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ul. Złotego Smoka 20/21, 02-202 Warszawa Tel: +48.510.248.649; Fax: +48.22.485.3393
Email: olympics-rights@safe-mail.net | <http://www.ishr.org/>

ISHR International Secretariat | Borsigallee 9, 60388 Frankfurt am Main, Germany
Tel: +49-69-420-108-0; Fax: +49-69-420-108-33

**Recommendations for OSCE States on Stopping
Forced Organ Harvesting
Conducted by the People's Republic of China**

**Jan Jekielek
International Society for Human Rights
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Mr Moderator, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Last year, the ISHR reported on the abhorrent situation of organ harvesting and organ tourism in China where the Chinese state has killed tens of thousands of Falun Gong practitioners, without any form of prior trial, and then sold their vital organs for large sums of money, often to "organ tourists" from OSCE member and other countries. At the time, we urged OSCE member states to introduce measures that would impede the continuation of these gross crimes against humanity.

Since then, the international medical community has taken the situation very seriously and suggested measures that could be implemented, but still few changes have been made at the state level. But it is certainly not too late. The pressure on China is currently significant. Under this pressure, Chinese officials have promised several apparent improvements. Although experience tells us that what exists on paper in China is usually vastly different from practice, this does present the greatest opportunity for the international community to ensure changes are genuinely implemented.

To provide some background: Practitioners of Falun Gong, also known as Falun Dafa, have been subject to brutal persecution by the Chinese communist regime since 1999 simply for refusing to give up their beliefs. Falun Gong is an ancient meditation practice with a long tradition in Chinese history. It should be noted that when Falun Gong was first taught publically in communist China in 1992, it was endorsed by the state for its proven ability to improve the health and wellbeing of its practitioners. However, the practice fell out of favour after a government survey found that the practice had attracted more followers—between 70-100 million— than Communist Party members. Thus the decision to "eradicate" Falun Gong was a purely political one.

The body of evidence documenting organ harvesting from Falun Gong practitioners in China has been collected for more than two years by Canadian investigators, former Secretary of State David Kilgour and international human rights lawyer David Matas. The report, which was published in full this spring in Poland's International Political Review (Miedzynarodowy Przegląd Polityczny) is available in 19 languages at www.organharvestinvestigation.org, along with media reports and updates. There are several other, independently written reports that have reached the same conclusions.

In a speech on October 5 in Kingston, Canada, Kilgour noted that the situation exists in China because of the "lethal combination of totalitarian governance and 'anything is permitted' economics that allows this and other inhuman practices to persist in China."

Based on accounts from former prisoners, such as Ying Dai, a refugee now living in Norway, Falun Gong practitioners are singled out for systematic blood-testing and medical examination in detention centers. Dr. Torsten Trey, the German born and educated founding president of Doctors Against Forced Organ Harvesting (DAFOH) – a group of doctors warning medical communities internationally about the serious implications of receiving organ transplants in China – stated: "It makes no sense that a group who is persecuted and tortured would be tested for their health...The killings in Nazi Germany shows that nothing is impossible when a totalitarian system loses all ethics."

Gerry Koffman, Canadian coordinator for DAFOH described the practice as a "holocaust".

Chinese authorities have never admitted to committing these crimes, nor have they ever offered counter evidence to disprove the Canadian findings. Last year, Chinese authorities declared a ban on trade in human organs and ruled that consent must be given by any organ donors. More recently, the Chinese Medical Association announced that 'organ tourists' will no longer be able to obtain organ transplants in China. There is no evidence that either measure has been put into practice. On the other hand, both announcements are implicit admissions that the macabre practice does exist.

In a recent Declaration of the Society of Nephrology made in Istanbul, more than 150 representatives of scientific and medical bodies from around the world, government officials, social scientists, and ethicists stated their opposition to transplant commercialism, transplant tourism and organ trafficking. The declaration urges all countries to take steps to govern organ donation and transplantation, thereby ensuring patient safety and prohibiting unethical practices.

At a meeting of transplant surgeons in Sydney Australia last August, President of the International Transplantation Society, Jeremy Chapman, promised that his members would alert Chinese authorities when a non-Chinese person travelled to China to buy an organ and would ask the authorities to explain.

These are all promising developments, and now is the time for OSCE member states to implement the spirit of these promises into policy.

The ISHR continues to endorse all 25 recommendations included in the Kilgour-Matas report. We call upon all OSCE countries to:

1. Strongly demand China to cease organ harvesting and end all crimes against humanity against Falun Gong practitioners;
2. Demand that all detention facilities be open to unfettered, independent international inspection by the International Committee for the Red Cross or other human rights or humanitarian organizations;
3. Enact extra-territorial legislation penalizing anyone's participation in organ harvesting;
4. Bar entry to OSCE countries to any person known to be involved in trafficking or harvesting of organs of prisoners in China;
5. Not support China's transplantation industry through medical exchanges, trainings, selling of anti-rejection drugs, etc.

Thank you for your attention