



THE HON JULIE BISHOP MP

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Dr Dennis Jensen MP
Member for Tangney
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr Jensen

Thank you for your letter of 31 January 2014 drawing my attention to a petition submitted to the Standing Committee on Petitions regarding the treatment of Falun Gong practitioners in China.

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 believe 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, most recently during the 15th Australia-China Human Rights Dialogue held in Beijing on 20 February 2014.

I trust that this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Julie Bishop

03 MAR 2014