

A Found Strategy for Human Rights in China

By DAVID MATAS

Wise strategies do not always come from premeditated choices. Sometimes we just stumble upon them.

That was an experience David Kilgour and I lived. We concluded in a report in July 2006, with a second version in January 2007, and a third in book form released in November 2009, that practitioners of the spiritually based exercise regime Falun Gong were being killed in China for their organs by the tens of thousands.

We investigated the abuse because it needed investigation. We then proceeded to campaign against the abuse we identified because we could not walk away from our own conclusions.

Superficially, if the goal is ending a broad range of human rights abuses in China, doing what we did is not the obvious strategic choice. For one, the government of China—the Communist Party—wants no part of discussions about victimization of Falun Gong practitioners.

For another, establishing that Falun Gong practitioners are being killed for their organs requires a good deal more effort in assessing the evidence than establishing the existence of many

other abuses.

Yet it has turned out that opposing the killing of Falun Gong practitioners for their organs was a wise strategic choice. We say this now from experience: If you want to pull at one thread in the quilt of human rights violations in China to unravel the whole quilt, pull on this thread.

Why is this so? One reason is that opposing this abuse gives insight into the dynamics of Chinese repression. Opposing the killing of Falun Gong practitioners for their organs gives full frontal exposure to the brutality, the intensity, the dishonesty, and the global repressive reach of the Chinese Communist regime.

Another reason is that the killing of Falun Gong practitioners for their organs overlaps with many other, broader violations. Opposing killing them for their organs means, of course, opposing the repression of Falun Gong.

In terms of numbers and cruelty, Falun Gong practitioners are the most brutally repressed of all the victims of the Chinese Communist regime. Opposing this repression means, more generally, opposing religious intolerance in China and advocating for an end to the re-education through labor

camp, which are huge organ-donor banks.

It means also calling for an end to the sourcing of organs from prisoners sentenced to death, an abuse the government of China admits and acknowledges is wrong. The dispute we have with the government of China is not whether it is sourcing organs from prisoners, but which prisoners are the sources of organs for transplants. That dispute leads us to calling for the government of China to release its statistics on death penalties and organ transplants.

Operating in our own particular bailiwick has led David Kilgour and me to call for an end to transplant tourism into China and to oppose joint research efforts with Chinese transplant professionals.

We have come out against pharmaceutical transplant anti-rejection drug trials in China and urged the cancellation of the touring plastinated body exhibits sourced from China. We have stood for the release of human rights defenders like Gao Zhisheng who have urged, within China, an end to the persecution of Falun Gong.

The key we have may seem small, but it has helped to move a very large

door open by a few inches. Since our work began, the government of China has banned the sale of organs, required that civilian hospitals engaged in transplants be registered with the Ministry of Health, given Chinese patients priority access to organ transplants over foreigners, committed to enacting a law to legalize organ harvesting from the brain dead, and set up an organ donation system as a pilot project in 10 locations.

All this has happened at the same time as the government (Communist Party) has responded to our report in silly, meaningless ways. Indeed, there may be a connection between the two.

Raise with Chinese government representatives many other human rights concerns and they temporize, generating talk but no action. They will say, We are trying to do better, give us time, we need your help. That is obviously something they cannot say about the killing of Falun Gong practitioners for their organs. Something had to be done.

The engagement of a wide spectrum of standards, mechanisms, and players—the global advocacy that opposing the killing of Falun Gong practitioners for their organs requires—as well as



PULLING THE THREAD: David Matas and his co-investigator and co-author David Kilgour testify before a U.S. Congress subcommittee on Sept. 23, 2006, about the harvesting of organs from Falun Gong practitioners in China. Matas argues that pulling on the thread of organ harvesting allows one to unravel the whole quilt of human rights abuses in China. EPOCH TIMES

the movement on the ground since we started our work, leads us to conclude that opposing the killing of Falun Gong practitioners for their organs is not only the right choice in principle. It is also a sound strategic choice to contribute to ending a broad spectrum of human rights abuses in China.

David Matas is an international human rights lawyer based in Winnipeg, Manitoba Province, Canada. Together with David Kilgour, he is the author of "Bloody Harvest: Organ Harvesting of Falun Gong Practitioners in China." This article is a shortened version of a talk he gave at New York University Law School on April 6, 2011.

The Egyptian Military's Hour of Truth

By DR. CÉSAR CHELALA

One of the stanzas in the Argentinean epic poem "Martín Fierro," by José Hernández, says, "He who is born with a fat belly will not be helped by a cummerbund."

The concept could very well apply to the Egyptian military, which is now facing a special dilemma: Are its members going to respond to the Egyptian people's demand for change, or are they continuing to be the same powerful class as before, inured to the needs of the majority of Egyptians?

The question is quite pertinent today, as the military high command faces demands to try former President Hosni Mubarak, his family, and

cronies and all those who committed serious abuses during Mubarak's term in office. The Egyptian military are known to possess considerable—and diverse—economic interests in the country.

"Based on my financial disclosure report that confirms that I do not own any assets abroad, I agree to present any documents, reports, or signatures that would help the prosecutor general ask the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to reveal any assets owned by me or my wife abroad," stated Mubarak in a recorded audio message.

What Mubarak failed to mention is that it took the Supreme Council of Armed Forces (SCAF) a long time to freeze assets, thus allowing Mubarak

to hide any evidence to support accusations of foreign investments, as indicated by Nabil Abel-Fattah, a researcher in Al-Ahram Institute for Political and Strategic Studies.

In the meantime, Egypt's Prosecutor General Abdel Meguid Mahmoud has notified the United States and other governments around the world that Hosni Mubarak and his sons Gamal and Alaa may have hidden hundreds of billions of dollars worth of cash, gold and other state-owned valuables, according to information obtained by The Washington Post.

Egypt's prosecutor wrote that Mubarak and his sons may have violated laws prohibiting the "seizure of public funds and profiteering and abuse of power."

They may have done this using complicated business schemes that allowed them to divert the assets to offshore companies and personal accounts in banks overseas. According to some preliminary estimates, Mubarak's family fortune may be as high as or even higher than \$70 billion.

Despite these actions, it is not known how far the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces under the leadership of Field Marshal Muhammad Hussein Tantawi will support these investigations and the proper punishment of those guilty. Tantawi was, after all, appointed defense minister by Mubarak, was part of Mubarak's inner circle and, according to WikiLeaks documents, he is very much a conservative, reluctant

to embrace change or reform.

During last Friday's demonstrations in Tahrir Square, called "Friday of Purification and Trial" because of the protesters' demand to cleanse the government of corruption, hundreds of soldiers beat protesters with clubs and fired into the air, reportedly killing two protesters and injuring at least 10. Many protesters trying to flee were blocked by soldiers, who hit them and dragged them away.

This is a critical time for Egypt's budding democracy, one in which the army can show that it is willing to answer to people's demands for justice and for choosing a new way out of the present interlude in the country's history. It is a difficult—but not impossi-

ble—call for an organization which has been no stranger to corruption itself.

Former International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) chief Mohamed ElBaradei indicated that the road to stability consists of quick responses to legitimate demands, power sharing with civilians during transition, a clear road map, and the need to start a national dialogue.

These are important aims, ones that the Egyptian military should keep in mind if it is willing to chart a new course toward democracy and development for the country.

Dr. César Chelala is a co-winner of an Overseas Press Club of America award for an article on human rights.

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The 'Nine Commentaries' is the book that is disintegrating the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and changing China. This award-winning Epoch Times editorial series discloses the true history and nature of the CCP. Now it is serialized here.

Nine Commentaries on the Communist Party Commentary Eight (cont.)

On How the Chinese Communist Party Is an Evil Cult

6. MONOPOLIZATION OF THE ECONOMY

The sole purpose of establishing the CCP was to seize power by armed force and then to generate a system of state ownership in which the state holds monopolies in the planned economy. The CCP's wild ambition far surpasses that of the ordinary evil cults that simply accumulate money.

In a country of socialist public ownership ruled by the Communist Party, Party organizations that hold great power (that is, the Party committees and branches at various levels) are imposed upon or possess the normal state infrastructure. The possessing Party organizations control state machinery and draw funds directly from the budgets of the governments at different levels. Like a vampire, the CCP has sucked a huge amount of wealth from the nation.

II. THE DAMAGE THE CCP CULT HAS WROUGHT

When incidents like Aum Shinri Kyo's (Supreme Truth) killing people with sarin nerve gas, the Solar Temple's members ascending to heaven by suicide, or the mass suicide of over 900 followers of Jim Jones's People's Temple are mentioned, everyone trembles with fear and outrage. The CCP, however, is an evil cult that commits crimes a thousand times worse, harming countless lives. This is because the CCP possesses the following unique features

that ordinary cults lack.

THE EVIL CULT BECAME A STATE RELIGION

In most countries, if you do not follow a religion, you can still enjoy a happy life without reading the literature or listening to the principles of that religion. It is impossible to live in mainland China without a constant exposure to the doctrines and propaganda of the CCP cult, as the CCP, upon seizing power, turned its evil cult into a state religion.

The CCP begins to instill its political preaching as early as kindergarten and elementary school. One cannot receive higher education or promotion to higher office without passing the Political Examination.

None of the questions in the Political Examination allow independent thinking. Those taking the exams are required to memorize the standard answers provided by the CCP in order to pass. The unfortunate Chinese people are forced to repeat the CCP's preaching even when they are young, brainwashing themselves over and over again.

When a cadre is promoted to a higher office in the government, even though he is a member of the CCP, he has to attend the Party School. He won't be promoted until he has met the requirements for graduation from the Party School.

In China, where the Communist Party is the state religion, groups with

different opinions are not allowed to exist. Even the "democratic parties," which are merely set up by the CCP as a political screen, and the reformed Three-Self Church (self-administration, self-support, and self-propagation) must formally acknowledge the leadership of the CCP.

Loyalty to the CCP is the first priority before entertaining any other beliefs, according to the very cultish logic of the CCP.

SOCIAL CONTROLS GO TO EXTREMES

This evil cult was able to become a state religion because the CCP had complete social control and deprived individuals of freedom. This kind of control is unprecedented. The CCP had deprived people of private property, which is one foundation of freedom.

Before the 1980s, people in urban areas could only earn a living by working in Party-controlled enterprises. Farmers in the rural areas had to live on the farmland belonging to the communes of the Party. Nobody could escape the CCP's control.

In a socialist country like China, the Communist Party organizations are ubiquitous—from the central government to the most grass-roots levels of society, including villages and neighborhoods. Through the Party committees and branches at all levels, the CCP maintains an absolute control over society.

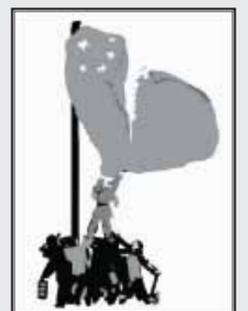
Such strict control completely

crushes individual freedom—the freedom of movement (residence registration system), freedom of speech (500,000 rightists were persecuted by the CCP because they exercised free speech), freedom of thought (Lin Zhao and Zhang Zhixin were executed for having doubts about the CCP), and freedom to obtain information (it is illegal to read forbidden books or listen to "enemies' radio stations"; Internet browsing is monitored as well).

'Lin Zhao, a Beijing University student majoring in journalism, was classified as a "rightist" in 1957 for her independent thinking and outspoken criticism of the communist movement. She was charged with conspiracy to overthrow the people's democratic dictatorship and arrested in 1960. In 1962, she was sentenced to 20 years of imprisonment. She was killed by the CCP on April 29, 1968, as a counter-revolutionary.'

'Zhang Zhixin was an intellectual who was tortured to death by the CCP during the Cultural Revolution for criticizing Mao's failure in the Great Leap Forward and for being outspoken in telling the truth. Many times prison guards stripped off her clothes, handcuffed her hands behind her back, and threw her into male prison cells to let male prisoners gang rape her. Eventually she went insane. The prison feared she would shout slogans in protest when being executed, so they cut a hole in her trachea before her execution.'

QUITTING THE CCP



Inspired by the 'Nine Commentaries,' as of April 19, at 12:03 a.m.

93,482,988

Chinese people have announced their intentions to quit the Chinese Communist Party and/or its affiliated organizations on a special Web site established by The Epoch Times. Many others, unable to break through the Chinese Internet blockade, have posted their withdrawal statements on poles or buildings. Others have written them on Chinese currency. Read recent statements of Chinese quitting the Party, the latest news on the "Nine Commentaries," and more at <http://www.NineCommentaries.com>

Support the world's largest peaceful movement for freedom

Over the last five years, an unprecedented grassroots movement has been sweeping the Chinese nation

As of March 2011, 90 million Chinese people have renounced the Chinese communist party (CCP) and/or affiliated organizations. Every day, an average of 50,000 more join their ranks.

The Global Center for Quitting the CCP is a 501(c)(3) non-profit which helps Chinese people to renounce the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). For details, please visit www.quitccp.org.

To make a tax-deductible donation to this cause:

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