

2 min video - Francis Delmonico - Harvard forum - 20 May, 2016

Timecode 38:14 - “Now regarding China, China exemplifies what can go wrong if it all starts from the get-go in an unethical way. And for the people of this room and who's listening, most of China's experience in organ donation was to recover, remove organs from individuals that were being executed for a capital crime.

And the rationale of the Chinese people was to say that this individual could recompense themselves, or resolve whatever had been their crime, by making for that donation. That's theoretically conceivably understandable, but it's fraught with corruption.

Timecode 38:56 - And so the system, indeed it became corrupt all the way down the line, from why someone might be executed, the warden of the prison, who's on the take to identify.

And I'll just give you this anecdote. My colleagues for example in Australia--their patient knew they had to get to China by next Tuesday, because they have a B blood type. And a B blood type individual was being executed so they could undergo a liver transplantation.

Timecode 39:39 - Now you see the extent of what can come from such a system. So China is moving away from that. And they're asking of the international community to help in the development of the infrastructure of an organ donation system, much akin to what I've experienced and we've been developing here in the United States for the last 25 years. So that's the China story for the moment.

<https://theforum.sph.harvard.edu/events/organ-transplantation/>