

**ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 55**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ANNETTE CHAPARRO

District 33 (Hudson)

Assemblywoman BRITNEE N. TIMBERLAKE

District 34 (Essex and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

**Assemblyman DiMaio, Assemblywoman Murphy, Assemblymen S.Kean,
Holley and Assemblywoman Dunn**

SYNOPSIS

Condemns People's Republic of China for human rights abuses against Falun Gong practitioners and political prisoners relating to organ harvesting.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/5/2020)

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** condemning the People’s Republic
2 of China for human rights abuses against Falun Gong
3 practitioners and political prisoners relating to organ harvesting.
4

5 **WHEREAS**, The recognition of the inherent dignity, equality, and
6 inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the
7 foundation of freedom, justice, and peace in the world; and
8 **WHEREAS**, As a signatory of the United Nations International
9 Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the People’s Republic of
10 China (PRC) is obliged to honor the freedoms of thought,
11 conscience, and religion for all persons and prohibit the practice of
12 torture, inhumane punishment, and non-consensual medical
13 experimentation; and
14 **WHEREAS**, Since beginning its brutal crackdown against Falun Gong
15 practitioners in 1999, the PRC, acting through the auspices of the
16 Chinese Communist Party (CCP), has repeatedly violated each of
17 these human rights commitments; and
18 **WHEREAS**, Falun Gong is a spiritual practice whose key features
19 include meditative exercises and teachings that resemble Buddhism
20 and Daoism, which emphasize the universal principles of
21 truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance; and
22 **WHEREAS**, Founded in 1992 by Li Hongzhi, Falun Gong quickly
23 became popular throughout China as its teachings offered
24 practitioners personal fulfillment and a reconnection to traditional
25 Chinese culture after decades of state-sponsored Maoist
26 revolutionary struggle, Han ethno-nationalism, and post-economic
27 reform consumerism; and
28 **WHEREAS**, By 1999, Falun Gong had over 70 million practitioners,
29 and fearing the movement’s growing influence the PRC President
30 and CCP General Secretary Jiang Zemin launched a nationwide
31 campaign in July 1999 to purge the alleged “evil cult” from Chinese
32 society; and
33 **WHEREAS**, Since 1999, hundreds of thousands of Falun Gong
34 practitioners have been detained in “legal education centers,”
35 “black jails,” and reeducation labor camps and subjected to physical
36 and psychological abuses in an effort to force recantation; and
37 **WHEREAS**, Evidence also suggests that non-consenting prisoners of
38 conscience, comprised primarily of Falun Gong practitioners, but
39 also Muslim Uyghurs and other political dissidents, were subjected
40 to state-sanctioned organ harvesting throughout the 2000s; and
41 **WHEREAS**, Prisoners of conscience, which include persons who are
42 deprived of their freedom, imprisoned for their beliefs, and coerced
43 to recant, are unable, in principle, to give voluntary and informed
44 consent concerning organ donation; and
45 **WHEREAS**, The practice of harvesting organs from executed prisoners
46 was officially adopted by the PRC in 1984 after it enacted the
47 “Temporary Rules Concerning the Utilization of Corpses or Organs
48 from the Corpses of Executed Criminals,” which stated that “the

1 use of the corpses or organs of executed criminals must be kept
2 strictly secret, and attention must be paid to avoiding negative
3 repercussions”; and

4 **WHEREAS**, This “temporary” policy remained in use throughout the
5 2000s, as former Vice-Minister of Health Huang Jiefu publically
6 admitted in 2005 that more than 90 percent of deceased organ
7 donors were executed prisoners; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Although up to 100,000 organ transplants are performed in
9 China each year, China does not comply with the World Health
10 Organization’s organ procurement transparency requirements,
11 rendering much of its organ supply unidentifiable; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Based on official statistics, estimates indicate that executed
13 prisoners accounted for approximately 50 percent of all organ
14 transplants performed in China in 2013; and

15 **WHEREAS**, Circumstantial evidence and witness testimony indicates
16 that Falun Gong practitioners account for a substantial portion of
17 this total, with reports estimating that roughly 65,000 Falun Gong
18 adherents were killed for their organs between 2000 and 2008; and

19 **WHEREAS**, According to Freedom House, a non-governmental
20 organization that focuses on human rights issues, “there are reasons
21 to believe that such abuses continue” in 2017; and

22 **WHEREAS**, The suppression of Falun Gong and the practice of state-
23 sanctioned organ harvesting each constitute clear violations of the
24 United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political
25 Rights; and

26 **WHEREAS**, Just as the international community has criticized these
27 abuses, so too do the people of New Jersey consider these practices
28 to be an intolerable affront to the universal rights of humanity and
29 worthy of the utmost condemnation; now, therefore,

30

31 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the
32 General Assembly concurring):

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34 1. This Legislature condemns the People’s Republic of China
35 for human rights abuses against Falun Gong practitioners and
36 political prisoners relating to the practice of state-sanctioned organ
37 harvesting from non-consenting prisoners of conscience.

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39 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
40 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or the
41 Secretary of the Senate to the Ambassador of the People’s Republic
42 of China to the United States and the Permanent Representative of
43 the People’s Republic of China to the United Nations.

STATEMENT

This resolution condemns the People's Republic of China for human rights abuses against Falun Gong practitioners and political prisoners relating to the practice of state-sanctioned organ harvesting from non-consenting prisoners of conscience.

As a signatory of the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the People's Republic of China (PRC) is obliged to respect the freedom of thought, conscience, and religion of its people, as well as prohibit the practice of inhumane and non-consensual medical experimentation. However, since beginning its brutal campaign against the Falun Gong in 1999, the PRC has broken each of these commitments to the international community.

Founded in 1992 by Li Hongzhi, Falun Gong is a traditional Chinese spiritual practice. Similar to the Buddhist and Daoist traditions, Falun Gong practices consist of meditative practices that emphasize the principles of truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance. By early 1999, Falun Gong consisted of over 70 million practitioners.

Fearing its growing social influence, the PRC President and General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party, Jiang Zemin, launched a nationwide purge against the Falun Gong. Since this crackdown, hundreds of thousands—possibly even millions—of Falun Gong practitioners have been detained in “legal education centers,” “black jails,” and reeducation labor camps. These prisoners of conscience are often subjected to physical and psychological abuses and coerced into renouncing their beliefs.

Moreover, credible reports indicate that imprisoned Falun Gong practitioners, as well as other prisoners of conscience such as the Muslim Uyghurs, were subjected to state-sanctioned organ harvesting throughout the 2000s. Between the years of 2000 and 2008, these reports estimate that roughly 65,000 Falun Gong practitioners were killed for their organs. Human rights organizations, such as Freedom House, also maintain that there are reasons to believe that these abuses continue today.

The suppression of Falun Gong and the practice of non-consensual organ harvesting each constitute clear violations of the PRC's human rights commitments under the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The people of New Jersey consider these practices to be an intolerable affront to the inalienable rights of humanity and worthy of the utmost condemnation.