



FLORIDA OFFICE:
PO Box 540629
Orlando, FL 32854
Tel 407-875-1789
Fax 407-875-0770
www.LCAction.org

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OFFICE:
122 C Street NW, Ste 360
Washington, DC 20001
Tel 202-289-1776
Fax 407-875-0770

VIRGINIA OFFICE:
Post Office Box 190
Forest, VA 24551
Tel 407-875-1789
Fax 407-875-0770
liberty@LCAction.org

REPLY TO DC

February 27, 2020

The President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Director Robert Lighthizer
United States Trade Representative Office
600 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20508

Dear President Donald J. Trump, and Director Robert Lighthizer of the United States Trade Representative,

Re: Protecting religious freedom in China through the USCTA.

Dear Sirs,

In China, people of faith are routinely arrested, beaten, imprisoned, tortured, and even killed for their religious beliefs. As America begins Phase II of negotiations with China, we have a moral responsibility to advocate for, and demand, religious freedom for those suffering in China.

There has been a sharp increase in the level of persecution under the Chinese Communist Party. It rose 16 rankings in persecution of Christians in just one year. Two out of five Asian Christians now face high levels of persecution, up from one in three the previous reporting period. China's crackdown on both state-sanctioned and underground churches and its growing surveillance network added 16 million to Open Doors' tally of Christians facing persecution."ⁱ

In China, innocent prisoners of conscience are being dissected and their organs harvested and sold—while they're still alive!ⁱⁱⁱ This has been studied and documented by the International Coalition to End Transplant Abuse in China. It stated that organ harvesting of religious minorities "has been proven beyond a reasonable doubt."ⁱⁱⁱ

There is huge demand for the organ harvesting. Experts believe there are between 60,000 to 100,000 transplants every year in China. In addition, "Hospitals charged \$65,000 for a kidney transplant, \$130,000 for a liver transplant, and \$150,000 for a heart or lung transplant," according to a Fox News report, making it a highly lucrative business.

"Several survivors of prison camps told the tribunal of how they were subjected to physical examinations including blood tests, X-rays and ultrasounds."^{iv} While imprisoned, members of religious groups in China routinely had their blood and organs checked, but no medical care was ever given if they got sick.^v

There are stories of religious family members appearing healthy one day, but then dead the next. Body cavities were stitched up when prisoners were returned to their families, and stomach cavities deflated as though void of organs, according to Holly McKay at Fox News.^{vi}

This horrific practice is paired with invasive monitoring of every known religious activity throughout the nation. “As I sat in a church sanctuary in Beijing, I noticed the cameras. They were just over my shoulder—their cold lenses recording my every move.” This American leader left the church stunned by their lack of freedom.^{vii}

In China religious leaders are ordered to “let the Party lead, listen to the Party, and walk behind the Party.”^{viii} There even have been reports of Christians having their heads forced into containers of human waste if they did not bow to similar demands.^{ix}

This is not religious freedom in the least. It is not any kind of freedom at all. In the past, trade agreements similar to the United States-China Trade Agreement have long contained provisions requiring signatory countries to end human rights abuses and guarantee citizens’ religious freedom. **For this reason, we urge you to demand religious freedom provisions in Phase II negotiation in the United States China Trade Agreement.**

Right now, you have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to help Chinese people worship and live in peace. This simple action of negotiating this into the USCTA has the power to save the lives of thousands of innocent religious Chinese citizens from the most horrific acts of abuse. We ask you to immediately act in this matter.

Sincerely,

Mat Staver, Esq.

Chairman
Liberty Counsel Action

Jonathan Alexandre, Esq.

Senior Counsel for Governmental Affairs
Liberty Counsel

Peggy Nienaber

Vice President
Faith & Liberty

David Barton

Founder
WallBuilders

Dr. Jim Garlow

CEO
Well Versed

Ned Ryan

Founder and CEO
American Majority

James Dobson Ph.D.

Founder and President
Dr. James Dobson Family Institute

Tim Wildmon

President
American Family Association

Alan L. Keyes

Former US Assistant Secretary of State
United States of America

Paul E Vallely MG, US Army (Ret)

Chairman
Stand Up America US Foundation &
Legacy National Security Advisory Group

Janet Porter

President and Founder
Faith2Action

Honorable Mike Hill

Florida State House, District 1

Rick Scarborough
President
Recover America Now

Tim Barton
President
WallBuilders

Michael Bowen
CEO
Coalition for a Strong America

Tom Trento
Director
The United West

Stephani Scruggs Bowen
Past National Co-Chairman
The 912 Project

Amber Haskew
Director of Public Policy
Freedom Federation

Michelle Terris
President and Founder
Jews Exit The Democrat Party (#JEXIT)

Meredith Minto
Liberty University Chapter Chairman
Young American for Freedom

ⁱ Casper, Jayson. “The Top 50 Countries Where It’s Hardest to Be a Christian.” Christianity Today. Published January 15, 2020. <https://www.christianitytoday.com/news/2020/january/top-christian-persecution-open-doors-2020-world-watch-list.html>. (Accessed February 11, 2020).

ⁱⁱ McKay, Holly. “China’s state-sanctioned organ harvesting victims speak out.” Fox News. Published October 25, 2019. <https://www.foxnews.com/world/organ-harvesting-china-survivors-victims>. (Accessed February 11, 2020).

ⁱⁱⁱ The International Coalition to End Transplant Abuse in China. “Final Judgement Report.” Published June 17, 2019. <https://chinatribunal.com/final-judgement-report>. (Accessed February 11, 2020).

^{iv} Smith, Saphora. “China forcefully harvests organs from detainees, tribunal concludes.” NBC News. Published June 18, 2019. <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/china-forcefully-harvests-organs-detainees-tribunal-concludes-n1018646>. (Accessed February 11, 2020).

^v McKay, Holly. “China’s state-sanctioned organ harvesting victims speak out.” Fox News. Published October 25, 2019. <https://www.foxnews.com/world/organ-harvesting-china-survivors-victims>. (Accessed February 11, 2020).

^{vi} Ibid.

^{vii} Curry, David. “Why China’s mass surveillance system threatens Christians worldwide.” Open Doors USA. Published January 29, 2020. <https://www.opendoorsusa.org/christian-persecution/stories/open-doors-david-curry-why-chinas-mass-surveillance-system-threatens-christians-worldwide>. (Accessed February 11, 2020).

^{viii} Raleigh, Helen. “Xi’s China Ends 2019 With The Worst Religious Persecution In The Country’s History.” The Federalist. January 7, 2020. <https://thefederalist.com/2020/01/07/xis-china-ends-2019-with-the-worst-religious-persecution-in-the-countrys-history>. (Accessed February 11, 2020).

^{ix} Ripkin, Nik and Gregg Lewis. *The Insanity of God*. B&H Publishing Group, 2013, pp. 201-264.