3 Fabrications Allege Falun Gong is Responsible for 1,400 Deaths

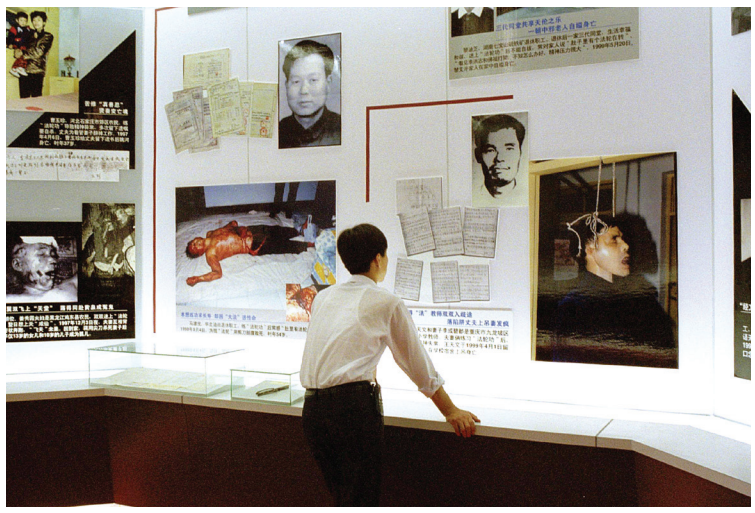
Throughout the 1990s, millions took up Falun Gong as news of its dramatic health benefits spread by word-of-mouth (*see page 6, "Positively Well"*). Government entities, including state media and the National Sports Commission, helped the practice's expansion by touting Falun Gong's positive impact on health and the ensuing savings on medical care.

So, when the Party launched its campaign against Falun Gong in 1999, it had a lot of explaining to do. It was faced with justifying an effort to stop people from doing something healthy and from which so many had benefited. It also had to offset its own endorsements.

To achieve this, the Party suddenly began claiming that Falun Gong had "led to more than 1,400 deaths" of followers. State-run media publicized everywhere alleged cases of such deaths, using highly graphic, emotional imagery. The main claim was that Falun Gong prohibits practitioners from taking medicine and thereby led to unnecessary deaths.

Besides the suspiciously timed reversal of the government's attitude, these claims are undermined by the fact the Party never furnished proper evidence to support them. It also blocked outside, third-party attempts to investigate. Meanwhile, no such "deaths" have ever occurred outside China in the 70-plus countries where Falun Gong is practiced freely.

More importantly, those who did investigate individual cases found them to have been fabricated. One telling example was the case of Ms. Zhang Zhiwen, from Shanxi province. In November 1999, a local media outlet reported that Ms. Zhang had burned her six-month-old daughter and then committed suicide in protest of the Party's crackdown on Falun Gong. The report was reprinted across the country. A few months later, an investigation into the case revealed that the story was a complete fabrication. In fact, Ms. Zhang had never existed.



LIES ON DISPLAY: A man views an anti-Falun Gong exhibition hosted by the Communist Party, replete with stories of alleged harm the practice had done. The problem: investigations reveal these are all fabrications.

4 Forcible Organ Harvesting From Falun Gong Prisoners of Conscience

Mounting evidence tells a terrible tale of murder and mutilation in China. Reports from witnesses and Chinese physicians reveal that thousands of Falun Gong practitioners have been killed for their organs, which are sold and transplanted at enormous profit.

The perpetrators are officials of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), acting in collaboration with surgeons, prison authorities, and military officials.

Victims are held in concentration camps prior to having their organs harvested, after which the bodies are immediately cremated.

The story, almost too dreadful to believe, was first revealed in March 2006 when a woman claimed that Falun Gong practitioners had been killed for their organs at the hospital where she had worked. She also said that her husband, a surgeon at the same hospital outside the northeastern city of Shenyang, had disclosed to her that he had removed cornea from the living bodies of 2,000 Falun Gong practitioners.

One week later, a Chinese military doctor not only corroborated the woman's account but also claimed that such atrocities were taking place in 36 different concentration camps throughout the country. He said he had also witnessed Falun Gong practitioners being massively transported in cattle trains, at night and under the cover of tight security.

Falun Gong supporters and human rights activists overseas immediately began investigating the allegations. They placed calls to Chinese hospitals pretending to be shopping for a kidney or a liver. To their horror, one doctor after another openly confirmed: We've got Falun Gong in stock; just come in and we can get you the organ within a week.

> *"[This is] a form of evil that we have yet to see on this planet."*
>
> *David Matas, Canadian investigator*

Shocked by these reports, two prominent Canadian lawyers launched their own investigation. In July 2006, former Secretary of State for Asia Pacific David Kilgour and human rights lawyer David Matas published a 140-page report. It drew "the regrettable conclusion that the allegations are true."

American freelance journalist Ethan Gutmann soon followed suit with his own inquiry. Both investigations concluded that somewhere in the range of 40,000 to 65,000 Falun Gong practitioners had been killed in this way from 2000-2006.

So, how does the organ harvesting work? Sometime around 2000, prison officials and medical doctors started colluding to give systematic medical testing to Falun Gong detainees—testing that suspiciously ignored injuries but checked the health of vital organs. Then, when a patient needed an organ, a suitable detainee would be matched, killed, and his or her organ taken and used for a transplant operation.

In fact, one Chinese website had boasted that it could provide matching organs in 1-4 weeks, a time frame medical experts say is impossible unless the Chinese hospitals had access to a huge stock of living organ "donors."

Since the accusations of organ harvesting first emerged, CCP officials have attempted to destroy evidence, while denying the allegations. They have also stonewalled investigations even after the United Nations Committee against Torture asked for a thorough accounting of the source of organs. At present, it is unclear whether the practice continues.

As David Matas, one of the Canadian investigators, stated, the harvesting of organs from living prisoners of conscience is a "a form of evil that we have yet to see on this planet." It brings the atrocities committed by the regime in China to new heights.

Moreover, given how much international interaction China's transplant industry has—from doctors' trainings to accepting foreign patients to collaborative research—the impact of these abuses is not limited to China.

For this reason, various governments and international agencies have taken action upon learning of the allegations and evidence. In early 2007, Israeli health insurance carriers stopped sending patients to China for transplants.

And in June 2011, a United States immigration form (DS-160) added the following question, applicable to China and other countries: "Have you ever been directly involved in the coercive transplantation of human organs or bodily tissue?"

Admissions of Organ Harvesting from Chinese Doctors

Perhaps no evidence of the killings described herein is greater than the admissions of physicians in China's own hospitals. The following are transcripts from conversations recorded by undercover researchers.

June 8, 2006: Mishan City Detention Center, Heilongjiang province

Caller: Do you have Falun Gong [organ] suppliers? ...

Mr. Li: We used to have, yes.

C: ... what about now?

Mr. Li: ... Yes. .....

C: What about the price?

Mr. Li: We'll discuss after you come. .....

C: How many [Falun Gong suppliers] under age 40 do you have?

Mr. Li: Quite a few. .....

C: Are they male or female?

Mr. Li: Male .....

C: Now ... the male Falun Gong [prisoners], how many of them do you have?

Mr. Li: Seven, eight, we have [at least] five, six now.

March 16, 2006: Shanghai Jiaotong University Hospital's Liver Transplant Center

Caller: I want to know how long [patients] have to wait [for a liver transplant].

Dr. Dai: The supply of organs we have, we have every day. We do them every day.

C: We want fresh, live ones.

Dr. Dai: They are all live, all live...

C: How many [liver transplants] have you done?

Dr. Dai: We've done 400 to 500 ... Your main job is to come, and have the money ready.

C: How much is it?

Dr. Dai: If everything goes smoothly, it's about RMB 150,000... RMB 200,000.

C: How long do I have to wait?

Dr. Dai: I need to check your blood type... If you come today, I may be able to do it for you within one week.

C: I heard that some [organs] come from those who practice Falun Gong, those who are very healthy.

Dr. Dai: Yes, we have those. But I can't talk openly over the phone.