

**Friday September 26, 2007**

**Plenary Session on Fundamental freedoms I including: freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief; freedom of movement**

Mr Moderator, Ladies and Gentlemen,

My intervention is an alert to advanced stages of persecution on the basis of belief that has crept into Europe and has failed to be addressed thus far.

The persecution of Falun Gong in China is the largest, most severe case of the violation of human rights in the world today. Abuses include harsh sentences of slave labour, systematic torture, arbitrary detention and forced disappearances. Thousands have been tortured to death and anyone defending Falun Gong practitioners can expect the same treatment. The persecution fits every criterion of genocide – indeed it is a contemporary Holocaust.

Falun Gong is an ancient and peaceful Chinese meditation practice based on the principles of truth, compassion and tolerance; their only crime was to exercise their rights to freedom of belief, conscience and assembly. In July 1999, then Chinese dictator, Jiang Zemin, ordered the crackdown. Overnight 70-100 million Chinese became “enemies of the state.” China's state-run media flooded the press with fabrications about Falun Gong aimed at dehumanizing practitioners and inciting hatred against them. A Chinese Gestapo, called the 6-10 Office, was created and given the mandate to “eradicate” Falun Gong. This extra-legal police task force, operating above all other state apparatus, has representatives in every province, city, county, university, government department and state business in China to carry-out its orders.

Many present today understand well the cruel nature of communism regimes, which is why I raise the issue: It is because the CCP is exporting its despotic methods to our supposedly free democracies.

Chen Yonglin, the former First Secretary of the Chinese Consulate-General in Sydney, who defected from his post in June 2005, says that “waging war against Falun Gong is one of the main tasks of Chinese missions around the world.” The tactics have been well-documented by him and others. They include: sending anti-Falun Gong materials to all levels of government, NGOs, schools, etc; Chinese consular officials demanding that no Falun Gong be present at any event they attend; using economic coercion against officials and business owners who support Falun Gong; pressuring countries to deport asylum seekers; using university Chinese student organizations to disrupt and defame Falun Gong and spreading deception to news outlets. Falun Gong practitioners and their families are themselves constantly monitored, harassed, threatened and even assaulted. The pressure is constant.

The most unconscionable of the CCP's crimes, however, is using imprisoned Falun Gong practitioners as living organ banks, ready to be killed on order and their organs sold for huge profits. An investigation by former Canadian Secretary of State, David Kilgour and renowned Nazi hunter, David Matas, found the evidence irrefutable that it is happening. Even the CCP has not presented a single piece of counter evidence – they merely slander the report authors. Chinese hospital websites advertise to foreigners, boasting wait times of only 1-2 weeks for organs from living “donors.” Thus vulnerable patients facing life and death become unwitting accomplices to these crimes against humanity.

Meanwhile, in democratic societies rather than condemning the crimes, we are sponsoring them by treating the CCP as our favourite trading partner and awarding the regime with the greatest of honours, the Olympics. We buy cheap goods made with slave labour and even complain that our industries can't compete. We know that the CCP has extensive spy networks and they've even been caught recently hacking into the Pentagon, Whitehall and the German government. And yet we still treat them as allies. All of this sends but one message: Carry on, there are no consequences. We urge the OSCE to address the issue of the CCP's overseas export of its persecution of belief against Falun Gong.

We have the best opportunity right now to do something. We should not allow the Beijing Olympics to be a repeat of the whitewash of tyranny of the 1936 games in Nazi Germany. This is not an issue of Chinese domestic politics; it is in our countries as well and it is an issue of conscience that affects us all.

Thank you.