

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 20

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator ANTHONY M. BUCCO

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Thompson, Doherty, Greenstein, Oroho, Singer and Stack

SYNOPSIS

Denounces organ harvesting from Falun Gong practitioners and political prisoners in People's Republic of China.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/28/2021)

1 **A SENATE RESOLUTION** denouncing the practice of organ
2 harvesting from Falun Gong practitioners and political prisoners
3 in the People’s Republic of China.
4
5 **WHEREAS**, In saving the lives of once hopeless patients, the practice
6 of organ transplantation is a miracle of modern medicine when
7 performed in accordance with established ethical standards; and
8 **WHEREAS**, While the People’s Republic of China (PRC) performs up
9 to 100,000 organ transplants per year, China does not comply with
10 the World Health Organization’s organ procurement transparency
11 requirements; and
12 **WHEREAS**, As a result, much of China’s organ supply are unaccounted
13 for, and credible reports indicate that prisoners of conscience are
14 regularly killed to supply China’s growing organ transplant market;
15 and
16 **WHEREAS**, The PRC officially sanctioned the harvesting of organs
17 from executed prisoners in 1984 after enacting the “Temporary
18 Rules Concerning the Utilization of Corpses or Organs from the
19 Corpses of Executed Criminals,” which stated that “the use of the
20 corpses or organs of executed criminals must be kept strictly secret,
21 and attention must be paid to avoiding negative repercussions”; and
22 **WHEREAS**, This policy remained in use for decades, as former Vice-
23 Minister of Health Huang Jiefu said in 2005 that more than 90
24 percent of deceased organ donations were obtained from executed
25 prisoners; and
26 **WHEREAS**, Some reports also estimated that roughly 50 percent of
27 organ transplantations performed in China in 2013 were sourced
28 from executed prisoners; and
29 **WHEREAS**, Voluntary and informed consent is a prerequisite for
30 ethical organ donation, the international community maintains that
31 prisoners, many of whom are deprived of their freedoms and
32 imprisoned for their beliefs, are unable to provide consent for organ
33 donation; and
34 **WHEREAS**, Falun Gong practitioners, who comprise the largest
35 percentage of PRC prisoners of conscience, are believed to be the
36 primary victims of organ harvesting since the early 2000s; and
37 **WHEREAS**, Founded in 1992 by Li Hongzhi, Falun Gong is a spiritual
38 practice that engages in meditative exercises and emphasizes the
39 principles of truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance; and
40 **WHEREAS**, By offering practitioners a sense of personal fulfillment
41 and reconnection with traditional Chinese culture after decades of
42 state-sponsored Maoism, nationalism, and materialism, Falun Gong
43 quickly became popular, gaining over 70 million followers by
44 1999; and
45 **WHEREAS**, Fearing the movement’s growing societal influence, the
46 PRC President and Chinese Communist Party General Secretary
47 Jiang Zemin launched a nationwide campaign in July 1999 to
48 eliminate the alleged “evil cult”; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Since 1999, hundreds of thousands of practitioners have
2 been coerced into recanting Falun Gong beliefs and subjected to
3 physical and psychological abuses while detained in “legal
4 education centers,” “black jails,” and reeducation labor camps; and

5 **WHEREAS**, When Falun Gong practitioners refused to renounce their
6 beliefs, evidence shows that they were targeted for forced organ
7 donations; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Independent reports estimate that approximately 65,000
9 Falun Gong practitioners were killed for their organs between 2000
10 and 2008, and human rights organizations such as Freedom House
11 have declared that “there are reasons to believe that such abuses
12 continue” today; and

13 **WHEREAS**, The Chinese government also reportedly targeted ethnic
14 minorities and political dissidents for organ harvesting, most
15 notably Muslim Uyghurs from the Xinjiang Province; and

16 **WHEREAS**, The killing of religious or political prisoners for the
17 purpose of harvesting their organs violates established medical
18 ethical standards, infringes on the universal rights of humanity, and
19 reduces the promise of organ transplantation into a nightmare for
20 countless innocent victims; now, therefore,

21
22 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

23
24 1. This House denounces the practice of organ harvesting from
25 non-consenting prisoners of conscience, including Falun Gong
26 practitioners and political prisoners, in the People's Republic of
27 China.

28
29 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
30 shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the United
31 States Secretary of State, the Ambassador of the People's Republic
32 of China to the United States, and the Permanent Representative of
33 the People's Republic of China to the United Nations.

34
35
36 STATEMENT

37
38 This resolution denounces the practice of organ harvesting from
39 Falun Gong practitioners, political dissidents, and ethnic minorities
40 in the People's Republic of China (PRC).

The harvesting of organs from executed prisoners is well-documented in the PRC. The practice was officially sanctioned in 1984 upon the enactment of the “Temporary Rules Concerning the Utilization of Corpses or organs from the Corpses of Executed Criminals,” which explicitly stated that “the use of the corpses or organs of executed criminals must be kept strictly secret, and attention must be paid to avoiding negative repercussions.” According to the former PRC Vice-Minister of Health Huang Jiefu,

1 more than 90 percent of China's deceased organ donations in 2005
2 were obtained from executed prisoners. By 2013, approximately 50
3 percent of the country's estimated 100,000 annual organ
4 transplantations were reportedly supplied by executed prisoners.

5 Credible reports indicate that the PRC heavily targeted
6 imprisoned Falun Gong practitioners for organ harvesting beginning
7 in the early 2000s. Founded in 1992 by Li Hongzhi, Falun Gong is
8 a spiritual practice that uses meditative exercises and emphasizes
9 the principles of truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance. By 1999
10 the movement gained over 70 million practitioners throughout
11 China. However, fearing Falun Gong's growing societal influence,
12 the PRC President Jiang Zemin launched a nationwide campaign in
13 July 1999 to eliminate the practice. Since then, Falun Gong
14 practitioners throughout China were imprisoned, tortured, and
15 coerced into renouncing their beliefs.

16 Practitioners who refused to recant became prime targets of
17 organ harvesting. An estimated 65,000 Falun Gong practitioners
18 were killed for their organs between 2000 and 2008 alone. Ethnic
19 minorities and political prisoners, most notably Muslim Uyghurs in
20 Xinjiang Province, were also reportedly targeted for organ
21 harvesting. According to human rights organizations such as
22 Freedom House, "there is reason to believe that such abuses
23 continue" in 2017.

24 Harvesting organs from religious or political prisoners violates
25 not only ethical medical standards but also the universal rights of
26 the Chinese people. The State of New Jersey stands in solidarity
27 with the Falun Gong, its practitioners, and every other victim of
28 Chinese organ harvesting.