



THE HON JULIE BISHOP MP

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Dr Dennis Jensen MP
Chair
Standing Committee on Petitions
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dennis
Dear Dr Jensen

Thank you for your letter of 18 August 2015 drawing my attention to a petition submitted to the Standing Committee on Petitions calling for an immediate end to the persecution of Falun Gong.

The Australian Government considers that China's ban on Falun Gong and its treatment of practitioners are in breach of international human rights standards.

The Government is also aware of claims of organ harvesting from Falun Gong practitioners in China. Those claims, if true, would be deeply disturbing. While we judge that there is insufficient credible evidence to support the Falun Gong-specific allegations, there is little doubt that organs have been harvested from executed prisoners for use in medical transplants. Australia strongly opposes this practice.

The Government has raised concerns about the treatment of Falun Gong practitioners and about reports of organs being harvested from executed prisoners with China on numerous occasions, including during our regular Australia-China Human Rights Dialogue.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

with best wishes

Julie Bishop
Julie Bishop

07 SEP 2015