

#### **Promoting Ethical Practices in Medicine**

Rome, 11th July 2014



Doctors Against Forced Organ Harvesting (DAFOH) is a non-government organization founded in 2007 by medical doctors who were alerted by the coerced organ harvesting from prisoners and prisoners of conscience in China.

DAFOH seeks to promote ethical standards in medicine and to end unethical, forced organ harvesting practices.



# Foundation of Ethical Clinical Medicine and Scientific Medical Research

The Hippocratic Oath

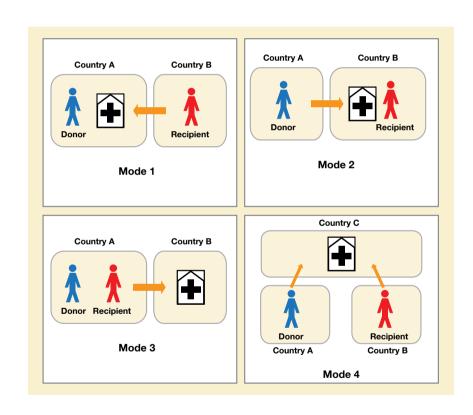
The Nuremberg Code 1947

Declaration of Helsinki 1964

**Declaration of Istanbul 2008** 

## Modes of International Organ Trade and Trafficking

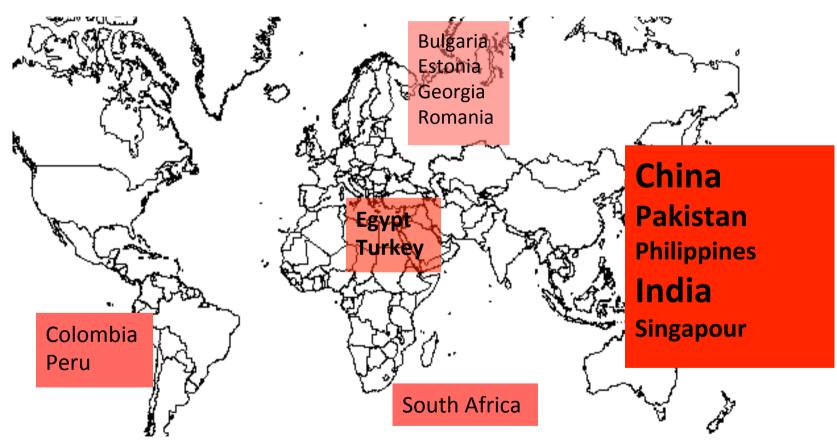




Chapter IV – Modus Operandi of THB/OR Networks from Trafficking in Human Beings of the purpose of organ removal in the OSCE Region – Analysis and Findings – OSCE 2013







**Shimazono Y.** The state of the international organ trade: a provisional picture based on integration of available information. Bulletin of the World Heath Organization 2007; 20; 901-80.

## Global Organ Donation and **Transplant Numbers**



Tableau Int1. Activités de prélèvement et de greffe au niveau international en 2011

	France	USA	Allemagne	Belgique	Autriche	Espagne	Italie	Pologne	Pays Bas	Grande Bretagne	Australie	Norvège	Suède	Portugal
population	65,5	313,1	81,8	Delgique 11	8.4	47.2	60.8	38,3	16.7	2,3	22,6	Norvege 5	9,4	10,7
(millions d'habitants)	05,5	313,1	01,0		0,4	41,2	00,0	30,3	10,7	2,3	22,0	3	9,4	10,7
Donneurs décédés*	3420	8126	1200	331	205	1667	1325	553	227	1056	337	127	146	301
PMH	52,2	26,0	14,7	30,1	24,4	35,3	21,8	14,4	13,6	17,0	14,9	24,5	15,5	28,1
Greffes rénales **														
Total	3044	17610	2850	514	415	2498	1751	1075	860	2752	825	302	435	530
PMH	46,5	56,2	34,8	46,7	49,4	52,9	28,8	28,1	51,5	44,2	36,5	60,4	46,3	49,5
Donneurs vivants	357	5772	795	40	55	312	211	40	440	1026	255	73	184	47
Greffes hépatiques **														
Total	1161	6342	1199	299	128	1137	1034	300	135	759	215	89	156	219
PMH	17,7	20,3	14,7	27,2	15,2	24,1	17	7,8	8,1	12,2	9,5	17,8	16,6	20,5
Donneurs vivants	9	247	71	35	2	28	15	18	8	37	2	0	7	0
Greffes cardiaques														
Total	417	2349	366	76	51	237	278	80	44	148	66	30	52	46
PMH	6,4	7,5	4,5	6,9	6,1	5	4,6	0,1	2,6	2,4	2,9	6,0	5,5	4,3
Greffes cardio- pulmonaires														
Total	20	27	10	3	1	4	1	0	0	4	2	1	1	0
PMH	0,3	0,1	0,1	0,3	0,1	0,1	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,1	0,1	0,2	0,1	0,0
Greffes pulmonaires														
Total	342	1849	337	111	120	230	120	15	68	191	159	28	60	18
PMH	5,2	5,9	4,1	10,1	14,3	4,9	2,0	0,4	4,1	3,1	7,0	5,6	6,4	1,7
Greffes pancréatiques														
Total	72	1082	171	14	16	111	58	34	30	236	26	20	35	25
PMH	1,1	3,5	2,1	1,3	1,9	2,4	1,0	0,9	1,8	3,8	1,2	4,0	3,7	2,3

<sup>\*</sup> Sujets en état de mort encéphalique et donneurs décédés après arrêt cardiaque

<sup>\*\*</sup> Incluent les donneurs vivants PMH : par million d'habitants





SIXTY-THIRD WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY A63/24

#### **Guiding Principle 11**

The organization and execution of donation and transplantation activities, as well as their clinical results, must be transparent and open to scrutiny, while ensuring that the personal anonymity and privacy of donors and recipients are always protected.



"The China Experience - a Transplant Model to Copy?"

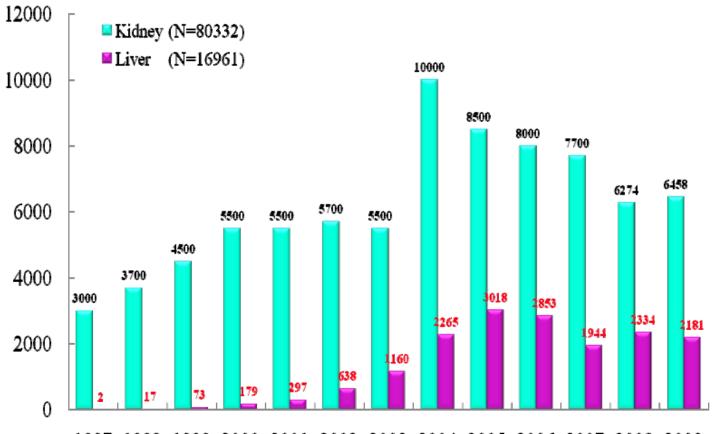
### Can we learn from China?

### Single case study on China's experience

- 1) China has the largest transplant numbers in the world, only second to US.
- 2) It has an organ sourcing program, nowhere else found in the world
- 3) Yet, it is also in contradiction to all ethical standards (WMA, WHO, TTS).



## Second largest implanter in the world in under 5 years



1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009

Graph from Chinese Ministry of Health 2005

## Chinese Websites: Transplantation Centers invite Foreign Patients for Transplant Tourism

Liver transplant Authorized premier Transplant surgeon team will help you in China. <a href="www.bek-transplant.com">www.bek-transplant.com</a>. China International Organ Transplant Center. <a href="www.totse.com">www.totse.com</a>





**Contact Us:** 

United States: Toll free: +888-289-4789

United Kingdom: +44-20-8002-9268

E-mail: consultant@newlifetransplant.com

Please note: our business hours are Beijing Standard Time: 08:00-20:00

Monday-Friday,

09:00-20:00 Saturday,

- At China International Transplantation Network Assistance Center, all working staff can speak fluent English. Furthermore, patient will be taken care of by 24 hour translator and special nurse. The patients and their families will be taken good care of from arriving at the airport to leaving again for their homeland.
- Shanghai Zhongshan Hospital is the best hospital which is equipped with the most advanced facilities and technology.

Slide courtesy of Professor Jacques Belghiti, France.





#### SIXTY-THIRD WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY A63/24

#### **Guiding Principle 5**

Cells, tissues and organs should only be donated freely, without any monetary payment or other reward of monetary value. Purchasing, or offering to purchase, cells, tissues or organs for transplantation, or their sale by living persons or by the next of kin for deceased persons, should be banned.

The prohibition on sale or purchase of cells, tissues and organs does not preclude reimbursing reasonable and verifiable expenses incurred by the donor, including loss of income, or paying the costs of recovering, processing, preserving and supplying human cells, tissues or organs for transplantation.





Franz Immer, M.D.

Chair of the Swiss National Foundation for organ donation and transplantation

"During my visit in Beijing in 2007, a hospital invited us to watch a heart transplantation operation. The organizer asked us whether we would like to have the transplantation operation in the morning or in the afternoon.

This means that the donor would die, or be killed, at a given time, at the convenience of the visitors. I refused to participate."





SIXTY-THIRD WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY A63/24

#### **Guiding Principle 7**

Physicians and other health professionals should not engage in transplantation procedures, and health insurers and other payers should not cover such procedures, if the cells, tissues or organs concerned have been obtained through exploitation or coercion of, or payment to, the donor or the next of kin of a deceased donor.



## World Unique Organ Sourcing Program

- No State voluntary organ donation system
- Admitted Total Dependence on executed prisoners
- Undeclared use of prisoners of conscience
- Based on the "intended" death of the donnor
- Run by the military services!
- In 2013 the Chinese Red Cross offers money for live organ donations from Chinese citizens.





Prof. Jacob Lavee, M.D.

Director, Heart Transplantation Unit, Sheba Medical Center, Tel Hashomer, Israel

"In 2005, I was approached one day by a patient of mine with an unusual message. This patient ... was told by his medical insurance company to go to China in two weeks' time as he was scheduled to undergo heart transplantation on a specific date. ... The patient, indeed, went to China and underwent the operation on the exact date as promised ahead of time."



## Independent Investigations

- 2006 Bloody Harvest report Matas & Kilgour -41 500 unexplained transplants between 2000 and 2005 probable source are Falun Gong practitioners
- 2006 United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture confirm that Falun Gong practitioners were used for organ harvesting





Professor Tom Treasure, retired cardio-thoracic surgeon, University College of London, United Kingdom

The Falun Gong, organ transplantation, the holocaust and ourselves.

March 2007 - Journal of Royal College of Surgeons

#### Factors confirming allegations of organ harvesting from Falun Gong as plausible are:

- numerical gap between the reported number of transplants
- short waiting times
- confidence with which operations are offered in the global health market
- routine blood testing of the Falun Gong





#### No Changes between 2007 and 2013

- 2007: Transplantation Law in China
- 2009-2010: Announcements on a "New Organ Donation System throughout China"
- 2012: Announcements of « Reducing Dependency » on Executed Prisoners' Organs
- 2013: Hangzhou Resolution (November)

  "the cessation of organs being recovered from executed prisoners," and the guarantee that "the source of organs is in compliance with international ethical standards."

## Organ Transplantation in China





Huang Jiefu, China Organ Donation and Transplant Committee,
Article China Daily (USA) March 7th 2014

"Judicial organs and local health ministries should establish ties, and allow death row prisoners to voluntarily donate organs and be added to the computer organ allocation system,"





#### WMA Statement on Organ and Tissue Donation

Adopted by the 63<sup>rd</sup> WMA General Assembly, Bangkok, Thailand, October 2012

"In jurisdictions where the death penalty is practised, executed prisoners must not be considered as organ and/or tissue donors. While there may be individual cases where prisoners are acting voluntarily and free from pressure, it is impossible to put in place adequate safeguards to protect against coercion in all cases."



## Global International Reactions to Forced Organ Harvesting





**Dec. 2006:** Major Australian transplant hospitals banned training of Chinese surgeons.

March 2008: Israel's Ministry of Health formulated "Organ Transplant Law" which brought transplant tourism from Israel to China to a complete halt.

July 2010: Spanish Penal Code punishes individuals related to transplant tourism including recipients who are aware of the organ's illicit origin.

Oct 2010 French MP proposes to modify french law to enforce an certificat proving that the organ was ethical obtained.

**Sept. 2012:** U.S. Congress held a hearing on "Organ Harvesting of Religious and Political Dissidents by the CCP," condemning the practice forced organ excision from prisoners.



March 2013: The Australian Senate adopted a resolution exhorting the Australian government to oppose organ harvesting on prisoners.

**June 2013:** U.S. Congress introduced H.RES.281 demanding the government of China to end the practice of organ pillaging from all prisoners.

**Nov. 2013:** Nearly 1.5 million people from over 50 countries signed the DAFOH petition to the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, calling to end the forced organ harvesting in China.

**Dec. 2013:** The European Parliament adopted a resolution against China's unethical organ procurement.



**Feb. 2014**: Finnish MEPs participate in debate on Organ harvesting in the bureau of the European parliament.

**Feb. 2014:** Leaders of The Transplantation Society (TTS) and the Declaration of Istanbul Custody Group write an open letter to Chinese President Xi Jinping urging him to take personal action against ongoing corruption in the organ transplant system in China.

**Feb. 2014:** Illinois House representatives pass resolution againt organ harvesting in China, HR 730.

**Feb. 2014**: Lobbying session held in Israeli Knesset on transplant abuse by Moshe Feiglin



March 2014: European Economic and Social Committee aligns with EU Parliament stating China's organ procurement practices are "scandalous" and "a disgrace for humanity and should end immediately. »

March 2014: UNHRC Canadian representative asks directly about organ harvesting of Falun Gong practitioners.

March 2014: Canadian NGO Lawyers Human Rights Watch condems China for abuse of Falun Gong

March 2014: Irwin Cotler present new bill to stop canadians seeking organs in China and asks for the removal of China from the UNHRC for crimes againt humanity

March 2014: Italian Senate unanimously passes resolution on China's organ harvesting.



**April 2014:** Israel's leading rabbis, **Shlomo Aviner**, openly admonished the CCP for the brutal persecution and forced organ harvesting of the peaceful Falun Gong in China.

**April 2014:** Members of Parliament from Hong Kong, Taiwan and Australia unit against organ harvesting in China by lauching PAFOH

June 2014: The Medical Society of Virginia (MSV) has voted to refer a resolution to its Board of Directors condemning systematic, statesanctioned organ harvesting in China and to express its support for a pending House Resolution in the U.S. Congress of the same nature.

July 2014: PAFOH introduced to National Members Parliament of European Countries and to Members of the European Parliament.

**July 2014: Council of Europe** Convention to combat trafficking in human organs.





#### Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs

Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 9 July 2014

"The Convention calls on governments to establish as a criminal offence the illegal removal of human organs from living or deceased donors:

- where the removal is performed without the free, informed and specific consent of the living or deceased donor, or, in the case of the deceased donor, without the removal being authorised under its domestic law;
- where, in exchange for the removal of organs, the living donor, or a third party, receives a financial gain or comparable advantage;
- where in exchange for the removal of organs from a deceased donor, a third party receives a financial gain or comparable advantage."



## What Can We Do?

What are the possible immediate actions that will help to end forced organ harvesting in China and the world?



## **DAFOH Proposals**

- Sign the global DAFOH Petition to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Write to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mrs. Navi Pillay and ask about her reaction to our concerns and the 1.5 million signatures.
- Talk to your colleagues and members of parliament about:
  - European Resolution on organ harvesting in China
  - Council of Europe Convention Against Trafficking in Human Organs
- Join PAFOH, Parliamentarians Against Forced Organ Harvesting
- Inform your patients about Transplant Tourism in China



Doctors
Against
Forced
Organ
Harvesting

**Promoting Ethical Practices in Medicine**