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- Criminal penalties include a fine of up to \$1 million dollars and imprisonment for not more than 20 years, or both.

*Excerpts of remarks by Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ)
During debate in the House of Representatives
on [H.R. 1154—Stop Forced Organ Harvesting Act of 2023](#)*

Mr. Speaker, every year, under General Secretary Xi Jinping and his Chinese Communist Party, between 60,000 to 100,000 young victims—average age 28—are murdered in cold blood to steal their internal organs.

These crimes against humanity are unimaginable.

Ethnic groups targeted for mass harvesting include Uyghurs—who suffer from Xi Jinping’s ongoing genocide—and the Falun Gong, whose peaceful meditation and exercise practices—and exceptional good health—make their organs highly desirable. The Chinese Communist Party has declared them to be an “evil cult”—fit for butchering.

Mr. Speaker, in May of last year, I chaired an absolutely chilling congressional [hearing](#) at the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission entitled “Forced Organ Harvesting in China: Examining the Evidence.”

The [Independent Tribunal into Forced Organ Harvesting from Prisoners of Conscience in China](#) (China Tribunal), chaired by Sir Geoffrey Nice, QC (lead prosecutor of Slobodan Milosevic at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia), conducted the world’s first independent legal analysis of forced organ harvesting from prisoners of conscience in China.

[Sir Geoffrey Nice testified](#) at my hearing and said “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.”

He said: “The Falun Gong and the Uyghurs in the PRC each qualify as a ‘group’ for purposes of the crime of Genocide.”

Ethan Gutmann, Senior Research Fellow in China Studies Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation [testified](#) that “The Kilgour-Matas-Gutmann report of 2016 estimated China’s **total** transplant volume as 60,000 to 100,000 annually...”

Mr. Gutmann pointed out that “at any given time since 2017, there are approximately a million Uyghurs, Kazakhs, Kyrgyz and Hui in the camps,” and said his “estimate is that 25,000 to 50,000 camp detainees are being harvested every year... 28-year-olds from the Xinjiang camps can be... harvested for two or three organs, translating into a minimum of 50,000 organs or a maximum of 150,000 organs.”

Another expert witnesses who testified at our hearing, [Matthew Robertson](#) of Australian National University, co-authored with Dr. Jacob Lavee an examination of Chinese medical journal articles and found that “71 papers gave explicit descriptions of surgeons appearing to violate the dead donor rule while procuring hearts from prisoners. In plain language, the papers appear to show that the donors, who were prisoners, were alive at the time of surgery, and were killed by the transplant surgeons in the process of heart extraction.”

Their work, published last April in a top, peer-reviewed U.S. medical journal, [The American Journal of Transplantation](#), provided additional evidence of the People’s Republic of China’s egregious practices and violation of international standards and, indeed, the most fundamental human rights and standards of humanity.

Robert Destro, former Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor testified that “The size and scope of the organ harvesting and trafficking market is staggering.”

Mr. Speaker, we also know through open-source Chinese language media that elderly high ranking Chinese Communist Party officials have received replacement organs from the very people they despise and oppress at the People’s Liberation Army Hospital 301 in Beijing.

While this still shocks me, I cannot say it surprises me.

Almost 25 years ago, I chaired a human rights hearing with a Chinese security official who testified that he and his other security agents were executing prisoners—with doctors, of course, there, and ambulances—to harvest their organs for transplantation.

Indeed, at last year's hearing, we produced a [doctor](#) who testified how he had performed one such surgery on a victim of a botched execution who as he began cutting discovered the victim was in a state of shock—not dead yet—a live vivisection on a living human being.

To combat these heinous and inhumane practices, the Stop Forced Organ Harvesting Act of 2023 ([H.R. 1154](#)):

- Amends the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to require reports on forced organ harvesting and trafficking in persons for purposes of the removal of organs in foreign countries, including and especially in China;
- The imposition of serious sanctions on any person the President determines funds, sponsors or otherwise facilitates forced organ harvesting or trafficking in persons for purposes of the removal of organs;
- Civil penalties include a fine of up to \$250,000; and
- Criminal penalties include a fine of up to \$1 million dollars and imprisonment for not more than 20 years, or both.
- Sanctions also include blocking and prohibiting all transactions in property and interests in property, and making such persons inadmissible to the United States and ineligible to receive a visa.

State-sponsored forced organ harvesting is big business for Xi and the Chinese Communist Party and shows absolutely no signs of abating.

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) including the [International Coalition to End Transplant Abuse in China](#), the [Uyghur Tribunal](#), [Campaign for Uyghurs](#), [Uyghur American Association](#), [Uyghur Human Rights Project](#), [Falun Dafa Association of Washington DC](#), [Friends of Falun Gong](#), [Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation](#), and others are working hard to protect victims and hold perpetrators to account.

We must act—decisively.

I would like to thank Chairman McCaul and Ranking Member Meeks for their strong support and thank our lead Democratic cosponsor Bill Keating as well as Kathy Manning.

And very special thanks to Mary Vigil, Janice Kaguyutan, Piero Tozzi and Doug Anderson for working so diligently on this legislation.