

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 201

Reps. Chirkun, Sowerby, Cherry, LaGrand, Crawford, Sneller, Hertel, Peterson, Elder, Witwer, Warren, Manoogian, Liberati, Gay-Dagnogo, Ellison, Koleszar, Lasinski, Hood, Mueller, Hope, VanSingel, Yancey, Shannon, Pagan, Bolden, Hoadley, Camilleri, Cynthia Johnson, Brixie, Tate, Clemente, Guerra, Sabo, Pohutsky, Garza, Jones, Sheppard, Hammoud, Neeley, Webber, Hall, Leutheuser, Rabhi, Wozniak, Eisen, LaFave, Kuppa, Kennedy, Robinson, Coleman, Love, Slagh, Brann, Howell, Hoitenga, Yaroch, Marino, Cambensy, Wittenberg, Calley, Miller and Frederick offered the following resolution:

- 1 A resolution to condemn state-sanctioned, forced organ
- 2 harvesting from prisoners of conscience in the People's Republic of
- 3 China, urge action by the President of the United States and the
- 4 United States medical community, and demand an end to the
- 5 persecution of Falun Gong practitioners.



1 Whereas, When performed in accordance with ethical standards,
2 the medical discipline of organ transplantation is one of the great
3 achievements of modern medicine. Organ transplantation depends on
4 altruistic organ donation, which is based on the free, voluntary,
5 and informed consent of the donor; and

6 Whereas, International medical organizations state that
7 prisoners, deprived of their freedom, are not in the position to
8 give free consent and that the practice of sourcing organs from
9 prisoners is a violation of ethical guidelines in medicine; and

10 Whereas, The organ transplantation system in China does not
11 comply with the World Health Organization's requirement of
12 transparency and traceability in organ procurement pathways; and

13 Whereas, The United States Department of State Country Report
14 on Human Rights for China for 2014 stated, "Advocacy groups
15 continued to report instances of organ harvesting from prisoners";
16 and

17 Whereas, Falun Gong, a spiritual practice involving meditative
18 "qigong" exercise and centered on the values of truthfulness,
19 compassion, and tolerance, became immensely popular in the 1990s;
20 and

21 Whereas, In July 1999, the Chinese Communist Party launched an
22 intensive, nationwide persecution designed to eradicate the
23 spiritual practice of Falun Gong, reflecting the party's long-
24 standing intolerance of large independent civil society groups.
25 Since 1999, hundreds of thousands of Falun Gong practitioners have
26 been detained extralegally in reeducation-through-labor camps,
27 detention centers, and prisons, where torture and abuse are
28 routine; and

29 Whereas, Freedom House reported in 2015 that Falun Gong



1 practitioners comprise the largest portion of "prisoners of
 2 conscience" in China and face an elevated risk of dying or being
 3 killed in custody; and

4 Whereas, In 2006, Canadian researchers David Matas, human
 5 rights attorney, and David Kilgour, the former Canadian Secretary
 6 of State for Asia-Pacific, conducted an independent investigation
 7 into allegations of organ harvesting from Falun Gong prisoners in
 8 China and concluded that Falun Gong practitioners being killed for
 9 their organs was highly probable. Matas and Kilgour implicated
 10 state and party entities, including domestic security services and
 11 military hospitals in illicit organ harvesting; and

12 Whereas, The United Nations Committee Against Torture and the
 13 Special Rapporteur on Torture have expressed concern over the
 14 allegations of organ harvesting from Falun Gong prisoners, and have
 15 called on the government of the People's Republic of China to
 16 increase accountability and transparency in the organ transplant
 17 system and punish those responsible for abuses; and

18 Whereas, Kilgour, Matas, and investigative journalist Ethan
 19 Gutmann released a report on June 22, 2016, that the number of
 20 organ transplants in China far exceeds official Chinese government
 21 statistics. The source for most of the massive volume of organs for
 22 transplants is the killing of prisoners of conscience, primarily
 23 targeting Falun Gong practitioners; and

24 Whereas, The killing of religious or political prisoners for
 25 the purpose of selling their organs for transplant is an egregious
 26 and intolerable violation of the fundamental right to life; and

27 Whereas, In September 2012, experts testified before the
 28 United States House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee
 29 that United States patients continue to travel to China for organ



1 transplants and that the medical community continues cooperation
2 and training with Chinese colleagues, creating the risk that they
3 may be indirectly aiding abusive practices; now, therefore, be it

4 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we:

- 5 1. Condemn the practice of state-sanctioned, forced organ
6 harvesting in the People's Republic of China;
- 7 2. Call on the government of the People's Republic of China and
8 the Communist Party of China to immediately end the practice
9 of organ harvesting from all prisoners of conscience;
- 10 3. Demand an immediate end to the 18-year persecution of the
11 Falun Gong spiritual practice by the government of the
12 People's Republic of China and the Communist Party of China,
13 and the immediate release of all Falun Gong practitioners and
14 other prisoners of conscience;
- 15 4. Encourage the United States medical community to help raise
16 awareness of unethical organ transplant practices in China;
17 and
- 18 5. Urge the President of the United States to undertake a full
19 and transparent investigation by the United States Department
20 of State into organ transplant practices in the People's
21 Republic of China and put up appropriate barriers to prevent
22 United States citizens from getting these organs; and be it
23 further

24 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
25 President of the United States, the President of the United States
26 Department of State, members of the Michigan congressional
27 delegation, and the American Medical Association.

