

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 7, 2025

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Rubio,

We appreciated your acknowledgment, during testimony before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, of the concerning role played by the Chinese government in forced organ harvesting, as well as your support for efforts to end global trafficking in human organs. The Stop Forced Organ Harvesting Act (H.R. 1503) will provide the State Department with important new authorities to hold organ traffickers accountable. While this bipartisan bill awaits Senate action, we urge you to take immediate steps to disrupt and deter the lucrative market for illegally procured organs by leveraging the State Department's rewards programs to gather information that can help bring perpetrators to justice.

As you know, Congress appropriates funds for various State Department rewards programs that offer incentives for actionable information on terrorism, atrocities, and transnational crime. The Department is authorized to use these funds to seek information on individuals complicit in "crimes against humanity" and "severe forms of human trafficking in persons."

Despite the extensive body of evidence amassed in Congressional hearings and independent investigations, no reward has yet been offered to seek evidence on forced organ harvesting or the organ trafficking industry. In particular, the complicity of the Chinese government in forced organ harvesting targeting ethnic, linguistic, and religious minorities, as well as detained prisoners, is deeply troubling and should be considered a "crime against humanity."

In 2022, the *American Journal of Transplantation* published a peer-reviewed article demonstrating that Chinese surgeons have sometimes acted as executioners, harvesting organs from prisoners who had not been declared brain dead. This practice directly violates the internationally accepted "dead-donor" rule, which stipulates that organ procurement must not begin until the donor is both dead and formally pronounced as such.

We strongly support the Department of State's efforts to issue rewards targeting wildlife and narcotics trafficking in China. However, given the compelling evidence of an illegal market for organs in China—and the ongoing targeting of young Uyghurs, Kazakhs, and other Muslims in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region for their organs—there is an urgent need to secure firsthand information from those who have witnessed or participated in these abuses.

Holding the Chinese government accountable for, and compelling it to address, the evidence of forced organ harvesting is critical to ending this horrific practice and to fostering the development of a truly voluntary organ donation system in the world's most populous country. With effective enforcement mechanisms, we can ensure that organ procurement is ethical and that no one profits illegally from the organs of Uyghurs, Tibetans, Falun Gong practitioners, or others who are unable to make a truly voluntary decision to donate.

We look forward to working with you on this vital issue.

Sincerely,



Christopher Smith
Member of Congress



John Moolenaar
Member of Congress



Neal Dunn, M.D.
Member of Congress