

## Senate Resolution 629

By: Senators Mullis of the 53rd, Kirkpatrick of the 32nd, Rhett of the 33rd, Jones II of the 22nd, Albers of the 56th and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recommending that certain measures be taken regarding the actions of the People's Republic  
2 of China against Falun Gong practitioners and other minority groups; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, extensive and credible reports have revealed mass killing of prisoners of  
4 conscience in the People's Republic of China, primarily practitioners of the spiritual-based  
5 exercises of Falun Gong, but also other religious and ethnic minority groups, in order to  
6 obtain organs for transplants; and

7 WHEREAS, the organ transplantation system in China does not comply with the World  
8 Health Organization's Guiding Principles of traceability and transparency in organ  
9 procurement pathways, and the government of the People's Republic of China has resisted  
10 independent scrutiny of the system; and

11 WHEREAS, traditional Chinese custom requires bodies to be preserved intact after death.  
12 With rare voluntary organ donation, however, China's transplantation industry significantly  
13 increased since 2000; and

14 WHEREAS, the Department of State Country Report on Human Rights for China for 2011  
15 stated, "Overseas and domestic media and advocacy groups continued to report instances of  
16 organ harvesting, particularly from Falun Gong practitioners and Uighurs"; and

17 WHEREAS, a new investigative report, published in June, 2016, conducted by human rights  
18 attorney David Matas, former Canadian Secretary of State for Asia-Pacific David Kilgour,  
19 and journalist Ethan Gutmann estimated that China is performing 60,000 to 100,000  
20 transplants per year as opposed to 10,000 transplants claimed by the Chinese government,  
21 which is "an industrial-scale, state-directed organ transplantation system, controlled through  
22 national policies and funding, and implicating both the military and civilian healthcare  
23 systems."; and

24 WHEREAS, China's Liver Transplant Registry System indicated that more than 25 percent  
25 of cases were emergency transplants, for which an organ was found within days or even  
26 hours. Wait times for nonemergency liver transplants were usually quoted in weeks. Most  
27 patients in other countries have to wait years for a transplant; and

28 WHEREAS, the Chinese government claims that 90 percent of China's organ transplant  
29 sources come from executed prisoners. However, the number of executions has dropped 10  
30 percent annually since 2002 and is far less than the number of transplants taking place. The  
31 government has never acknowledged the sourcing of organs from prisoners of conscience;  
32 and

33 WHEREAS, Falun Gong, a spiritual practice involving meditative "qigong" exercises and  
34 centered on the values of truthfulness, compassion, and forbearance, became immensely  
35 popular in China in the 1990s, with multiple estimates placing the number of practitioners  
36 at upwards of 70 million; and

37 WHEREAS, in July, 1999, the Chinese Communist Party launched an intensive, nationwide  
38 persecution, including physical and mental torture, designed to eradicate the spiritual practice  
39 of Falun Gong, reflecting the party's long-standing intolerance of large independent civil  
40 society groups; and

41 WHEREAS, since 1999, hundreds of thousands of Falun Gong practitioners have been  
42 detained extralegally in Chinese reeducation-through-labor camps, detention centers, and  
43 prisons, where torture, abuse, and implausible medical exams and blood tests on Falun Gong  
44 practitioners are routine; and

45 WHEREAS, Freedom House reported in 2015 that Falun Gong practitioners comprise the  
46 largest portion of prisoners of conscience in China and face an elevated risk of dying or being  
47 killed in custody; and

48 WHEREAS, the United Nations Committee Against Torture and the Special Rapporteur on  
49 Torture have expressed concern over the allegations of organ harvesting from Falun Gong  
50 prisoners and have called on the government of the People's Republic of China to increase  
51 accountability and transparency in the organ transplant system and punish those responsible  
52 for abuses; and

53 WHEREAS, in June, 2016, the United States House of Representatives unanimously passed  
54 House Resolution 343 condemning the systematic, state-sanctioned organ harvesting from  
55 Falun Gong and other prisoners of conscience; and

56 WHEREAS, the killing of religious or political prisoners for the purpose of selling their  
57 organs for transplant is an egregious and intolerable violation of the fundamental right to  
58 live; and

59 WHEREAS, organ tourism to China should not be shielded by medical confidentiality, but  
60 openly monitored. No nation should allow their citizens to go to China for organs until  
61 China has allowed a full investigation into organ harvesting of prisoners of conscience, both  
62 past and present.

63 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
64 recommend as follows:

65 (1) That officials of this state and of the United States call on the government of the People's  
66 Republic of China to immediately end the practice of organ harvesting from all prisoners and  
67 prisoners of conscience, and explicitly from Falun Gong prisoners of conscience and  
68 members of other religious and ethnic minority groups;

69 (2) That representatives of this state and of the United States call upon the government of the  
70 People's Republic of China to immediately end the 17-year persecution of the Falun Gong  
71 and release all Falun Gong practitioners and other prisoners of conscience;

72 (3) That representatives of this state and of the United States call upon the President of the  
73 United States to undertake a full and transparent investigation by the United States  
74 Department of State into organ transplant practices in the People's Republic of China, and  
75 call for the prosecution of those found to have engaged in such unethical practices;

76 (4) That measures should be taken to initiate a registry for residents of Georgia who travel  
77 abroad to receive organ transplants; and

78 (5) That measures should be taken to ban the entry of those who have participated in illegal  
79 removal of human tissues and organs, and seek prosecution of such individuals should they  
80 be found on the soil of this state.

81 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
82 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the President and  
83 Vice President of the United States, the President and Secretary of the United States Senate,  
84 the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the chair of the Senate  
85 Committee on Foreign Affairs, the chair of the House Committee on Foreign Relations, and  
86 the Georgia delegation to Congress.