

Intervention at United Nation regarding Organ Harvest of Falun Gong practitioners in China

The Human Rights Council of the United Nations is holding its second session from 18 September to 6 October 2006. The session is devoted to hearing the reports of the special procedures of the Council, including Special Rapporteurs, Experts and Working Groups. In the morning session of September 21, Hon. David Kilgour made an intervention on behalf of Interfaith International regarding the organ harvest of Falun Gong practitioners in China after the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, Manfred Nowak, presented his report. The full text of the intervention follows:

Mr. President, I'm David Kilgour, a former Canadian Secretary of State for the Asia-Pacific, and wish to speak about whether the government of China is harvesting the vital organs of Falun Gong practitioners.

Human rights lawyer David Matas and I released a report in July which came to the conclusion, to our regret and horror, that the claims were indeed true.

We examined every avenue of proof and disproof available to us, eighteen in all. For example:

- The regime in China, for no apparent reason other than paranoia, sees Falun Gong as an ideological threat to its existence and has since July 1999 made every effort to eliminate this very large group. Objectively, Falun Gong is a set of exercises with a spiritual component and now exists as a peaceful faith community in China and about 70 other countries.

- Falun Gong practitioners in Chinese prisons are systematically blood tested and medically examined. Because they are also tortured and abused viciously, this testing cannot be motivated by concerns over their health.

- Waiting times for organ transplants in China are incredibly short, a matter of days and weeks. Everywhere else in the world, waiting times are measured in months and years, pointing to the existence of a large living organ bank in China. It is easy to take each element of proof in isolation, and say that this element or that does not prove the claim. It is their combination which led us to the chilling conclusion to which we came.

We are reinforced in our conclusions by the feeble response of the Government of China. Despite resources and inside knowledge, it has not provided any substantive information to counter our report.

Our report has seventeen different recommendations. Virtually nothing to prevent the harvesting of organs of Falun Gong practitioners in China is currently being done. All our proposed precautions should be enacted and enforced.

One should be implemented immediately: organ harvesting from Falun Gong practitioners across China must stop now. Thank you, Mr. President.