

ETAC Statement - Call for submissions process

Falun Gong - Call for submissions began 21st September, 2018. Outreach was via the Falun Dafa Association in UK, Europe, Australia and NZ. Falun Dafa Associations in USA and Canada were unable to be contacted. However, some practitioners from these regions heard about the Tribunal and submitted statements. ETAC decided not to reach out to witnesses from mainland China due to the personal safety risk for those individuals.

For the December 2018 hearings ETAC nominated 16 fact witnesses who are practitioners of Falun Gong, out of a total of 39 FG practitioners who submitted written testimony.

In consultation with the Counsel to the Tribunal, witnesses were nominated to maximise diversity in the oral testimonies, given that it was not possible for the Tribunal to take oral testimony from all Falun Gong practitioners who provided written testimony. In addition, practical factors were taken into account, such as availability to appear in person and capacity to recount their experiences in public.

To maximise diversity amongst witnesses, the following criteria were taken into account: year/s of blood testing; nature and location of organ scanning (e.g. in detention centre, in bus, in medical facility); witnesses with family members who were deceased and/or missing; and current country of domicile (Canada, Australia, USA, UK, Europe).

For the April 2019 hearings, the Tribunal Legal Counsel nominated 6 witnesses from the remaining 23 written submissions that had been received.

ETAC received a further 12 submissions after the initial submission closing date of November 10th, 2018. These submissions have not been translated into English and were not submitted to the Tribunal. (A total of 51 submissions were received in total)

Uyghur - Call for submissions began 29th September, 2018 via the Uyghur Human Rights Project and the World Uyghur Congress. Witnesses were eventually contacted via a Uyghur translator who has also translated the testimonies for the Tribunal. 4 fact witnesses have testified from the 4 written submissions received.

Tibetan - Call for submissions began on the 2nd October, 2018 via a researcher who had previously investigated forced organ harvesting of Tibetans, the Tibet Council and Free Tibet. No Tibetan submissions have been received

Experts and Investigators - ETAC issued a call for submissions to independent experts, investigators and organisations who had previously spoken publicly on forced organ harvesting in China. This call included invitations to known experts, as well as the request to pass the call for submissions on to other relevant individuals and/or organisations. All

submissions received have been submitted to the Tribunal with a number of submissions being sent directly to the Tribunal submissions email.

Website call for submissions - Call for submissions information has been on the China Tribunal website since October, 2018.

Submission Guidelines:

Your statement should be no longer than 1500 words and concern facts known or experienced by you.

1. Expert/professional statements should identify with precision the area of expertise and in statements should distinguish between evidence of facts (properly sourced) and expressions of expert opinion.

2. People who have been incarcerated in China:
 - a. Circumstances of the arrest – When, where and how? If there was a court process and if so what was the judgement about. One para;
 - b. Prison conditions – one para;
 - c. Any torture? If so, how and detail if any reason was given (providing examples) – one or two para;
 - d. Any knowledge of blood testing/ other physical tests – detail in one or two para;
 - e. Anything else you witnessed related to forced organ harvesting;
 - f. You may add a short sentence about your ethnic background and practice/ profession.

3. If you have knowledge of any cases of transplant tourism to China, or forced organ harvesting in China, please indicate the source of your information and the details disclosed to you as to the circumstances of such transplant; the name of the hospital involved and any further information regarding such transplant.