



Dear Sir or Madam:

We, the Falun Gong Human Rights Working Group ([www.falunhr.org](http://www.falunhr.org)), are writing in response to your solicitation of public comment prior to the negotiation of a free trade agreement (FTA) between Australia and China. It is in the moral and indeed business interest of the People of Australia and of the world, that a modicum of human rights be upheld in countries that aspire to free trade status. Although China tries to hide it, China is actively trampling the most fundamental human rights in the most reprehensible ways.

Of course, nowhere in the Feasibility Study will be found mention of bringing China up to U.N. standards of fundamental human rights. However, China stated the following in section 6.11.2 "...China's Agenda 21 has set the goal of achieving sustainable development in the 21st century, in pursuit of enhancing economic growth, promoting human and social development and protecting the environment as interdependent objectives." We wonder, is it in the interest of "promoting human development" that with a wink and a nod, the Chinese penal system executes some ten thousand yearly; many of whom are not even criminals, and then profits from harvesting their organs for the international organ trade? Among that incredible number of Chinese executed per year, how many were labor or religious activists, or had made "political mistakes," or expressed themselves on the Internet, etc? Will this type of immoral trade to Australia perhaps even increase under a free trade agreement?

And if China really aspires to "promote social development," why have, since 1999, China's police and "Lao Gai" (re-education thru labor) systems been directed by a leadership clique in the Communist Party to persecute Falun Gong practitioners, whose aspiration to the wholesome ideals of Truth-Compassion-Forbearance could only be a good thing for society? We are particularly concerned by the outrageous treatment of those practitioners and their families, who simply exercise rights declared in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The confirmed deaths resulting from this persecution have climbed to over 2500 while countless others have disappeared and are unaccounted for. The death toll alone does not illustrate the severity of the violations. This persecution is different and worse than the crimes by the Nazis and Stalin, or the genocide and ethnic cleansing in Rwanda, Bosnia, and Darfur. There, physical elimination itself was the goal, whereas the torture and killing in the PRC's persecution of Falun Gong are merely a means. Not unlike the persecution of early Christians two thousand years ago, the goal is a spiritual murder - forcing people to choose between losing their lives and renouncing their core beliefs.



No. The parties you are going to be negotiating with are not interested in the well-being or wholesome development of their people and society; their Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is only interested in holding onto power thru terrorizing the people and profiting from the corruption network that is activated in most business dealings. Although they hide it well, these parties are also victims of their inhuman relationship to the CCP. All live in terror of being cast aside and themselves trampled upon by the CCP should they be seen as deviating from the "Party line."

During the U.N.'s 61st session of the Human Rights Commission, many NGOs criticized China's worsening human rights situation and condemned China's state terrorism. Lawyer Karen Parker from International Education and Development has spoken out in every United Nations Human Rights Commission, condemning China's human rights abuses. She said in this conference, "The consequences of state terrorism or terrorism supported by the state are far worse than any disasters by terrorist organizations. How to stop state terrorism or terrorisms supported by the State is still a primary subject that international communities face."

The Chinese Communist regime not only brutally persecutes its own citizens, but also entices the international community with business to violate their own values. A member of the United Nations Association-San Diego noted: "It is well known that many members of the United Nations Human Rights Commission are afraid of criticizing China's awful human rights abuses. The method used by China is not shrewd. It is very straightforward: 'If you don't cooperate with me, I will not let you do business with China.' This is another reflection of the crime against human conscience, forcing international communities to make a choice between conscience and self-interest."

We also included a report on human rights abuses by China along with this letter. We recommend that you take these abuses into account and in the negotiations, require China to at least cease the killing of innocents as a minimum precondition of free trade with Australia.

Sincerely,

Shizhong Chen, Ph.D

The Falun Gong Human Rights Working Group-U.S.A  
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