LIVE ORGAN HARVESTING OF FALUN GONG PRACTIONERS IN CHINA

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Abstract

The organ transplant is being done in most of the countries. The usage of medicines, drugs and toxins of various kind & polluted atmosphere is taking toll of human organs. The oldest human transplant, most popular is cadaver cornea transplant giving vision to many.

Unfortunately because of demand organ donation has become a trade for gain. Scams are being reported in many countries. The kidney scams are frequent in India. Though stringent Laws are made, some greedy, inhuman have converted this into a trade for profit exploiting the poor.

Of late allegation of live organ harvesting of Falun Gong in China is greatest crime on mankind. It is the gross violation of human rights. As long as anything is done for benefit of mankind, one can support but if it takes an ugly turn of trade, exploitation it needs to be condemned universally.

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Key Words: Falun gong, Falun dafa, Organ harvesting

Introduction

Falun Gong is a practice of meditation & gentle exercises. It is based on an ancient Chinese traditions of health & self-improvement¹. It is also called Falun Dafa, literally meaning 'Dharma wheel practice' or 'Law wheel practice', a spiritual disciple introduced in China in 1992. Its founder is Master Li Hangzhi¹. It deals with meditation & slow moving 'Qigong' exercises. Qigong means energy cultivation/working with the life energy. It is a means to still the mind & enter a state of consciousness that brings serenity, clarity & bliss. The exercises are practice of balancing rhythmic breathing, body movements, healing & meditation. It is practiced in over 70 countries and gaining popularity in the western

world too¹. The core principles of Falun Gong's teaching are cultivation in one self of three things, Zhen, Shan and Ren meaning....

Truthfulness, Compassion & Tolerance (Forbearance)¹.

Perceived Threat

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) saw in this practice, independence a dangerous precedent although its activities were apolitical & more over beneficial to Chinese citizens as proclaimed by its practitioners. By 1999, it was practiced by about 70 million Chinese². The CCP, especially former leader Jiang Zemin thought it as a threat to his monopoly of ideological power over China. His mandate was to eradicate Falun gong. The practitioners are victims of extreme vilification².

Allegations

As a systemic repression, the crackdown included Jiang's creation of a special task force-the 6-10 offices in every province, city, county,

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universities, Government departments & Government run firms. In March 2006, it was alleged that Chinese Government & its agencies including people's liberation army were involved in organ harvesting of living, involuntary Falun gong practitioners. They are unlawfully detained in forced labour camps, hospital basements & prisons². The computer database of information was generated by doing basic tests required for organ transplant for ready reference. As & when a recipient comes, quick tests and matching are done. The selected donor is injected potassium to stop heart to collect organ to sell for huge money. The donor's body is incinerated clandestinely without informing relatives. In few cases, whose body was given because of strong protest, it was alleged that some organs were missing. China is considered as a systematic human violator. Because of this inhuman & clandestine dealings for huge money, the waiting time for transplant is short, a matter of few days. Hence China has become transplant hub of the world, attracting patients from many countries². The allegation was reported first by 'The Epoch Times' a Falun gong supporter newspaper, against Sujiatun Thrombosis hospital, Shenyang². In July 2006, David Kilgour, former Canadian secretary & David Matos, human rights lawyer published a report on organ harvesting racket by sacrificing Falun gong practitioners by torturing & killing for sale of organs. They were of the opinion that practice is ongoing based on publicity verifiable information & circumstantial evidences. They even claimed that ex-wife of surgeon testified that her husband removed about 2000 corneas from anaesthetized Falun gong practitioners in a hospital in Shenyang during 2 years period before October 2003³. But the Chinese Government has denied strongly and brushed aside these as wild allegations.

International Response

As claimed, more than 3500 deaths were caused by the persecution, as of August 2012 in China. The continued sustained efforts of Falun gong practitioners have evoked public & political interest in many countries³. In Australia more than one lac signed on petition calling for an end to live organ harvesting in China, genocide. On 13th June 2006, Edward Mc Millan Scott, vice president of European parliament said, he believed that about 400 hospitals in China are involved in lucrative organ harvesting trade and even advertising sale of organs, kidney- \$60 k, Lung- \$ 1.5 to 1.7 k, Heart- \$1.3 to 1.6 k, Liver-\$98 to 130k, Cornea-\$30 k³. In March 2006, UN special rapporteur Manfred Nowak reported that torture is widespread in China & Falun gong practitioners represented 66% of alleged tortured cases. The US state department's country report, in March 2007 indicated that Falun gong adherents constituted at least half of 2.5 lacs officially recorded inmates in reeducation through labour camps, while the real number could be even higher³. In July 2012, there was candle vigil protest in Washington DC to raise awareness of the 13 years persecutors of Falun gong in China. On 12th September 2012, US Congress held a hearing to investigate organ harvesting of religious & political dissidents in China. On 4th October 2012, US Congress men signed a "Death Colleague" letter, urging the state department to reveal any information to the public regarding involuntary forced live organ harvesting in China³. But the US department of state investigation as of now found no concrete evidence to support mass allegations of organ harvesting in China.

Conclusion

Human organ trade might be an unacceptable practice going on in least

developed & developing countries but it is not as rampant as in China as alleged. The allegations against China are plenty by its citizens which need a serious consideration and a probe. If in practice, it is a heinous crime, inhuman barbarous act and a gross blatant violation of human rights in this civilized world. It needs to be not only curbed but rooted out. Live transplant abuses of this magnitude must be condemned universally. It is a new form of evil on this planet akin to genocide & terrorism. Products of China be it toys, garments or house hold articles are famous world over. It is sad and unfortunate that human organ harvesting allegation is making it infamous. Three American doctors have launched a petition on White House website urging USA President to speak out & help stop this gruesome practice. The doctors and professional associations all over the world must

support. As of now according to few, there is no any concrete proof against human organ harvesting but we should put collective effort to curb such heinous act if it does exist as alleged. The wide spread protest raises lot of queries about the existence of live organ harvesting which needs sustained, continued effort to prove or disprove it. If proved to be in practice, it should be eradicated. The worldwide awareness programmes & protest does help to bring to light the truth. Such efforts shall not allow anybody to attempt in harvesting human organs or even ever think of it!!

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