



18th June 2024

The Hon. Anthony Albanese MP
Prime Minister of Australia
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra, ACT 2600
Australia

Re: Joint Letter to Call for Help to End the Persecution of Falun Gong in China

Dear Prime Minister Anthony Albanese,

We, the undersigned, are deeply concerned over the ongoing human rights abuses against Falun Gong practitioners in China, which are in violation of international human rights treaties.

Falun Gong, also known as Falun Dafa, is a spiritual practice in the Buddhist tradition centered on the principles of truthfulness, compassion, and forbearance. This year, 20 July 2024, marks 25 years since the Chinese Communist government launched a systematic and brutal campaign to eradicate Falun Gong. Since July 1999, millions of Falun Gong practitioners in China have been arbitrarily arrested and jailed without due process and many have been tortured and killed. Evidence shows that people who practise Falun Gong are being killed-to-order as the main organ source for China’s state-sanctioned organ transplantation industry.¹

¹ *The China Tribunal*, 17 June 2019, accessed 4 April 2024.
<https://chinatribunal.com/final-judgment/>

These atrocities have been well-documented by human rights organisations, governmental bodies, and international organisations.²

In 2007, the US State Department Human Rights Report stated³, “[the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture Manfred] Nowak reported that Falun Gong practitioners accounted for 66 percent of victims of alleged torture while in government custody.” In 2021, 12 UN Special Rapporteurs and human rights experts issued a formal correspondence to the Chinese Government regarding credible evidence that forced organ harvesting is taking place.⁴

In 2019, the China Tribunal concluded that “forced organ harvesting has been committed for years throughout China on a significant scale and that Falun Gong practitioners have been one – and probably the main – source of organ supply.”¹ In 2021, the United States sanctioned a CCP official for involvement “in gross violations of human rights, namely the arbitrary detention of Falun Gong practitioners for their spiritual beliefs.”⁵

In 2024, the European Parliament passed resolution 2024/2504 (RSP)⁶ which “strongly urges the PRC to immediately end the persecution of Falun Gong practitioners and other minorities, including Uyghurs and Tibetans”. This follows the US House Resolution 343⁷ which passed unanimously in 2016 and demanded “an end to the 17-year persecution of the Falun Gong spiritual practice and the release of all Falun Gong practitioners and other prisoners of conscience.”

We urge the Australian Government to take immediate action to address these egregious human rights violations, including passing a motion to call for an immediate end to the persecution of Falun Gong in China, and the unconditional release of all detained Falun Gong practitioners and other prisoners of conscience, particularly the family members of Australian citizens and residents.

The Australian Government should also implement Magnitsky-style sanctions against individuals and entities participating in the persecution of Falun Gong practitioners, and raise this issue at the UN Human Rights Council and UN General Assembly.

Australia is obligated to uphold human rights under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading

² Freedom House, February 2017, accessed 4 April 2024.

https://freedomhouse.org/sites/default/files/2020-03/FH_2017_BattleForChinasSpirit_Falun_Gong_FINAL.pdf

Amnesty International, 27 March 2023, accessed 4 April 2024.

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/pol10/5670/2023/en/>

Office of International Religious Freedom – United States Department of State, May 2023, accessed 4 April 2024.

<https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/441219-CHINA-2022-INTERNATIONAL-RELIGIOUS-FREEDOM-REPORT.pdf>

<https://www.amnesty.org.au/china-human-rights/#>

³ U.S. Department of State, 11 March 2008, accessed 4 April 2024.

<https://2009-2017.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/2007/100518.htm>

⁴ United Nations, 14 June 2021, accessed 4 April 2024.

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2021/06/china-un-human-rights-experts-alarmed-organ-harvesting-allegations?LangID=E&NewsID=27167>

⁵ Voice of America, 13 May 2021, accessed 4 April 2024.

https://www.voanews.com/a/east-asia-pacific_us-sanctions-chinese-official-role-religious-persecution/6205754.html

⁶ European Parliament, 19 January 2024, accessed 4 April 2024.

https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2024-0037_EN.html

⁷ Congress.gov, 13 June 2016, accessed 4 April 2024.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-resolution/343/summary/36>

Treatment or Punishment (CAT)⁸, and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

We look forward to your urgent response detailing what actions the Australian Government will take.

Yours faithfully

Dr Lucy Zhao

President, [Falun Dafa Association of Australia](#)

E: fxh@fdnsw.org

Jane Poon

Representative, [Australia-Hong Kong Link](#)

Michelle Pearse

CEO, Australian Christian Lobby ([ACL](#))

Carolyn Kitto

Co-director, [Be Slavery Free](#)

Dr Rev Bob Fu

President & Founder, [China Aid Association](#)

Dr Yang Jianli

President, [Citizens Power Initiatives for China](#)

Coalition for Genocide Response [Coalition for Genocide Response](#)

Thierry Valle

President, Coordination des Associations et Des Particuliers pour la Liberté de Conscience ([CAP Freedom of Conscience](#))

Dr Torsten Trey

Executive Director, [Doctors Against Forced Organ Harvesting \(DAFOH\)](#)

Jane Durgom-Powers

CEO, [Families of the Missing](#)

Christine Lin

Managing Director, [Friends of Falun Gong USA](#)

Dr Gregory Stanton

Founding President, [Genocide Watch](#)

⁸ *Attorney-General's Department*, 17 March 2021, accessed 4 April 2024.

<https://www.ag.gov.au/rights-and-protections/human-rights-and-anti-discrimination/international-human-rights-system>

Sherrie Caltagirone

Executive Director, [Global Emancipation Network](#)

Susie Hughes

Executive Director, [International Coalition to End Transplant Abuse in China \(ETAC\)](#)

Eleonora Mongelli

Vice President, [Italian Federation for Human Rights \(FIDU\)](#)

Hene Zuberi

Director, [Justice for All](#)

Taha Ghayyur

Executive Director, [Justice For All Canada](#)

Dr Katrina Lantos Swett

President, [Lantos Foundation for Human Rights and Justice](#)

Jasna Causevic

Consultant for Genocide Prevention and Responsibility to Protect, [Society for Threatened Peoples \(STP\)](#)

Ed Brown

Secretary-General, [Stefanus Alliance International](#)

Professor Chongyi Feng

President, [The Australian and New Zealand Alliance for Victims of Chinese Communist Regime](#)

Louisa Greve

Director of Global Advocacy, [Uyghur Human Rights Project \(UHRP\)](#)

Kaina Lipsman

Director of Government Relations, [Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation \(VOC\)](#)

Dinh Tran

President, [Vietnamese Australian Lawyers' Association](#)

Dolkun Isa

President, [World Uyghur Congress](#)

Ellen J. Kennedy PhD

Executive Director, [World Without Genocide](#) at Mitchell Hamline School of Law

CC: Minister for Foreign Affairs Penny Wong