



*(A re-enactment of live organ harvesting from living Falun Gong practitioner)*

Three international investigators have released an in-depth update on the killing of prisoners of conscience for their organs in China at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. on June 22, 2016.

Their extensive research, based on media reports, medical journals, hospital websites, and web archives, concludes that the number of transplants performed in China—and the number of victims—are much higher than previously estimated.

David Kilgour, former Canadian Secretary of State for Asia-Pacific, and human rights lawyer David Matas, published [\*Bloody Harvest: Organ Harvesting of Falun Gong Practitioners in China\*](#) in 2009 to shine a light on the harvesting of organs from living Falun Gong practitioners in China, millions of whom have been detained or imprisoned for their belief.

Ethan Gutmann, an award-winning China analyst and investigative journalist, published [\*The Slaughter: Mass Killings, Organ Harvesting, and China's Secret Solution to Its Dissident Problem\*](#) in 2014, after conducting an independent investigation.

This new 680-page report provides a comprehensive update to the investigation work by the three authors over the past decade. With more than 2,300 references, it includes a large volume of information collected from media reports, promotional materials in China, medical journals, and hospital websites.

In 1999 the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) decided to repress the spiritual practice of Falun Gong and its practitioners. Those who did the exercises after the repression campaign was launched were arrested and forced to denounce the practice.

Those who did not were tortured. Those who still refused to recant after torture, disappeared into the Chinese gulag - China's network of labour camps, detention centres, psychiatric hospitals, prisons, and black jails, sometimes referred to as the "Laogai System."

As many practitioners refused to give their names to protect their families from persecution, this provided the CCP with huge numbers of prisoners who just 'disappeared' without families knowing their whereabouts.

The researchers found that 164 hospitals in China had received official approval to conduct transplants. But hundreds more had applied for the proper license to do so in 2007. Estimates are that there are 700 hospitals carrying out transplants.

Even when they did not receive permission, they continued to do the procedures, the report says.

“Despite not being approved by the Ministry of Health, many of these facilities have not halted their transplant activities and some of these non-approved institutions had significant transplant volumes,” the report reads. “Compared to the Ministry-approved hospitals, these institutions have more flexibility to obtain living organ sources through various channels and to continue organ harvesting.”

Collectively, these facilities had the capacity to perform between 1.5 and 2.5 million transplants over the last 16 years, according to the report. The authors suspect the actual figure falls between 60,000 and 100,000 transplants per year since 2000.

***“The ultimate conclusion of this update, and indeed our previous work, is that China has engaged in the mass killing of innocents,”*** said co-author David Matas.

Ethan Gutmann had earlier estimated that at least 65,000 practitioners had been killed for their organs up until 2008, but the ***latest evidence concludes that there were 1.2 million unexplained transplants in the last 15 years***. The majority of those killed were Falun Gong practitioners, but also include Uyghurs, house Christians and Tibetans.

[Read full report here](#)