

1 State of Arkansas
2 92nd General Assembly
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4
5 By: Senator B. Sample

SR 14

SENATE RESOLUTION

TO ENCOURAGE THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND THE
ARKANSAS CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO WORK TO END
ORGAN HARVESTING FROM PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE IN THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

Subtitle

TO ENCOURAGE THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS
AND THE ARKANSAS CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION
TO WORK TO END ORGAN HARVESTING FROM
PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE IN THE PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

WHEREAS, extensive and credible reports have revealed mass killing of prisoners of conscience in the People's Republic of China, primarily practitioners of the Chinese spiritual practice of Falun Gong, but also other religious and ethnic minority groups, in order to obtain organs for transplants; and

WHEREAS, the organ transplantation system in China does not comply with the World Health Organization's Guiding Principles On Human Organ Transplantation regarding traceability and transparency in organ procurement pathways, and the government of the People's Republic of China has resisted independent scrutiny of the system; and

WHEREAS, traditional Chinese custom requires bodies to be preserved intact after death, which results in rare voluntary organ donation, but China's transplantation industry has increased significantly since 2000; and



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2 WHEREAS, the 2017 Freedom House report, "The Battle for China's
3 Spirit", states that "available evidence suggests that forced extraction of
4 organs from Falun Gong detainees for sale in transplant operations has
5 occurred on a large scale and may be continuing"; and

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7 WHEREAS, an investigative report published in June 2016 by human rights
8 attorney David Matas, former Canadian Secretary of State for Asia-Pacific,
9 David Kilgour, and journalist Ethan Gutmann, estimated that China is
10 performing sixty thousand to one hundred thousand (60,000-100,000)
11 transplants per year, as opposed to the ten thousand (10,000) transplants
12 which had been projected by the Chinese government for 2015, amounting to "an
13 industrial-scale, state-directed organ transplantation system, controlled
14 through national policies and funding, and implicating both the military and
15 civilian healthcare systems", as Kilgour described these practices in his
16 speech to the European Parliament in 2016; and

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18 WHEREAS, according to the China Organ Harvest Research Center, China's
19 Liver Transplant Registry System indicated that more than twenty-five percent
20 (25%) of liver transplant cases were emergency transplants for which an organ
21 was found within days or even hours, and that wait time for nonemergency
22 liver transplants were usually quoted in weeks; and

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24 WHEREAS, most patients in other countries have to wait years for a
25 transplant; and

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27 WHEREAS, the Chinese government claims that ninety percent (90%) of
28 China's organ transplant sources come from executed prisoners, but the number
29 of executions has dropped ten percent (10%) annually since 2002 and is far
30 less than the number of transplants taking place; and

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32 WHEREAS, the Chinese government has never acknowledged the sourcing of
33 organs from prisoners of conscience; and

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35 WHEREAS, Falun Gong, a spiritual practice involving meditative "qigong"
36 exercises and centered on the values of truthfulness, compassion, and

1 forbearance, became immensely popular in China in the late 1990s with
2 multiple estimates placing the number of practitioners at upwards of seventy
3 million (70,000,000); and

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5 WHEREAS, in July 1999, the Chinese Communist Party launched an
6 intensive, nationwide persecution designed to eradicate the spiritual
7 practice of Falun Gong, including physical and mental torture, reflecting the
8 party's long-standing intolerance of large independent civil society groups;
9 and

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11 WHEREAS, since 1999, hundreds of thousands of Falun Gong practitioners
12 have been detained extralegally in Chinese reeducation-through-labor camps,
13 detention centers, and prisons, where torture, abuse, and unnecessary medical
14 exams and blood tests on Falun Gong practitioners are routine; and

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16 WHEREAS, the 2017 Freedom House report states that in 2015, Falun Gong
17 practitioners comprised the largest portion of prisoners of conscience in
18 China and faced an elevated risk of dying or being killed in custody; and

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20 WHEREAS, the United Nations Committee Against Torture and the United
21 Nations Commission on Human Rights Special Rapporteur on Torture have
22 expressed concern over the allegations of organ harvesting from Falun Gong
23 prisoners, and have called on the government of the People's Republic of
24 China to increase accountability and transparency in the organ transplant
25 system and punish those responsible for abuses; and

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27 WHEREAS, in June 2016, the United States House of Representatives
28 unanimously passed House Resolution 343, condemning the systemic, state-
29 sanctioned organ harvesting from practitioners of Falun Gong and other
30 prisoners of conscience; and

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32 WHEREAS, the killing of religious or political prisoners for the
33 purpose of selling their organs for transplant is an egregious and
34 intolerable violation of the fundamental right to live; and

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36 WHEREAS, organ tourism to China should not be shielded by medical

1 confidentiality, but openly monitored; and

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3 WHEREAS, no nation should allow its citizens to go to China for organs
4 until China has allowed a full investigation into organ harvesting of
5 prisoners of conscience, both past and present,

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7 NOW THEREFORE,

8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
9 STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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11 THAT the United States Congress and the Arkansas congressional
12 delegation:

13 (1) Call upon the government of the People's Republic of China
14 to:

15 (A) Immediately end the practice of organ harvesting from
16 all prisoners and prisoners of conscience, including from Falun Gong
17 prisoners of conscience and members of other religious and ethnic minority
18 groups; and

19 (B) Immediately end the ongoing persecution of Falun Gong
20 and release all Falun Gong practitioners and other prisoners of conscience;
21 and

22 (2) Support a full and transparent investigation by the United
23 States Department of State into organ transplant practices in the People's
24 Republic of China and call for the prosecution of those found to have engaged
25 in such unethical practices.

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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the State of Arkansas:

28 (1) Encourage the medical community of Arkansas to engage in
29 educating colleagues and residents of Arkansas about the risks of travel to
30 China for organ transplants to help prevent Arkansas residents from
31 unwittingly becoming involved in murder in the form of forced organ
32 harvesting from prisoners of conscience; and

33 (2) Agree to take measures to ban the entry of those who have
34 participated in illegal removal of human tissues and organs and seek
35 prosecution of such individuals should they be found in Arkansas.

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Secretary of the Senate provide copies of
2 this resolution to the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United
3 States, the Chair of the United States Committee on Foreign Relations, the
4 Chair of the United States House Committee on Foreign Affairs, and all
5 members of the Arkansas congressional delegation with the request that this
6 resolution be officially entered into the Congressional Record.

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