



**United States Department of State**

*Washington, D.C. 20520*

*www.state.gov*

Dear Mr. Andrews:

Thank you for your April 18 letter to the President concerning reports of human rights abuses in China and specifically the detention, murder, and organ harvesting of Falun Gong practitioners. The White House has asked us to reply on its behalf.

The Administration shares your deep concern over the Chinese Government's poor human rights record and takes every opportunity to urge China to make its government more accountable to its citizens and treat its people in accordance with international standards of human rights. President Bush discussed human rights with President Hu during their meetings at the White House in April and stressed the importance of these issues in our relationship. President Bush emphasized our belief that China's development into a modern and prosperous nation should not be about just meeting the economic demands of China's citizens, but also their legitimate demands for freedom and openness.

We continue to urge the Chinese Government, in our meetings with China's leadership in both Beijing and Washington, to honor its international obligations and to respect the rights set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

We are aware of the allegations and reports of concentration camps in China where Falun Gong practitioners are being jailed and their organs harvested. We take these charges seriously. The Department and our Embassy in Beijing, as well as our Consulate General in Shenyang, have spoken repeatedly with members of the Falun Gong and individuals who have reported on these alleged crimes. We have sought clarification and any documentary evidence they might have about these allegations.

The Honorable  
Robert E. Andrews,  
House of Representatives.

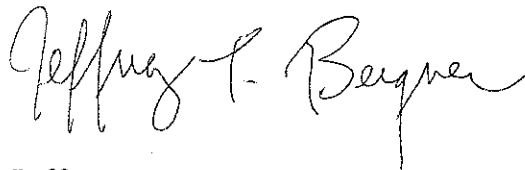
Officers and staff from our embassy in Beijing and Consulate in Shenyang have twice visited the area and the specific site mentioned in the initial Falun Gong reports but have found no evidence to corroborate these allegations. The Chinese Foreign Ministry publicly denied the allegations on March 28 in response to media inquiries. We have told the Chinese that we continue to believe that further investigation and transparency would be helpful in addressing these allegations.

Independent of these specific allegations, we have raised our concerns over China's treatment of the Falun Gong repeatedly with Chinese authorities both in Washington and in Beijing and will continue to do so. The U.S. Government has made clear on numerous occasions our strong opposition to the detention or persecution of individuals solely for peaceful association and assembly, including members of the Falun Dafa or Falun Gong. On November 1, 2005, the Secretary of State designated China a "Country of Particular Concern" (CPC) under the International Religious Freedom Act for particularly severe violations of religious freedom. The Secretary of State has so designated China every year since 1999.

We have documented our concerns on organ transplants and human rights abuses in our annual country reports on human rights practices and on international religious freedom, which can be found on the State Department website: [www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov)

We hope this information is useful to you. If we may be of further assistance in this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeffrey T. Bergner".

Jeffrey T. Bergner  
Assistant Secretary  
Legislative Affairs