

# ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 12

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman PARKER SPACE**

**District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)**

**Assemblyman VINCENT MAZZEO**

**District 2 (Atlantic)**

**Assemblywoman NANCY F. MUNOZ**

**District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblymen Wirths, Peterson, DiMaio, Bramnick, Assemblywoman Tucker, Assemblyman Calabrese, Assemblywoman Timberlake, Assemblymen S.Kean, Armato, Assemblywomen Murphy, B.DeCroce, Assemblyman Holley, Assemblywomen Dunn and Chaparro**

**SYNOPSIS**

Denounces organ harvesting from Falun Gong practitioners and political prisoners in People's Republic of China.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/16/2021)**

1   **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** denouncing the practice of organ  
2       harvesting from Falun Gong practitioners and political prisoners  
3       in the People’s Republic of China.  
4

5   **WHEREAS**, In saving the lives of once hopeless patients, the practice  
6       of organ transplantation is a miracle of modern medicine when  
7       performed in accordance with established ethical standards; and  
8   **WHEREAS**, While the People’s Republic of China (PRC) performs up  
9       to 100,000 organ transplants per year, China does not comply with  
10      the World Health Organization’s organ procurement transparency  
11      requirements; and  
12   **WHEREAS**, As a result, much of China’s organ supply are unaccounted  
13      for, and credible reports indicate that prisoners of conscience are  
14      regularly killed to supply China’s growing organ transplant market;  
15      and  
16   **WHEREAS**, The PRC officially sanctioned the harvesting of organs  
17      from executed prisoners in 1984 after enacting the “Temporary  
18      Rules Concerning the Utilization of Corpses or Organs from the  
19      Corpses of Executed Criminals,” which stated that “the use of the  
20      corpses or organs of executed criminals must be kept strictly secret,  
21      and attention must be paid to avoiding negative repercussions”; and  
22   **WHEREAS**, This policy remained in use for decades, as former Vice-  
23      Minister of Health Huang Jiefu said in 2005 that more than 90  
24      percent of deceased organ donations were obtained from executed  
25      prisoners; and  
26   **WHEREAS**, Some reports also estimated that roughly 50 percent of  
27      organ transplantations performed in China in 2013 were sourced  
28      from executed prisoners; and  
29   **WHEREAS**, Voluntary and informed consent is a prerequisite for  
30      ethical organ donation, the international community maintains that  
31      prisoners, many of whom are deprived of their freedoms and  
32      imprisoned for their beliefs, are unable to provide consent for organ  
33      donation; and  
34   **WHEREAS**, Falun Gong practitioners, who comprise the largest  
35      percentage of PRC prisoners of conscience, are believed to be the  
36      primary victims of organ harvesting since the early 2000s; and  
37   **WHEREAS**, Founded in 1992 by Li Hongzhi, Falun Gong is a spiritual  
38      practice that engages in meditative exercises and emphasizes the  
39      principles of truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance; and  
40   **WHEREAS**, By offering practitioners a sense of personal fulfillment  
41      and reconnection with traditional Chinese culture after decades of  
42      state-sponsored Maoism, Falun Gong quickly became popular,  
43      gaining over 70 million followers by 1999; and  
44   **WHEREAS**, Fearing the movement’s growing societal influence, the  
45      PRC President and Chinese Communist Party General Secretary  
46      Jiang Zemin launched a nationwide campaign in July 1999 to  
47      eliminate the alleged “evil cult”; and

21  
22 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*  
23 *Jersey:*

2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State, shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the United States Secretary of State, the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the United States, and the Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations.

The harvesting of organs from executed prisoners is well-documented in the PRC. The practice was officially sanctioned in 1984 upon the enactment of the “Temporary Rules Concerning the Utilization of Corpses or organs from the Corpses of Executed Criminals,” which explicitly stated that “the use of the corpses or organs of executed criminals must be kept strictly secret, and

1 attention must be paid to avoiding negative repercussions.”  
2 According the former PRC Vice-Minister of Health Huang Jiefu,  
3 more than 90 percent of China’s deceased organ donations in 2005  
4 were obtained from executed prisoners. By 2013, approximately 50  
5 percent of the country’s estimated 100,000 annual organ  
6 transplantations were reportedly supplied by executed prisoners.

7 Credible reports indicate that the PRC heavily targeted  
8 imprisoned Falun Gong practitioners for organ harvesting beginning  
9 in the early 2000s. Founded in 1992 by Li Hongzhi, Falun Gong is  
10 a spiritual practice that uses meditative exercises and emphasizes  
11 the principles of truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance. By 1999  
12 the movement gained over 70 million practitioners throughout  
13 China. However, fearing Falun Gong’s growing societal influence,  
14 the PRC President Jiang Zemin launched a nationwide campaign in  
15 July 1999 to eliminate the practice. Since then, Falun Gong  
16 practitioners throughout China were imprisoned, tortured, and  
17 coerced into renouncing their beliefs.

18 Practitioners who refused to recant became prime targets of  
19 organ harvesting. An estimated 65,000 Falun Gong practitioners  
20 were killed for their organs between 2000 and 2008 alone. Ethnic  
21 minorities and political prisoners, most notably Muslim Uyghurs in  
22 Xinjiang Province, were also reportedly targeted for organ  
23 harvesting. According to human rights organizations such as  
24 Freedom House, “there is reason to believe that such abuses  
25 continue.”

26 Harvesting organs from religious or political prisoners violates  
27 not only ethical medical standards but also the universal rights of  
28 the Chinese people. The State of New Jersey stands in solidarity  
29 with the Falun Gong, its practitioners, and every other victim of  
30 Chinese organ harvesting.