



Australian Government

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

ANDREW FISHER BUILDING
ONE NATIONAL CIRCUIT
BARTON

Reference: MC16-094203

Dr Sev Ozdowski AM FAICD
President
Australian Council for Human Rights Education Inc.
PO Box A959
SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 1235

Dear Dr Ozdowski

Thank you for your letter dated 14 November 2016 to the Prime Minister, the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP, regarding organ harvesting from prisoners of conscience in China. I have been asked to reply on the Prime Minister's behalf.

The Australian Government has long held concerns about the treatment of Falun Gong (Falun Dafa) practitioners in China. The Government considers China's ban on Falun Gong and treatment of practitioners to be in breach of international human rights standards.

The Government is also aware of related claims of organ harvesting in China. Those claims, if true, would be deeply disturbing. However, we believe that there is insufficient credible evidence to support the allegations that Falun Gong are being specifically targeted. Australia strongly opposes the practice of harvesting organs from executed prisoners in China for use in medical transplants, and has raised our concerns directly with China. We noted the announcement last year by the head of China's organ donation committee that only voluntarily donated organs from civilians could be used in transplants from 1 July 2015. We will continue to urge China to ensure the regulations are fully implemented at all levels.

The Government regularly raises human rights concerns with China, specifically the treatment of religious groups and political prisoners, including directly with the Chinese Government. Further, this year the Government joined a statement on human rights in China at the UN Human Rights Council alongside eleven other countries.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alison Chambers'.

Alison Chambers
Director, North Asia and Trade Section
22 December 2016