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Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Joint written statement* submitted by Coordination des Associations et des Particuliers pour la Liberté de Conscience, Romanian Independent Society of Human Rights, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[23 August 2023]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.

Forced Organ Harvesting of Living Falun Gong Practitioners in China has to End

Recognizing the upcoming 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR) in December 2023;

Recognizing that the Universal Declaration on Human Rights has been and continues to be a source of inspiration for the 193 member states of the United Nations and non-governmental organizations, as shown in the Universal Declaration on Combating and Preventing Forced Organ Harvesting, presented by five NGOs during a World Summit in 2021;

Reminding the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the United Nations Human Rights Council, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and the World Health Organization of the guiding role that the Universal Declaration on Human Rights plays for a peaceful, sustainable togetherness among nations;

Recalling that in 2006, David Kilgour and David Matas published a report that provided evidence on forced organ harvesting from living Falun Gong practitioners in China;

Recalling that in 2016, David Kilgour, Ethan Gutman, and David Matas published an Update of their report;

Recalling that in 2016, the US Congress and the European Parliament passed a House Resolution 343 and Written Declaration 48, acknowledging the forced organ harvesting of Falun Gong practitioners in China;

Recalling that Doctors Against Forced Organ Harvesting conducted an informal petition between 2012 and 2018, appealing to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to call upon China to end its practice of forced organ harvesting of Falun Gong practitioners, gathering more than three million signatures in over 50 countries and regions, delivering those petitions to the Office of the UN High Commissioner of Human Rights at three separate occasions;

Recalling that in 2019, the Independent Tribunal into Forced Organ Harvesting from Prisoners of Conscience in China, also known as the China Tribunal, chaired by Sir Geoffrey Nice, has unanimously concluded in its final judgment that forced organ harvesting of Falun Gong practitioners has occurred in China;

Recalling that in September 2019, the Counsel to the China Tribunal, Hamid Sabi, delivered a statement about the Tribunal's conclusions and concerns to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva;

Recalling that in 2021, twelve Special Rapporteurs to the United Nations co-signed a statement that expressed concerns about forced organ harvesting of Falun Gong practitioners and other prisoners of conscience in China;

Recognizing that several countries, including Israel, Canada, and the United States have initiated or passed legally binding legislations that aim to stop or prevent forced organ harvesting of prisoners in China;

Recognizing that state-sanctioned, forced organ harvesting of living people, i.e. killing people for their organs, as described in the case of the People's Republic of China, amounts to crimes against humanity and violates the principles paid out in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights;

Recognizing that practitioners of Falun Gong a peaceful Buddhist discipline rooted in the universal principles of truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance are systematically dehumanized, ostracized, and brutally persecuted in China since July 1999;

Recognizing that the persecution of Falun Gong by the Chinese government is one of the most investigated, yet largely ignored persecution of a spiritual-religious groups in the 21st century;

Reminding that the World Health Organization seeks to promote a One Health agenda, that provides health to all people and regions;

Reminding that One Health cannot be achieved if forced organ harvesting of Falun Gong practitioners in China has not been verified to have ended;

Reminding that the UN Office on Drug and Crime has declared July 30, 2023, the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons under the 2023 theme “Reach every victim of trafficking, leave no one behind”;

Declaring that Falun Gong practitioners deserve the same right of attention, protection and help like any other group of people that received help and protection of the United Nations in the past 75 years after passing of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights;

Declaring that China must not be allowed a special status to neglect and bypass ethical standards that the United Nations wishes to implement worldwide;

Declaring that China must not be granted a sanctuary status for crimes against humanity and human trafficking;

Requesting from the United Nations and associated agencies:

1. To provide the same awareness and protection to persecuted Falun Gong practitioners like any other victim group;
2. To call upon the UNODC to include Falun Gong in its 2023 theme of “leaving no one behind”;
3. To call upon the WHO that the One Health agenda has to include a verification of the end to forced organ harvesting of Falun Gong in China;
4. To call upon the UN Secretary General to initiate a fact-finding mission of forced organ harvesting in China via independent, international, unannounced inspections;
5. To call upon the UN Secretary General to inform all 193 member states of the United Nations about China’s persecution of Falun Gong and its unethical forced organ harvesting practice;
6. To demand that China immediately abides by the guiding principles of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and end the practice of forced organ harvesting of Falun Gong practitioners and any other prisoners of conscience.

Alianza Iberoamérica Europea Contra el Comunismo AIECC China Watch Doctor Against Forced Organ Harvesting DAFOH Forum for Religious Freedom Europe FOREF Gerard Noodt Foundation for Freedom of Religion or belief ISHR – Sweden International Council for Diplomacy and Dialogue ICDD International Society for Human Rights Korean Association for Ethical Organ Transplants KAEOT NPO Transplant Tourism Research Associations Taiwan Association for International Care

of Organ Transplants TAICOT Rotary Satellite Club of Ending Forced Organ Harvesting, NGO(s) without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.