. With forced organ harvesting, because the crime occurs in closed environments - prisons and hospitals, because bodies of those killed from organ extraction are cremated, making autopsy impossible, because there are no innocent witnesses, only perpetrators and victims, because the only records of what happened are official prison and hospital records not available to public scrutiny, what one can see with other mass atrocities one can not see with this mass atrocity.

Cheng Pei Ming is, in one sense, regrettably commonplace, a Falun Gong practitioner organ extracted. In another sense he is unusual, because he survived organ extraction, his vital organs - liver and lung - having been extracted only in part, and because he escaped both the Chinese authorities and China itself. He is alive and here to tell the tale.

Like other Falun Gong practitioner victims, Cheng was never told he was going to be organ extracted. Nor was he told afterwards that he had been organ extracted. He found that

out only after he fled China and was medically examined.

Despite the unusual nature of the case of Cheng - his survival and escape, his victimization demonstrates a general phenomenon, the brutality of the victimization of Falun Gong, a brutality that extends to organ harvesting. He illustrates a general phenomenon, the exception which proves the norm, the norm in this case being the gruesome reality of the mass killing of Falun Gong for their organs.

Here we have a lot of detail about what happened. We have the hospital - Daqing Number Four Hospital. We have the date, sometime between November 16 and 19, 2004. We have the name of the victim - Cheng Pei Ming.

Three of the World Health Organization Guiding Principles on Human Cell, Tissue and Organ Transplantation are transparency, traceability and openness to scrutiny. China today, even with its most recent legislation, which came into effect in May of this year, does not respect these principles.

I call on China to respect the World Health Organization Guiding Principles. First of all traceability - where did the organs of Mr. Cheng go? What happened to them? To what use were they put?

Second transparency. Show us the hospital records for Cheng Pei Ming. Confidentiality is not an issue. Cheng consents.

Third openness to scrutiny. Allow independent outside expert investigators into the hospital where Cheng was organ extracted, to see the records and interview the staff in a confidential setting.

Ultimately, the onus does not fall on Cheng to say what happened to him. The onus falls on the Government of China.

That onus is not discharged by telling us what did or did not happen to Cheng. That onus can be discharged only by showing us what happened.

I call on the Government of China, when it comes to what happened to Cheng, do not tell us. Show us.