

Appendix 7

Investigative phone recording from Director Wang, Coordinator for kidney transplant operations at Yantai Yuhuangding Hospital, Shandong Province

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Key points:

1. [Regarding wait time for kidney transplant] It won't take long, ten days. For blood type B patients, it's within 10 days, one week or ten days, it's within ten days for sure. Ten days will definitely do.
2. [Investigator: Will the organ donors be young people or elderly people?] Right, they will be young people.
3. [Question: Where do the donors come from?] We have our own channels. You don't have to ask.
4. [Question: Taken from national organ network?] That's all deceiving people, all of them are deceiving people. They are all formalities.
5. [Question: It's all up to hospitals to look for donors, rather than being allocated by state?] That's correct.
6. [Question: Is that website accessible with an ID?] It is inaccessible. It belongs to the armed police. It's not like that anyone can access it.

Phone Investigation Recordings:

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Investigator: Hi.

Director Wang: Hello.

Investigator: Hi, is this Director Wang? Hi.

Director Wang: Yes. Who's this?

Investigator: Hi. I am also from Shandong Province. One of my family members wants to have a kidney transplant. I wanted to ask Yuhuangding Hospital, I heard that quite a lot of patients have done this... if we go there, will we have to wait for a long time?

Director Wang: No, it won't take long.

Investigator: Oh, it won't take long.

Director: Ten days. What's the patient's type?

Investigator: Hello, Director Wang?

Director Wang: What's the patient's blood type?

Investigator: It's Type B, Type B.

Director Wang: Oh, it will be within ten days.

Investigator: So it's within ten days. Director Wang, this is our situation. We are from the same hometown, I am also from Yantai City, in its surrounding area. I am living abroad now, and I want to ask about this. As I've done some research on various hospitals, I found that your hospital did the most [kidney transplants]. I've checked the official websites of these hospitals and found that your hospital did transplants for 270 patients last year. So you have indeed done more than any other hospitals, so I decided to call you and planned to have the transplant done here.....

Director Wang: That is correct.

Investigator: I am making this call for my child. He's 48 years old and is ready to have a transplant. It's been 11 months, nearly one year now, since his last dialysis. He has been like this, so it's not good.

Director Wang: Oh...oh...

Investigator: Since we are overseas. I discussed this with my child. I said, "Let's go home." Now I want to know that...if the wait time is short, we'll go back soon; and if the wait time is long, I'll think it over, like how I am going to go back. You said.....

Director Wang: Oh, one week, ten days, ten days for sure. Ten days will be fine.

Investigator: Oh, do I need to bring with me the physical examination documents from overseas?

Director Wang: There's no need. [The patient] will do the check-up all over again when he comes here.

Investigator: Ok, there's no need. The thing that I care the most.....

Director Wang: Oh, you wait.....

Investigator: Another thing is that I think...

Director Wang: Oh.

Investigator: I'd like to ask about the organ donor. Is there any guarantee that he's healthy? Or he doesn't have any diseases?

Director Wang: You can be assured that this will be guaranteed. We don't want any trouble, either.

Investigator: So it's guaranteed. I fear that if it were from someone who's old or who's in poor health, and we spend so much money, and after the transplant, something would happen...will there be anything...

Director Wang: Oh, oh, oh.

Investigator: You said that there wouldn't be any problem with the donor, right?

Director: Absolutely not. We wouldn't do it if there were any problems.

Investigator: Ok, you wouldn't do it [if there were any problems]. Are they usually young people? Or are they old people?

Director Wang: Right, young people.

Investigator: They *are* young people. Ok.

Director Wang: Ha ha, we did hundreds of them, how come there were so many...we did hundreds of cases a year, how could there be so many old people, right? There weren't that many.

Investigator: Oh.

Director Wang: We have ways and channels. Which country are you in now?

Investigator: I am in Europe.

Director Wang: Ah, ah, ah, ah.

Investigator: I am sorry to have troubled you, and it's also Sunday today. I am so sorry, and we'll...

Director Wang: No problem, no problem, no problem.

Investigator: Approximately how much will it cost? Can you tell me that? I need to prepare for it.

Director Wang: Mm, it's not going to cost you more than 500,000 yuan. It's over 400,000 yuan.

Investigator: It's going to be less than 500,000 yuan. Ok.

Director Wang: Yes.

Investigator: Oh, oh, oh. Please give me a specific figure. I'll prepare some money. At least, I'll think about it and get it ready. I'll need to do some preparations.

Director Wang: Ah, ah, ok, you need to get things ready...

Investigator: There's another thing...

Director Wang: No problem. Be rest assured, you, you...

Investigator: Ah, what if... ah, what did you say?

Director Wang: Your home, where is it?

Investigator: Ah, I beg your pardon?

Director Wang: Where is your hometown?

Investigator: I am from the surrounding area of our Yantai City.

Director Wang: I was asking you...

Investigator: Oh, so I-I...why do I want to come here to do the transplant? Because if I chose to go to Qingdao City for the transplant, that would be too far. So, I made this call, that is how it is. By the way...

Director Wang: Oh.

Investigator: By the way, there's another thing, that is the time needed to stay in the hospital. After the surgery, how long will it take before the patient gets discharged from the hospital?

Director Wang: Ten days.

Investigator: The patient can get out of the hospital in ten days, right?

Director Wang: Ten days will do. Right.

Investigator: That is to say, we go back first, and then we do [tissue] typing, right? We'll do [tissue] typing first, and after the typing, the approximate time will be ...

Director Wang: You-you just come over, and there's nothing for you to worry about. Nothing at all. Absolutely nothing for you to worry about.

Investigator: That is, you know, since I've been overseas for about 20 years, I don't know very well about the situation in China. Others told me that...Director Wang, I'd like to ask you...in the past, didn't they use that kind of...one of my friends did the transplant in your hospital, you know what I mean? So, he said that the kind of organ donors used before...that is, from the judiciary system, can that kind still be used? Now. He said that that kind is healthy. It would have a better survival rate, in other words, people will live longer, it seems.

Director Wang: You, you, out with it. What is it you were talking about?

Investigator: It was those from executed prisoners, [Falun] Gong practitioners...that kind, weren't those allowed to be used before?

Director Wang: Oh, that kind—that kind can't be used.

Investigator: So it can't anymore. Then can you tell me where our organ donors come from? Who supplies this kind of donors?

Director Wang: We have our channels. You'd better not ask. Alright?

Investigator: Oh, so there's absolute guarantee that it's healthy. There's no problem about that, right? And I...

Director Wang: Right, right, right. Right, right.

Investigator: Oh.

Director Wang: Right.

Investigator: This is what we are most concerned about, so you may understand us, the family members of the patients...this concern of ours. You said that...that...that...

Director Wang: Eh, eh, eh...

Investigator: There won't be that kind anymore...we all have them from the Red Cross. Now they all say that it's the Red Cross that provide the donations. Will the Red Cross do it?

Director Wang: How could there be so many? Don't concern yourself with that. There's no need for you to be concerned about that, alright? How could the Red...how could they have that many? It's for the entire country, right? The Red Cross isn't able to handle it. How could, the Red Cross...

Investigator: There is this network thing as well. They talk about this national network...

Director Wang: Oh, those are all for deceiving people, they are all for deceiving people. They are all formalities.

Investigator: You say that the national network is for deceiving people. They don't have that many organ donors. I was thinking, if they had [organs], could I visit the website, and if I could do it this way...

Director Wang: Impossible. Ha ha...those are all formalities. You know, that network can't do a thing...those are all formalities.

Investigator: So you are not getting them from the net, right? That is to say, your hospitals all have your own...

Director Wang: No, no. Ha ha.

Investigator: Ha, ha, ha, ha.

Director Wang: Right, we each have our own channels. Ok?

Investigator: Oh, you have your own channels. So each hospital goes about finding its own donors, and it's not that the state makes such allocations.

Director Wang: Ah, right. Right.

Investigator: It's not, right? Oh.

Director Wang: Ha, ha, no, no, right.

Investigator: I thought...others said...I said, if the state was to make allocations, the country is so huge, how would the state do it? There are as many as 1.4 billion people, I said.

Director Wang: Impossible, impossible.

Investigator: Impossible?

Director Wang: Impossible.

Investigator: Besides, I also heard them say...Could I go online and take a look, and pick a good kidney donor? Ah, they said, *you can't get online unless you your special ID, and you don't have it*. I told him I didn't have it. So a special ID is required, right?

Director Wang: You are not allowed to log in. It's all for the armed police. It's not that anyone is able to log in.

Investigator: But are you able to log onto it? Can people like you at the director level log in?

Director Wang: Yes, I can log into it.

Investigator: Oh, but you don't get them from there, not from there. So your hospital will go find them yourself?

Director Wang: Right.

Investigator: That's my only concern now. I just hope that when I go to your hospital, you'll find a good one for us, a healthy donor. Is that alright?

Director Wang: No problem. You don't have to worry. You just come, and we'll take care of the rest. Trust us. We'll do it. Ok?

Investigator: Ok, ok. Thank you very much. Director Wang, I'll talk to my child about this.

Director Wang: Ok, ok, ok, ok, ok.

Investigator: If we come to your hospital...

Director Wang: Ok, ok, ok.

Investigator: ...I'll talk to you soon. Bye now.

Director Wang: Alright, alright. Yes, yes.