



## DEBATE PACK

CDP 2019-0069 (2019) | 20 March 2019

# Forced live organ extraction in China

Westminster Hall

Tuesday 26 March 2019

9.30am to 11.00am

Debate initiated by Jim Shannon MP

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### Contents

<b>1.</b>	<b>Background</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Press Articles</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>PQs</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Other Parliamentary material</b>	<b>17</b>
4.1	Debates	17
4.2	Early Day Motions	17
<b>5.</b>	<b>Further reading</b>	<b>18</b>
5.1	Reports	18
5.2	Commons Library	18
5.3	Websites	18

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The House of Commons Library prepares a briefing in hard copy and/or online for most non-legislative debates in the Chamber and Westminster Hall other than half-hour debates. Debate Packs are produced quickly after the announcement of parliamentary business. They are intended to provide a summary or overview of the issue being debated and identify relevant briefings and useful documents, including press and parliamentary material. More detailed briefing can be prepared for Members on request to the Library.

# 1. Background

In 2006, two prominent Canadians – David Kilgour, a former MP, and David Matas, a human rights lawyer – published a report for the ‘Coalition to Investigate the Persecution of the Falun Gong in China’, in which they gave credibility to claims that the Chinese authorities were harvesting organs from executed members of the group. At around the same time, the Chinese authorities acknowledged that they had been taking organs from executed prisoners but insisted it was only with their consent.

In the years since then, the Chinese authorities have announced steps to bring the practice to an end. The deadline eventually set for doing so was 1 January 2015. However, there continue to be allegations that the practice has not ended.

Amongst those concerned that the practice may be continuing was the Conservative Human Rights Commission. It published a report in July 2016 on human rights in China, [The darkest moment: The crackdown on human rights in China 2013-16](#) (see pages 46-50).

An [independent people’s tribunal](#) chaired by Sir Geoffrey Nice QC (former prosecutor of war crimes at the UN’s tribunal for the former Yugoslavia) is currently deliberating on the matter. It held public hearings in London in December 2018. Sir Geoffrey subsequently issued an interim judgement. In it he [said](#):

The Tribunal’s members are all certain – unanimously, and sure beyond reasonable doubt – that in China forced organ harvesting from prisoners of conscience has been practised for a substantial period of time involving a very substantial number of victims. We will deal in our final judgment in detail with our findings as to whether any international crimes have been committed by this practice, if so by whom and with detail as to time periods and numbers of victims. This final judgment will be derived from our further analysis of present material and other material yet to be provided and to legal advice yet to be received.

A final judgement is due to be released during 2019.

Successive UK governments have expressed concerns about claims of organ harvesting. They have often done so in the context of the ongoing ‘UK-China Human Rights Dialogue’ and ‘UK-China Strategic Dialogue’. On 25 February 2019 Baroness Goldie [said](#) in the Lords:

[...] We keep the issue under review and welcome any and all new evidence. At the moment, our analysis remains that the evidence available is not sufficiently strong to substantiate claims that state-sanctioned, systematic organ harvesting is happening in China. My

noble friend referred to the World Health Organization. It collates global data on organ donations and works with China. Its view is that China is implementing an ethical voluntary organ transplant system, in accordance with international standards, although it does have concerns about overall transparency.

## 2. Press Articles

The following is a selection of news and media articles relevant to this debate.

Please note: the Library is not responsible for either the views or the accuracy of external content.

**['Barbaric': Human organs harvested from Chinese prisoners prompts outrage, call for retraction of 400 scientific papers](#)**

Fox News  
Christopher Carbone  
6 Feb 2019

**[How Chinese Doctors Who Harvest Organs Get Away With Murder](#)**

Forbes  
Ewelina U. Ochab  
8 January 2019

**[China harvested organs from political prisoners on substantial scale, says tribunal](#)**

British Medical Journal  
Richard Hurley  
11 December 2018

**[Bristol urged to de-twin from Chinese city over 'organ harvesting'](#)**

BBC News  
17 October 2018

**[Organ Harvesting In China And The Many Questions To Be Answered](#)**

Forbes  
Ewelina U. Ochab  
16 October 2018

**[Experts speak at UK roundtable on forced organ harvesting – Westminster](#)**

The International Coalition to End Transplant Abuse  
17 April 2018

**[China's Organ Transplant Problem](#)**

The Diplomat  
Matthew Robertson and Jacob Lavee  
29 March 2017

**[China says it has stopped harvesting organs, but evidence belies its claim](#)**

The Conversation  
Wendy Rogers  
15 February 2017

**[China may still be using executed prisoners' organs, official admits](#)**

The Guardian  
Stephanie Kirchgaessner  
7 February 2017

**[First Cut Is the Deepest: Organ Harvesting in Xinjiang](#)**

The News Lens  
6 November 2017  
Jules Quartly

**[China used to harvest organs from prisoners. Under pressure, that practice is finally ending](#)**

The Washington Post  
Simon Denyer  
15 September 2017

### 3. PQs

#### [China: Transplant Surgery](#)

18 Mar 2019 | HL14259

**Asked by: Lord Hunt of Kings Heath**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had, or intend to have, with the World Health Organisation about the possible conflict of interest of Dr Jiefu Huang in his role as a senior transplant official in China and as a member of the World Health Organisation's Task Force for Donation and Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues.

**Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

We are aware of reports that allege that a process of involuntary organ removal may be taking place in China, including suggestions that minority and religious groups are being specifically targeted. The British Government fully supports the Declaration of Istanbul (May 2008), which encourages all countries to draw up legal and professional frameworks to govern organ donation and transplantation activities.

As the Minister for Europe and the Americas said in a Westminster Hall debate in October 2016: "Although I do not doubt the need to maintain close scrutiny of organ transplant practices in China, we believe that the evidence base is not sufficiently strong to substantiate claims about the systematic harvesting of organs from minority groups. Indeed, based on all the evidence available to us, we cannot conclude that this practice of "organ harvesting" is definitely happening in China."

The World Health Organisation (WHO) collates global data on organ donations and works with China. The WHO view is that China is implementing an ethical, voluntary organ transplant system in accordance with international standards, although the WHO does have concerns about overall transparency.

We have not discussed the role of Dr Jiefu Huang with the WHO. We will continue to review any new evidence that is presented to us.

#### [China: Prisoners](#)

18 Mar 2019 | HL14256

**Asked by: Lord Hunt of Kings Heath**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of evidence suggesting that between 60,000 and 100,000 transplants are performed annually throughout China predominately from Falun Gong prisoners of conscience.

**Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

We are aware of reports that allege that a process of involuntary organ removal may be taking place in China, including suggestions that

minority and religious groups are being specifically targeted. The British Government fully supports the Declaration of Istanbul (May 2008), which encourages all countries to draw up legal and professional frameworks to govern organ donation and transplantation activities.

As the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister for Europe and the Americas, Sir Alan Duncan, said in a Westminster Hall debate in October 2016: "Although I do not doubt the need to maintain close scrutiny of organ transplant practices in China, we believe that the evidence base is not sufficiently strong to substantiate claims about the systematic harvesting of organs from minority groups. Indeed, based on all the evidence available to us, we cannot conclude that this practice of "organ harvesting" is definitely happening in China."

The World Health Organisation (WHO) collates global data on organ donations and works with China. The WHO view is that China is implementing an ethical, voluntary organ transplant system in accordance with international standards, although the WHO does have concerns about overall transparency.

We have not discussed the role of Dr Jiefu Huang with the WHO.

We will continue to review any new evidence that is presented to us.

### **China: Freedom of Religion and Belief**

25 February 2019 | 796 c2

#### **Asked by: Lord Suri**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of China, and with the governments of other countries, about protecting the right to freedom of religion and belief of Uighur Muslims and other persecuted religious groups.

#### **Answering Member: Baroness Goldie**

My Lords, we are concerned about restrictions on freedom of religion or belief across China, and particularly about the deteriorating situation for minority groups in Xinjiang. During 2018, the UK raised human rights bilaterally with China on a number of occasions, including by the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary. The United Kingdom also highlighted our concerns publicly at the United Nations Human Rights Council and continues to liaise closely with a wide range of international partners.

#### **Asked by: Lord Suri**

I thank my noble friend the Minister for her response. She will be aware that many human rights activists and organisations claim that China is organ harvesting religious prisoners of conscience. These people often highlight the fact that the average time to get a kidney transplant in the UK or the US is two to three years, whereas in China it is a few weeks. Has my noble friend asked either the World Health Organization or the Chinese Government how they can explain this remarkable difference? If not, will she do so and report the answer back to this House?

**Answering Member: Baroness Goldie**

I thank my noble friend for raising a very emotive issue. We keep the issue under review and welcome any and all new evidence. At the moment, our analysis remains that the evidence available is not sufficiently strong to substantiate claims that state-sanctioned, systematic organ harvesting is happening in China. My noble friend referred to the World Health Organization. It collates global data on organ donations and works with China. Its view is that China is implementing an ethical voluntary organ transplant system, in accordance with international standards, although it does have concerns about overall transparency.

**[China: Human Rights](#)**

**25 Feb 2019 | HL13634**

**Asked by: Lord Alton of Liverpool**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that Uighur Muslims detained in China have undergone unwanted blood, tissue and DNA tests; what they believe to be the purpose of any such tests; and whether there is evidence of state-sanctioned organ harvesting from non-consenting religious prisoners of conscience, including Uighur Muslims.

**Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

We have serious concerns about the human rights situation in Xinjiang and reports of the Chinese Government's deepening crackdown; including credible reports of re-education camps and widespread surveillance and restrictions targeted at ethnic minorities. We are aware of media reports that some Uyghurs may have been subject to unwanted DNA tests.

More broadly, we are aware of reports that allege a process of involuntary organ removal is taking place in China and that minority and religious groups are being specifically targeted. My officials attended the final day of the recent tribunal into organ harvesting allegations, chaired by Sir Geoffrey Nice, QC. We are aware of the preliminary findings and await the final outcome of the tribunal in spring with interest. With the evidence currently available we cannot substantiate the claims that state-sanctioned organ harvesting is happening in China.

**[China: Uighur Muslims](#)**

**11 Feb 2019 | 795 c1654**

**Asked by: Baroness Berridge**

My Lords, there have been consistent reports from within these re-education camps that Uighur Muslims were forced to give DNA tissue and blood, and consistent allegations that Falun Gong followers have been subject to forced organ harvesting. Have we spoken to the Chinese about our worries about those tests and their purpose, and whether they are in any way connected to the recent worrying reports of rogue gene editing in China?



**Answered by: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon**

My noble friend makes some important points. On organ harvesting, I am fully cognisant of the issue of Falun Gong, which I know the noble Lord, Lord Alton, has raised several times. As my noble friend may be aware, Sir Geoffrey Nice conducted a report on this matter, the preliminary findings of which have been made available; the final report is still due. Foreign Office officials attended the launch of the preliminary report and will attend the follow-up meeting. On the other issues she raises, let me assure her that in all our interactions with the Chinese Administration, we have made it very clear that their actions are disproportionate, discriminatory against particular communities and, indeed, counter-productive in the longer term for China as it seeks to establish its position on the world stage. I assure my noble friend that we will continue to raise these issues through all avenues.

**[China: Prisoners](#)****17 Jan 2019 | HL12693****Asked by: Lord Alton of Liverpool**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 21 December 2018 (HL12218), when they intend to respond to the interim judgment of the Independent Tribunal into Forced Organ Harvesting from Prisoners of Conscience in China, chaired by Sir Geoffrey Nice QC.

**Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

As I said during the House of Lords Oral question on 10 January, my officials attended the final day of the recent tribunal into organ harvesting allegations, chaired by Sir Geoffrey Nice, QC. We are aware of the preliminary findings and are awaiting the final outcome of the tribunal, which we will review as we do with all available evidence.

**[China: Human Rights](#)****10 Jan 2019 | 794 cc2314-6****Asked by: Lord Alton of Liverpool**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the violations of human rights in China, including the arrest and disappearance of political activists and religious adherents, forced organ harvesting, and restrictions on free speech; and when they last made representations on these matters to the government of China.

**Answered by: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

My Lords, we are deeply concerned about restrictions to civil and political freedoms in China, particularly the treatment of ethnic minorities, freedom of expression, association and assembly, and freedom of religion or belief. We highlighted these concerns publicly during China's universal periodic review in November 2018 and in my subsequent Statement. During 2018, the UK raised human rights bilaterally with

China on a number of occasions, including through the Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary, Ministers and senior officials.

**[China: Prisoners](#)**

**21 Dec 2018 | HL12218**

**Asked by: Lord Alton of Liverpool**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the preliminary findings of the Independent Tribunal Into Forced Organ Harvesting from Prisoners Of Conscience in China on allegations of forced organ harvesting from prisoners in China.

**Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

We are aware of reports that allege that a process of involuntary organ removal may be taking place in China, including suggestions that minority and religious groups are being specifically targeted. The British Government fully supports the Declaration of Istanbul (May 2008), which encourages all countries to draw up legal and professional frameworks to govern organ donation and transplantation activities.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) collates global data on organ donations and works with China. The WHO view is that China is implementing an ethical, voluntary organ transplant system in accordance with international standards, although the WHO does have concerns about overall transparency.

We will continue to review available evidence on this issue, including the preliminary findings of the Independent Tribunal Into Forced Organ Harvesting.

**[China: Organs](#)**

**14 Nov 2018 | 188826**

**Asked by: Jim Shannon**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if he will request from his EU and US counterparts the evidence that led to their respective parliaments passing resolutions to condemn forced organ harvesting in China.

**Answering member: Mark Field | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

We are aware of reports that allege that a process of involuntary organ removal may be taking place in China, including suggestions that minority and religious groups are being specifically targeted. The British government fully supports the Declaration of Istanbul (May 2008), which encourages all countries to draw up legal and professional frameworks to govern organ donation and transplantation activities.

Reports by authors such as Kilgour, Gutmann and Matas are important sources of information about China's organ transplant system. They rightly question the lack of transparency in China's organ transplant system, whilst acknowledging that it is very difficult to identify the

source of those organs and verify the number of organ transplants conducted in China. However we do not agree with the claims of systematic organ harvesting of prisoners of conscience, assessing that the evidence they present does not substantiate such a claim.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) collates global data on organ donations and works with China. The WHO view is that China is implementing an ethical, voluntary organ transplant system in accordance with international standards, although the WHO does have concerns about overall transparency.

We continue to review available evidence on this issue.

### **China: Falun Gong**

**08 Nov 2018 | HL11100**

#### **Asked by: Lord Suri**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to evaluate the credibility of evidence of the forced organ harvesting of practitioners of Falun Gong in China.

#### **Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

We are aware of reports that allege that a process of involuntary organ removal may be taking place in China, including suggestions that minority and religious groups are being specifically targeted. The UK Government fully supports the Declaration of Istanbul (May 2008), which encourages all countries to draw up legal and professional frameworks to govern organ donation and transplantation activities.

As the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister for Europe and the Americas, Sir Alan Duncan, stated in a Westminster Hall debate in October 2016: "Although I do not doubt the need to maintain close scrutiny of organ transplant practices in China, we believe that the evidence base is not sufficiently strong to substantiate claims about the systematic harvesting of organs from minority groups. Indeed, based on all the evidence available to us, we cannot conclude that this practice of "organ harvesting" is definitely happening in China."

The World Health Organisation (WHO) collates global data on organ donations and works with China. The WHO view is that China is implementing an ethical, voluntary organ transplant system in accordance with international standards, although the WHO does have concerns about overall transparency.

We continue to review any new evidence that is presented to us.

[China: Organs](#)

06 Nov 2018 | 185606

**Asked by: Jim Shannon**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if he will make an assessment of the merits of the conclusions of the people's independent tribunal on forced organ harvesting in China.

**Answering member: Mark Field | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

We are aware of reports that allege that a process of involuntary organ removal may be taking place in China, including suggestions that minority and religious groups are being specifically targeted. The UK government fully supports the Declaration of Istanbul (May 2008), which encourages all countries to draw up legal and professional frameworks to govern organ donation and transplantation activities.

As the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister for Europe and the Americas, Sir Alan Duncan, stated in a Westminster Hall debate in October 2016: "Although I do not doubt the need to maintain close scrutiny of organ transplant practices in China, we believe that the evidence base is not sufficiently strong to substantiate claims about the systematic harvesting of organs from minority groups. Indeed, based on all the evidence available to us, we cannot conclude that this practice of "organ harvesting" is definitely happening in China."

The World Health Organisation (WHO) collates global data on organ donations and works with China. The WHO view is that China is implementing an ethical, voluntary organ transplant system in accordance with international standards, although the WHO does have concerns about overall transparency.

We continue to review any new evidence that is presented to us.

[China: Organs](#)

06 Nov 2018 | 185605

**Asked by: Jim Shannon**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment he has made of the merits of the evidence collected by former Canadian Minister David Kilgour on forced organ harvesting in China.

**Answering member: Mark Field | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

We are aware of reports that allege that a process of involuntary organ removal may be taking place in China, including suggestions that minority and religious groups are being specifically targeted. The UK government fully supports the Declaration of Istanbul (May 2008), which encourages all countries to draw up legal and professional frameworks to govern organ donation and transplantation activities.

We consider the Kilgour, Gutmann and Matas report to be important sources of information about China's organ transplant system. These

reports rightly question the lack of transparency in China's organ transplant system, whilst acknowledging that it is very difficult to identify the source of those organs and verify the number of organ transplants conducted in China. We do not agree with the claims of systematic organ harvesting of prisoners of conscience, assessing that the evidence they present does not substantiate such a claim.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) collates global data on organ donations and works with China. The WHO view is that China is implementing an ethical, voluntary organ transplant system in accordance with international standards, although the WHO does have concerns about overall transparency.

We continue to review any new evidence that is presented to us.

### [China: Organs](#)

**06 Nov 2018 | 184949**

#### **Asked by: Shabana Mahmood**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what representations he has made to the Chinese government on allegations that organ harvesting continues to be practised in China.

#### **Answering member: Mark Field | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

We are aware of reports that allege that a process of involuntary organ removal may be taking place in China, including suggestions that minority and religious groups are being specifically targeted. The UK government fully supports the Declaration of Istanbul (May 2008), which encourages all countries to draw up legal and professional frameworks to govern organ donation and transplantation activities.

As the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister for Europe and the Americas, Sir Alan Duncan, stated in a Westminster Hall debate in October 2016: "Although I do not doubt the need to maintain close scrutiny of organ transplant practices in China, we believe that the evidence base is not sufficiently strong to substantiate claims about the systematic harvesting of organs from minority groups. Indeed, based on all the evidence available to us, we cannot conclude that this practice of "organ harvesting" is definitely happening in China."

The World Health Organisation (WHO) collates global data on organ donations and works with China. The WHO view is that China is implementing an ethical, voluntary organ transplant system in accordance with international standards, although the WHO does have concerns about overall transparency.

We continue to review any new evidence that is presented to us.

**[China: Muslims](#)**

**05 Nov 2018 | 185636**

**Asked by: Marie Rimmer**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment he has made of the accuracy of reports that Uighur Muslims in China have been detained for unwanted blood, tissue and DNA tests.

**Answering member: Mark Field | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

We have serious concerns about the human rights situation in Xinjiang and reports of the Chinese Government's deepening crackdown, including credible reports of re-education camps and widespread surveillance and restrictions targeted at ethnic minorities. We are aware of media reports that some Uyghurs may have been subject to unwanted DNA tests.

The UK supports the statement of 26 October by the European External Action Service highlighting concerns about Xinjiang.

I raised our concerns about Xinjiang with Vice Minister Guo Yezhou during my visit to China on 22 July 2018. The Foreign Secretary, Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP, also raised our concerns about the region with Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi during his visit to China on 30 July 2018. The UK raised our concerns about Xinjiang in our Item 4 statement at the September UN Human Rights Council.

**[China: Organs](#)**

**01 Nov 2018 | 185002**

**Asked by: Marie Rimmer**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if he will make it his policy to support the development of an independent international tribunal to investigate claims of forced organ harvesting in China.

**Answering member: Mark Field | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

We are aware of reports that allege that a process of involuntary organ removal may be taking place in China, including suggestions that minority and religious groups are being specifically targeted. The UK government fully supports the Declaration of Istanbul (May 2008), which encourages all countries to draw up legal and professional frameworks to govern organ donation and transplantation activities.

As the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister for Europe and the Americas, Sir Alan Duncan, stated in a Westminster Hall debate in October 2016: "Although I do not doubt the need to maintain close scrutiny of organ transplant practices in China, we believe that the evidence base is not sufficiently strong to substantiate claims about the systematic harvesting of organs from minority groups. Indeed, based on all the evidence available to us, we cannot conclude that this practice of "organ harvesting" is definitely happening in China."

The World Health Organisation (WHO) collates global data on organ donations and works with China. The WHO view is that China is implementing an ethical, voluntary organ transplant system in accordance with international standards, although the WHO does have concerns about overall transparency.

We continue to review any new evidence that is presented to us.

### [Organs: China](#)

**29 Oct 2018 | 183334**

#### **Asked by: Ian Murray**

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of bringing forward legislative proposals to ban (a) organ trafficking and (b) transplant tourism to China.

#### **Answering member: Matt Hancock | Department of Health and Social Care**

The Human Tissue Act 2004 prohibits commercial dealings in human material for transplantation and makes it an offence to traffic organs.

Clinical advice to United Kingdom patients is not to travel to less well-regulated countries to seek an organ transplant. It is thought that very few patients in the UK choose to do so but data on those who do is not available.

The Government has welcomed China's move to stop using organs harvested from executed prisoners from January 2015. The Government continues to monitor the degree of implementation of this commitment, and encourages China to make further progress in bringing transparency to their organ transplant process.

### [China: Organs](#)

**22 Oct 2018 | 180659**

#### **Asked by: Gregory Campbell**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if he will make representations to his Chinese counterpart on a reported increase in forced organ harvesting.

#### **Answering member: Mark Field | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

We are aware of reports that suggest a process of involuntary organ removal may be taking place in China, including suggestions that minority and religious groups are being specifically targeted. The UK government fully supports the Declaration of Istanbul (May 2008), which encourages all countries to draw up legal and professional frameworks to govern organ donation and transplantation activities.

As the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister for Europe and the Americas, Sir Alan Duncan, stated in a Westminster Hall debate on 11 October 2016: "Although I do not doubt the need to maintain close

scrutiny of organ transplant practices in China, we believe that the evidence base is not sufficiently strong to substantiate claims about the systematic harvesting of organs from minority groups. Indeed, based on all the evidence available to us, we cannot conclude that this practice of “organ harvesting” is definitely happening in China.”

**China: Political Prisoners**

**12 Sep 2018 | 170313**

**Asked by: Jim Shannon**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, whether he has received representations on the June 2016 resolution of the US Congress entitled Expressing concern regarding persistent and credible reports of systematic, state-sanctioned organ harvesting from non-consenting prisoners of conscience in the People's Republic of China; and if he will make a statement.

**Answering member: Mark Field | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

We are aware of reports that suggest a process of involuntary organ removal may be taking place in China, including suggestions that minority and religious groups are being specifically targeted. The British government fully supports the Declaration of Istanbul (May 2008), which encourages all countries to draw up legal and professional frameworks to govern organ donation and transplantation activities.

As the Minister for Europe and the Americas stated in a Westminster Hall debate on 11 October 2016: “Although I do not doubt the need to maintain close scrutiny of organ transplant practices in China, we believe that the evidence base is not sufficiently strong to substantiate claims about the systematic harvesting of organs from minority groups. Indeed, based on all the evidence available to us, we cannot conclude that this practice of “organ harvesting” is definitely happening in China.”



## 4. Other Parliamentary material

### 4.1 Debates

#### [Forced Organ Removal: China](#)

11 October 2016 | 615 cc1-21WH

### 4.2 Early Day Motions

#### [FORCED LIVE ORGAN EXTRACTION FROM PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE IN CHINA](#)

EDM 2138 (session 2017-19)

4 March 2019

Fiona Bruce

That this House notes with concern, allegations of forced organ harvesting in China and associated reports of suppression, persecution, torture and mass arbitrary imprisonment faced by religious and ethnic minority groups including Tibetans, Christians, Uyghers, and practitioners of the traditional Chinese meditation Falun Gong, that includes allegations of forced live organ extraction; acknowledges the interim judgement of the ongoing China Tribunal, chaired by Sir Geoffrey Nice QC, that such reports are beyond reasonable doubt, that in China forced organ harvesting from prisoners of conscience has been practised for a substantial period of time involving a very substantial number of victims; notes that Italy, Spain, Israel and Taiwan have introduced legislation banning their citizens from participating in organ tourism, and the Canadian Senate and Parliament have also approved similar legislation; urges the UK Government to prohibit UK citizens from travelling to China for the purpose of receiving organ transplants; and calls on the UK Government to give urgent consideration to other measures it could take to hold China to account for this alleged practice and to condemn it in the highest possible terms.

#### [FALUN GONG AND HARVESTING ORGANS](#)

EDM 677 (session 2017-19)

12 December 2017

Jim Shannon

That this House calls on the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to condemn the persecution of Falun Gong and the crime of harvesting organs from Falun Gong practitioners and other prisoners of conscience in China.

## 5. Further reading

### 5.1 Reports

[INTERIM JUDGMENT](#), The Independent Tribunal Into Forced Organ Harvesting from Prisoners of Conscience In China, 10th December 2018

[Transplant Abuse in China Continues Despite Claims of Reform](#), China Organ Harvest Research Center, July 2018

[PBS News Hour: is China still gathering organs from executed prisoners?](#) 29 May 2017, YouTube video

[FORCED ORGAN HARVESTING IN CHINA](#), The Conservative Party Human Rights Commission, 23 September 2016

[THE DARKEST MOMENT: The Crackdown on Human Rights in China, 2013-16](#), The Conservative Party Human Rights Commission, June 2016 (\*See part 9 on organ harvesting)

David Matas, Ethan Guttman and David Kilgour, [Bloody Harvest/The Slaughter: an update](#), June 22, 2016

David Matas and David Kilgour, [BLOODY HARVEST: Revised Report into Allegations of Organ Harvesting of Falun Gong Practitioners in China](#), 31 January 2007

[New era for organ donation and transplant in China](#), Bulletin of the World Health Organization Volume 90 Number 11, November 2012

### 5.2 Commons Library

[Human rights in Xinjiang](#), Commons Debate Pack CDP-2019-0019, 24 January 2019

[Forced organ removal in China](#), Commons Debate Pack CDP 2016 - 0174 , 05 October 2016

### 5.3 Websites

[The International Coalition to End Transplant Abuse in China](#) (Website)

[China Organ Harvest Research Center](#)

[Doctors Against Forced Organ Harvesting](#)

[Stop Organ Harvesting in China](#)

[All-Party Parliamentary China Group](#)

[All-Party Parliamentary Group for International Freedom of Religion or Belief](#)

[All Party Parliamentary Group for International Freedom of Religion or Belief](#)

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