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## To:

Re: Stop Forced Organ Harvesting Act of 2021

Dear Senator/Representative X,

We, the undersigned organizations, ask you to co-sponsor the *Stop Forced Organ Harvesting Act of* 2021, sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR) and Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE) and in the House by Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ) and Rep. Tom Suozzi (D-NY).

Forced organ harvesting and organ trafficking are interlinked crimes where organs are taken from victims through coercion or without informed consent and sold illegally. This means that patients undergoing organ transplants abroad are at-risk of receiving trafficked organs.

In many countries, impoverished people are targeted and coerced to sell an organ from which the traffickers make a significant profit. The 'donor' is left without medical care and with significant health risks.

In China the situation is vastly different. For years, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has systematically harvested the organs of prisoners of conscience, primarily Falun Gong practitioners, and there is mounting evidence of Muslim Uyghurs being targeted as well.

Since 2015, China's organ transplantation system has claimed to only source organs from voluntary donors, but evidence demonstrates that this data has been falsified. A close examination shows that Chinese hospitals have performed at least several times more transplants than even the largest estimates of death row prisoners can account for. 2

The China Tribunal,<sup>3</sup> an independent, international people's tribunal chaired by Sir Geoffrey Nice QC, lead prosecutor of Slobodan Milosevic at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY), has concluded "unanimously, and sure beyond reasonable doubt – that in China forced organ harvesting from prisoners of conscience has been practiced for a substantial period of time involving a very substantial number of victims." The China Tribunal's judgment presents the first-ever independent legal analysis of all available evidence regarding forced organ harvesting from prisoners of conscience in China.

Multiple lines of evidence reviewed by the China Tribunal over 12 months included undercover phone calls to Chinese surgeons and officials who admitted that Falun Gong practitioners' organs are available on demand.<sup>5</sup> Other undercover calls also provided evidence that former Chinese President Jiang Zemin issued the order to harvest organs from Falun Gong practitioners.<sup>6</sup> Based on the overall collective body of evidence reviewed, the China Tribunal concluded that state sanctioned forced organ harvesting in China amounts to Crimes Against Humanity.

There is also mounting evidence that the Uyghurs are the next target for the CCP's forced organ harvesting campaign. For years, China has been engaged in a systematic campaign of persecution and oppression against Uyghurs, Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, Hui, and other Muslim ethnic groups from the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. Up to 2 million of Xinjiang's Muslims are imprisoned in "reeducation" camps, subjected to forced labor, and recent reporting has shown that the Chinese Communist Party is also subjecting them to forced sterilization. The CCP's persecution of the Uyghurs has grown so severe that the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum has recently announced that "there are reasonable grounds to believe that China is responsible for crimes against humanity."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Robertson, Matthew P. "Analysis of official deceased organ donation data casts doubt on the credibility of China's organ transplant reform." *BMC Medical Ethics*, November 14, 2019. https://bmcmedethics.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12910-019-0406-6

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Matas, Kilgour and Gutmann. "Exposing China's Lucrative Organ Transplant Industry." *EndTransplantAbuse.org*. June 22, 2016. <a href="https://endtransplantabuse.org/an-update/">https://endtransplantabuse.org/an-update/</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> www.chinatribunal.com

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> https://chinatribunal.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/ChinaTribunal JUDGMENT 1stMarch 2020.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> https://chinatribunal.com/wp-

content/uploads/2020/02/PhoneCallsVerification AcademicCommentators 15May.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> https://chinatribunal.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Appendix-1-Investigation-Recording-of-Bai-Shuzhong-former-health-minister-of-the-General-Logistics-Department-of-the-People%E2%80%99s-Liberation-Army.pdf https://chinatribunal.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Report-on-Forensic-Examinations-of-Recordings Prof-French\_A.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Zenz, Adrian. "China's Own Documents Show Potentially Genocidal Sterilization Plans in Xinjiang." *Foreign Policy*. July 1, 2020. <a href="https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/07/01/china-documents-uighur-genocidal-sterilization-xinjiang/8">https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/07/01/china-documents-uighur-genocidal-sterilization-xinjiang/8</a> "Simon-Skjodt Center Director Delivers Remarks on China's Systematic Persecution of Uyghurs." *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*. March 6, 2020. <a href="https://www.ushmm.org/genocide-prevention/blog/simon-skjodt-center-director-delivers-remarks-on-chinas-systematic-persecut">https://www.ushmm.org/genocide-prevention/blog/simon-skjodt-center-director-delivers-remarks-on-chinas-systematic-persecut</a>

According to the report: "Organ Procurement and Extrajudicial Execution in China: A Review of the Evidence," published by Matthew Robertson, China Studies Research Fellow with the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation, former Uyghur detainees "now in exile have reported blood tests and physical examinations consistent with those necessary to establish organ health." China is already conducting a "Physicals for All" program in Xinjiang. For the past few years, this program has collected DNA samples and other data from Uyghurs, facilitating Chinese surveillance and making it easier to identify targets for organ harvesting in Xinjiang. 10

On July 20, 2020, the 21st anniversary of the CCP's campaign to destroy Falun Gong, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo called on the CCP to "immediately end its depraved abuse and mistreatment of Falun Gong practitioners, release those imprisoned due to their beliefs...and address the whereabouts of missing practitioners." Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom Sam Brownback has also asked Beijing to "let the rest of the world see where their organs are coming from in the transplants that they're doing." <sup>11</sup>

In 2021, Secretary of State Antony Blinken also announced multiple sanctions on Chinese officials for their roles in the persecution of Uyghurs and Falun Gong practitioners, <sup>1213</sup> and the US State Department released their 2020 Report on International Religious Freedom which included reference to the China Tribunal Judgment and VOC report. <sup>14</sup>

To fight the global organ trafficking trade and to specifically address the CCP's practice of forced organ harvesting, the *Stop Forced Organ Harvesting Act of 2021* expands the U.S. government's powers to combat organ harvesting, imposes harsher penalties for purchasing organs, prohibits the export of organ transplant surgery devices to entities responsible for human organ trafficking, imposes sanctions on individuals and government officials in countries who support human organ trafficking and forced organ harvesting, and introduces mandatory reporting on human organ trafficking in foreign countries and on U.S. institutions which train organ transplant surgeons.

We urge you to co-sponsor the *Stop Forced Organ Harvesting Act of 2021*. The House bill <u>H.R.1592</u> is sponsored by Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ) and Rep. Tom Suozzi (D-NY) and the Senate bill <u>S.602</u> is sponsored by Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR) and Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE). Your support and passage of this legislation will ensure that the United States is combating and not complicit in the heinous practice of forced organ harvesting.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> https://victimsofcommunism.org/publication/china-organ-procurement-report-2020/

Wee, Sui-Lee. "China Uses DNA to Track Its People, With the Help of American Expertise." New York Times, February 21, 2019. https://www.nytimes.com/2019/02/21/business/china-xinjiang-uighur-dna-thermo-fisher.html He, Cathy. "US Lawmakers Decry Beijing's 21-Year-Long 'Unforgiving' Persecution of Falun Gong." The Epoch Times. July 23, 2020. https://www.theepochtimes.com/mkt\_app/us-lawmakers-decry-beijings-21-year-long-unforgiving-persecution-of-falun-gong\_3430783.html

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> https://www.state.gov/designation-of-peoples-republic-of-china-official-due-to-involvement-in-gross-violations-of-human-rights/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy0070

<sup>14</sup> https://www.state.gov/reports/2020-report-on-international-religious-freedom/china/

To co-sponsor the bill, or for more information, please contact:

Edward Linczer, Senator Tom Cotton's Office - Edward Linczer@cotton.senate.gov Piero Tozzi, Congressman Chris Smith's Office - Piero.Tozzi@mail.house.gov

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this legislation.

Respectfully,

Christopher Wright, Association of American Physicians and Surgeons

Maya Mitalipova, President, Boston Uyghur Association

Bob Fu, Founder and President, ChinaAid

China Organ Harvest Research Center

Susie Hughes, Executive Director, International Coalition To End Transplant Abuse In China (ETAC)

Jane Durgom-Powers, President and Founder, Families of the Missing

Katrina Lantos Swett, President, Lantos Foundation

Dede Laugesen, Executive Director, Save the Persecuted Christians

Omer Kanat, Executive Director, Uyghur Human Rights Project

Amb. Andrew Bremberg, President and CEO, Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation

Dr. Zhiyuan Wang, World Organization to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong

Alan Adler, Executive Director, Friends of Falun Gong

Kevin Freeman, Founder, NSIC Institute

Zeno Gamble, COO, White Mountain Research

Salih Hudayar, Prime Minister, East Turkistan Government in Exile

Kevin Jessip, GSAMinistries.org

Brian Kennedy, Committee on the Present Danger: China

MagnaFaith Krimi, CEO, WarDesk News

Faith J. H. McDonnell, Director, International Religious Liberty Program Institute on Religion and Democracy

Greg Mitchell, Chair, International Religious Freedom Roundtable

Jorge Parrott, Ph.D., President, CMM World Missions & CMM College of Theology

Ronald Scott

Kathleen Sullivan

Kenneth R. Timmerman, author, National Security and Foreign Policy advisory board, Trump 2016

Frank Wolf, Member of Congress 1981-2014, retired

Elizabeth Yore, Esq., YoreChildren.com

The Falun Gong Human Rights Working Group

The Coalition to Denounce the CCP

Alliance for a Free and Democratic Vietnam

Alliance for Democracy in Vietnam

Alumni Association of Quoc Hoc Dong Khanh Southern California

An Tinh Temple, Hue, Vietnam

Anti-China Expansion Movement

Anti-Chinese Anti-Vietnamese Communists Group

Archbishop Nguyen Kim Dien Association

Assembly for Democracy in Vietnam

Association of Former Military Police Arvn In Western Australia

Association of Former Vietnamese Political Prisoners, New Orleans, La

Association of Former Vietnamese Political Prisoners, Oklahoma

Association of Vietnamese Former Prisoners of Conscience

Association of Vietnamese Refugees of Federal Republic Of Germany

Associations of Former Vietnamese Political Prisoners

Bloc 8406 International

Bloc 8406 Vietnam

Brotherhood for Democracy (Germany)

**Buddhist Church of America** 

Calgary Vietnamese Canadian Association

Central Highlands Protestant Church

**Christian Freedom International** 

Church of Protestant Lutheran Community Of Vietnam

Civilization Club

Cô Giang Book Club

Communauté Des Vietnamiens Refugiés Politiques En Europe

Communauté Vietnamienne Au Canada – Région De Montréal

Country - Honor - Duties Group

Culture Association of Free Vietnamese In France

Dan Van Magazine

Democratic Pluralist Party

Federation of Vietnamese American In Northern California

For The Vietnamese People Party

Free Vietnam Global Network

Friendly Youth Club (Atlanta, Georgia, Us)

Friends Of Professor Nguyen Ngoc Huy

General Association Of Buddhist Kalapati In Northern California, Usa

Global Service Center For Quitting The Chinese Communist Party

Hoi Luan Thang Nghia

Independent Journalists Association Of Vietnam

Institute For Historic Caodai Religion

Interfaith Council Of Vietnam

International Institute For Vietnam

International Organization To Preserve Human Rights

League Of Vietnamese American Voters

Lien Tri Temple (Saigon, Vietnam)

Lotus Buddhist Congregation

Minh Van Foundation

Movement For Vietnam's Freedom

National Youth Council Of Nigeria

Nationalist Party Of Greater Vietnam

Organization Republic Vietnam

People Against Unjust Land Grab (Duc Trong, Lam Dong, Vietnam)

Pho Duc Chinh Association

Plateau State Contributory Healthcare Management Agency

Quang Ngai Friendship Association Of Northern California

Quocdan Magazine (Southeast Asia)

Quocdan Tv

Red Eagle Enterprises

Representative Committee Of The Popular Bloc Of Cao Dai Church

Saigon Dallas Llc

Saigon Dallas Radio 1600am

Sangha Of Unified Buddhist Church Of Vietnam

Son Linh Temple, Kontum, Vietnam

The Anti-Chinese Domination Committee

The Junior Sacerdotal Council Of Caodai

The Movement Of Performing Artists And Writers For A Future Of Vietnam

The National Women Association Of Republic Of Viêt Nam

The Viet Democratic Side's International Forum

The Vietnamese American Community Of Oklahoma City And Metropolitan Areas

The Vietnamese Community Of Arizona

The Vietnam-Helsinki Human Rights Committee

Traditional Hoa Hao Buddhist Church

Tran Nhan Tong Club

Troderal Friendship Group (Paris, France)

Unified Buddhist Church Of Vietnam

United Council Of Vietnamese In Homeland And Overseas

Vatv P.B. Hoan Studio

Viet 2000 Foundation

Viet Culture Foundation

Viet People Youth Group

Viet Vets Foundation Inc.

Vietnam Buddhist Association In America

Vietnam Democracy Center

Vietnam National Union

Vietnam National Union At Home

Vietnam Progression Movement At Home

Vietnamese American Community Of Pennsylvania

Vietnamese American Concern Group

Vietnamese American Republicans Of Georgia

Vietnamese American Science & Technology Society

Vietnamese American Seniors Society In Oakland - California

Vietnamese American Unified Buddhist Church

Vietnamese Americans For Human Rights

Vietnamese Canadian Federation

Vietnamese Community In Australia

Vietnamese Community In Australia - Act Chapter

Vietnamese Community In Australia - New South Wales Chapter

Vietnamese Community In Australia - Northern Territory Chapter

Vietnamese Community In Australia - Queensland Chapter

Vietnamese Community In Australia - South Australia Chapter

Vietnamese Community In Australia - Victoria Chapter

Vietnamese Community In Australia - Western Australia Chapter

Vietnamese Community In Australia - Wollongong Chapter

Vietnamese Community In France

Vietnamese Community Of Houston & Vicinities

Vietnamese Community Of Pomona Valley

Vietnamese Community Of Southern California

Vietnamese Culture Club In France

Vietnamese Democratic Socialist Party

Vietnamese Environmental Protection Society

Vietnamese Forums Network

Vietnamese Literature & Poetry Organization

Vietnamese National Support Activities Group

Vietnamese Nationalist Party

Vietnamese Ranger Of Northern California

Vietnamese Traditions Youth Organization

Voice Of Arts And Entertainment

Vovinam Center Of Dallas-Fort Worth

World Buddhism Association - Texas Vietnamese Affiliates

World Vietnamese Buddhist Order

Happy Science Washington Bureau

The Russian Orthodox Autonomous Church Of America

Coordination Des Associations Et Des Particuliers Pour La Liberté De Conscience