

# THE EPOCH TIMES

## CCP Virus Special Edition

TRUTH AND TRADITION

JUNG YEON-JE/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



South Korean soldiers wearing protective gear spray disinfectant to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, at a shopping district in Seoul on March 4, 2020.

# Where Ties With Communist China Are Close, the Coronavirus Follows

Severe COVID-19 outbreaks highlight different countries' entanglements with Beijing

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In the final weeks of 2019, a novel coronavirus outbreak occurred in the city of Wuhan, in central China. As the world welcomed a new decade, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) opted to suppress information about the emerging crisis until it could no longer remain hidden.

Nearly two months after mainland Chinese authorities acknowledged the outbreak and the existence of the contagious virus, the crisis had spread around the globe, assuming epidemic proportions in multiple regions. The number of infected beyond China's borders is now in the hundreds of thousands, with thousands having succumbed to the virus. The stock market has plunged as experts warn of a possible economic recession.

A variety of factors have facilitated the rapid spread of the virus, officially termed SARS-CoV-2, and the disease that it causes, COVID-19. In light of the CCP's role in allowing the virus to spread throughout China and create a global pandemic, The Epoch Times refers to the pathogen as the CCP virus.

Globalization has brought the peoples of the world into closer contact, making it easier for contagious diseases to spread. Yet the heaviest-hit regions outside China all share a common thread: close or lucrative relations with the communist regime in Beijing.

#### Medical Crisis

Under political or economic influence from the People's Republic of China (PRC), many foreign entities and politicians, including international organizations, have been swayed to the extent that they take the side of the CCP, accommodating the pernicious communist system and turning a blind eye to unspeakable crimes committed by the mainland Chinese authorities.

Recent decades have seen the PRC greatly expand its power in economic and geopolitical affairs. Deceiving the world with a narrative of "China's peaceful rise," the communist regime has lured foreign governments and international firms to invest in China's rapidly developing markets.

But the CCP has never abandoned its ideological tenets of class struggle and totalitarian control. In the 30 years since the Tiananmen Square massacre, and from the start in 1999 of the persecution of the spiritual practice Falun Gong to today's systematic persecution of all faiths and independent thought, the state of human rights in the PRC has only worsened.

The true nature of the CCP and communism has long been known to readers of The Epoch Times. Fifteen years ago, The Epoch Times published the editorial series "Nine Commentaries on the Communist Party," igniting a grassroots movement in China to reject com-

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A tourist wearing a protective mask walks past the closed Colosseum monument in Rome on March 10, 2020.

munist. Since 2004, more than 350 million people have renounced their ties to the Party and its affiliated youth organizations.

Seen in conjunction with the CCP-hijacked geopolitical environment of today, the geographical distribution of what the World Health Organization (WHO) now calls a coronavirus pandemic highlights the ultimate peril facing those who align themselves with the specter of communism.

Outside China, the spread of COVID-19 was most severe in Italy, Iran, South Korea, and Japan. Later, Japan and South Korea were surpassed by Germany and France, respectively. Not all of these countries are located near China, but all have extensive interests in the PRC.

Italy, the most heavily affected country outside China as of March 20, was the first (and only) G-7 nation to sign onto the PRC's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI, also known as One Belt, One Road). In an attempt to prop up its weakening economy, Italy has also sought to capture the Chinese market for selling its luxury goods.

With the outbreak forcing Rome to put the country under lockdown, such prospects have been put on hold.

Italy also has signed scores of sister-city agreements with China, with the cities of Milan, Venice, and Bergamo included among them. These are the areas hardest-hit by the virus.

In the Middle East, Iran has seen a surge in the number of infections, particularly among government officials.

The Iranian regime has had a comprehensive strategic partnership with China since 2016, and its ties with Beijing began years before that. In violation of international sanctions, Iran has imported embargoed materials from China, while continuing to sell oil to the PRC. The Islamic Republic allowed flights in and out of four major Chinese cities until the end of February.

On-the-ground footage taken by Iranian citizens is reminiscent of the tragedy playing out in Wuhan, with overworked medical staff, despondent patients, and body bags lining

hospital floors.

And while official figures released by the Iranian authorities show deaths and confirmed cases trailing behind Italy's numbers, it is likely that the real scale of the outbreak remains grossly underreported. Reviewing available data, an epidemiologist cited by The Washington Post on March 5 estimated that the actual number of people infected in Iran could have been up to 28,000, nearly five times what the regime had reported at the time. The official count for Iran as of March 20 stood at nearly 20,000.

In South Korea, the public has grown increasingly critical of President Moon Jae-in for refusing to ban Chinese tourists at large and instead only barring entry for those who recently traveled to Hubei Province, the epicenter of the epidemic in China.

More than 1.4 million people have signed a petition to the Presidential Blue House calling for Moon to be impeached. The petition text reads, "Seeing Moon Jae-in's response to the new epidemic, we feel that he is more of a President for China than Korea."

#### Political Peril

Taiwan, despite its proximity to and extensive business with mainland China, has seen a relatively small number of infections.

On Jan. 26, John Hopkins University identified Taiwan as having the second-highest risk of epidemic spread outside China. However, robust prevention measures there have proven effective.

Taiwan officials began to board planes and assess passengers on Dec. 31, 2019, after Wuhan authorities first confirmed the outbreak. In early February, Taiwan banned entry to foreign nationals who have traveled to the PRC. As of March 20, there were just 135 confirmed cases in Taiwan. The self-ruled island has been held as a model for epidemic control, despite being repeatedly denied participation in the CCP-friendly WHO.

As China affairs commentator Heng He put it, Taiwan has a clear understanding of the communist regime and may be the only state that learned the lessons of the 2003 SARS outbreak, which also began in China.

In Hong Kong, which has seen millions of residents stand up to Beijing's encroachment on the city's freedoms and rule of law since last year, the outbreak has been similarly subdued.

By contrast, Japan, albeit not geostrategically aligned with the PRC, placed profit over prudence. With millions of Chinese traveling to Japan for shopping and sightseeing annually, the country was slow to close its borders to mainland arrivals. Japan was among one of the first countries to report cases outside of China, and the number of infected is now in the thousands.

More than 256 Japanese cities and 190 in South Korea have twinning agreements with cities in mainland China.

With the CCP virus's surge in Italy, more than a hundred thousand have been sickened in the rest of Europe. As with Italy, many of these countries have unwisely—and against admonishment by U.S. officials over the past few years—persisted in their flirtations with the PRC. France and Germany serve as typical examples, having not taken seriously the risks of inviting the PRC-controlled Huawei to take part in the construction of their 5G infrastructure.

#### The Root of the Epidemic Is the CCP

In the United States, one of the earliest—and worst-hit places was the Seattle area in Washington state. By March 20, the state had seen 74 deaths from the virus, around a third of the national total.

In the late 1970s, in the early days of the CCP's deceptive economic reforms, it was the port of Seattle that welcomed the first Chinese cargo ships. In the years since, with increasing enthusiasm from local politicians and businesses, Seattle has hosted all four of the PRC's heads of state, from Deng Xiaoping to Xi Jinping.

The decades since saw the CCP wage a secret Cold War against the United States, funneling America's technology and jobs to mainland China in an onslaught abetted by opportunistic profit-seekers, who compromised America's conscience.

Recently, the CCP has attempted to portray its draconian handling of the epidemic as a triumph for the Party's authoritarian system, going so far as to pin the blame for a disaster of its own making on the United States. Misled by the CCP's propaganda machine and a left-leaning domestic media environment fixated on the failures—whether real or imagined—of the U.S. system, many Chinese residing overseas have made the decision to return home.

But the Chinese historical record is more sobering. Throughout the centuries, plagues and other calamities signaled the downfall of imperial dynasties. And at present—with growing numbers of whistleblowers standing up to contradict official figures that downplay the mainland epidemic—the CCP's claim that it has curbed the virus rings as false as the lies it deployed last year to cover up the initial outbreak in Wuhan.

Taking history as a mirror, as ancient Chinese scholars did, it is apparent that the pandemic is a calamity linked with the CCP and its 70 years of brutal rule. And today, the world is an interconnected community. Any country, community, or organization that keeps too close to the CCP and falls for its deception will taste the bitter fruits of that involvement.



ALBERTO PIZZOLI/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



A man wearing a protective mask walks by a deserted Piazza di Spagna in central Rome on March 12, 2020.

CCP VIRUS

# Italy’s Coronavirus Outbreak Puts Spotlight on China Ties

CATHY HE

**T**he worsening coronavirus outbreak in Italy has led its government to re-evaluate its relationship with Beijing and align more with Washington, an expert said.

Almost a year after Italy became the first G-7 country to sign on to the Chinese regime’s flagship foreign policy project, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI, also known as One Belt, One Road)—drawing criticism from its Western allies—the country’s initial handling of the outbreak indicated a shift in relations.

“The outbreak of the coronavirus in Wuhan has led the Italian government to re-assess its approach to China, while also sending a message to the Trump administration,” Nicola Casarini, senior fellow and head of research for Asia at Rome-based think tank Istituto Affari Internazionali, told The Epoch Times in an email.

Casarini said the current center-left Italian administration, which is different from the populist government that signed up for the BRI in March 2019, has utilized the outbreak to further its ties with Washington. Italy was the first Western government to announce a halt of flights from China, and its flight ban is currently set for the longest period among Western countries, lasting until April 28, he said.

“This measure can be explained by the willingness of Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte and the Health Minister Roberto Speranza to present themselves as trusted transatlantic allies—something that traditionally helps in Italy if someone wants to make a political career,” Casarini said.

Despite this early effort to contain the disease, Italy has since found itself to be the worst-hit country outside of China, where the outbreak originated. In February, it was found that the virus had been circulating unnoticed in northern Italy. From there, the virus spread to the entire country. Italy now has more than 53,578 infections and 4825 deaths, and the country has been placed under lockdown.

### Italy–China Ties

Italy’s decision to join the BRI in March 2019 sparked concern from the United States and Western allies.

Beijing’s BRI, a massive infrastructure investment project aimed to connect Asia, Africa, and Europe through a network of railways, ports, and roads, has been criticized for saddling developing countries with debt burdens they cannot repay. Meanwhile, Washington worries that the plan is also designed to strengthen China’s military influence and spread technologies capable of spying on the West.

The White House National Security Council warned Italy at the time that endorsing

### The outbreak of the coronavirus in Wuhan has led the Italian government to reassess its approach to China.

Nicola Casarini, senior fellow and head of research for Asia at Rome-based think tank Istituto Affari Internazionali

the BRI “lends legitimacy to China’s predatory approach to investment and will bring no benefits to the Italian people.”

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas echoed that sentiment, saying at the time that some countries that “think they can do clever deals with the Chinese, they will come down to earth with a bump and find themselves dependent on China.”

Italy has defended its decision, with Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio last month saying that it signed on to the initiative for “commercial reasons” and “economic advantages,” Bloomberg reported.

But according to data compiled by the RWR Belt and Road Monitor, which tracks Chinese investments under the initiative, Italy hasn’t attracted many projects in the past year, with the exception of a deal between Jetion Solar (China) Co. and Eni SpA to invest about \$2.2 billion and develop new solar projects.

A Chinese plan to develop the port at Trieste also hasn’t gotten off the ground, Bloomberg stated.

Meanwhile, Italy also has continued to run a trade deficit with China, which in January stood at \$2.4 billion euros (\$2.7 billion), according to preliminary data released in February by Italy’s statistics agency Istat.

Since the outbreak, economists expect the country’s already struggling economy to head into a recession by the end of the first quarter, with critical tourism and luxury industries particularly hard hit.

### Regime’s PR Push

Recently, the Beijing regime has donated medical supplies to Italy and sent a team of medical experts to assist in local containment measures.

These measures, analysts say, form part of a campaign by the regime to frame itself as a global leader in disease control efforts and detract attention from criticism that its initial cover-up of the outbreak allowed the virus to spread abroad. This “positive” propaganda push includes recent statements by Chinese officials suggesting that the virus didn’t originate from China and merely first broke out there.

Casarini believed that after the crisis subsides in Italy, the Chinese regime will “begin pouring money (through investments) in Italy, in particular in the industrialized north more affected by the epidemic,” in an attempt to boost bilateral relations.

“In the medium-to-longer term, however, Rome-Beijing relations will continue to go through highs and lows, depending not only on their bilateral ties, but more importantly on the evolution of Italy-USA relations,” he added.

Casarini suggested that how Italy and other European countries will approach relations with the Chinese regime in the wake of the outbreak depends on how “politicians and the media present the case.”

He said that “if the blame is put on China and its regime which has withheld critical information at the beginning of the outbreak, thus allowing the virus to spread worldwide,” then European countries are likely to harden their stance toward the regime. However, if the regime-promoted narrative of “fighting together the common enemy” takes off, then the reverse may happen.

“Admittedly quite remarkable to countenance at this stage, but it could indeed happen, especially if China begins pouring more money into Europe,” Casarini said.



Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte (R) with Chinese leader Xi Jinping during a welcoming ceremony at Villa Madama in Rome on March 23, 2019.

ALBERTO PIZZOLI/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



# Beijing’s Claim of No New Infections Contradicts Reality on the Ground

NICOLE HAO

For the first time since the virus outbreak began, China’s national health commission claimed on March 19 that there were no new infections in the entire country.

But Chinese citizens describe a different reality.

In Wuhan, ground zero of the epidemic, residents witnessed long lines at hospitals while more facilities were reportedly being set up to accommodate ill patients.

Meanwhile, netizens said they don’t trust the Chinese regime’s narrative.

The CCP virus, commonly known as the novel coronavirus, first emerged in Wuhan in December 2019.

The Epoch Times refers to the novel coronavirus as the CCP virus because the Chinese Communist Party’s coverup and mishandling allowed the virus to spread throughout China and create a global pandemic.

### Hospitals

In a video posted to social media on March 19, a Chinese citizen shows the Wuhan Union Hospital, one of 46 designated facilities to treat COVID-19, and the queue in front of it. “Look, Look! People are lining up in front of the fever clinic at Wuhan Union Hospital,” the person says. The Epoch Times confirmed the footage was filmed at the hospital.

More than 30 people are seen waiting in line, keeping a safe distance from the person in front of them. A hospital security guard is stationed nearby, dressed in a protective suit and wearing an N95 mask.

Those waiting in line wore masks, some dressed in surgical gowns or plastic raincoats—worn by many during the initial outbreak as people sought to protect themselves from contracting the virus.

Meanwhile, Mr. Wu, a resident



Medical staff treat coronavirus patients at a hospital in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China, on March 19, 2020.

in nearby Huanggang city, cried for help. He said no hospital in Huanggang or Wuhan could diagnose his disease because all the facilities he visited were full of virus patients.

Wu’s daughter told The Epoch Times in a phone interview: “I called doctors from Wuhan. They said it’s very possible that my father has a kidney tumor, but they couldn’t accept him. ... Their hospitals are full of [virus] patients.”

### New Facilities

On March 19, a construction worker shared a video of a new makeshift hospital set up within a stadium in suburban Wuhan.

“After another night, our mission is almost complete,” the man said. “A new makeshift hospital will be in operation soon.”

Ms. Li, a resident in Wuhan, told The Epoch Times that authorities

have recently set up so-called relay stations around the city. Typically set up inside universities, diagnosed virus patients are being held there in quarantine.

“After the 14 makeshift hospitals were closed [on March 10], they set up 300 relay stations. I believe they are like a new type of makeshift facility,” Li said.

Coinciding with Chinese leader Xi Jinping’s first visit to Wuhan since the outbreak, authorities closed down the makeshift field hospitals, saying there was no longer a need for them.

Ms. Li also said many people are undiagnosed and self-isolating at home. “[From what I know], each residential compound in [Jiang’an district, an area of Wuhan] has infected virus patients. The patients are forced to stay at home.”

Ms. Zhang, another Wuhan resident, believed the epidemic was

much more severe than authorities are admitting.

“If the outbreak isn’t critical, it [the government] would allow us to return to work. Now all roads are still, and businesses have not resumed production in Wuhan,” Zhang said in a March 17 phone interview.

Since late January, Wuhan has been under lockdown. To prevent the virus from spreading, workplaces were closed down, public transportation and road travel banned, and public events canceled.

Aside from Xinjiang and Guizhou, two remote areas of China that recently reopened high schools and middle schools for seniors who will take entrance exams, all schools in other provinces and regions are closed.

China’s schools have remained closed since the Lunar New Year

holiday. Classes are held online.

### Netizens

Many netizens are skeptical of the authorities’ claims that the epidemic has been contained. One widely circulated article posted onto a Chinese internet bulletin board said that only when three criteria are met will it indicate that the epidemic is truly over.

The three criteria are: all schools in China reopen; North Korea and Russia reopen their borders to China; and the CCP holds its Lianghui (“Two Sessions”), the Party’s annual conference for its rubber-stamp legislature and the advisory body, the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference.

This year’s Lianghui was scheduled for March 3 to March 13. On Feb. 24, the Party announced that it would be postponed due to the epidemic.

## Experts Say China’s Claim of No New CCP Virus Cases Not Credible

BOWEN XIAO

The Chinese regime is pushing a new narrative on the global pandemic, claiming over the past few days that there have been no new local infections of the CCP virus, commonly known as the novel coronavirus, in an increasingly aggressive disinformation campaign.

As part of this propaganda push, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is also alleging that it now faces a bigger threat—infections imported from overseas. A number of state-run media, many of which have English versions of their websites, are pushing these stories, and some U.S. media are repeating these stories verbatim.

A March 19 headline story published in CCP mouthpiece Xinhua said there were “no new infections of the novel coronavirus” in Wuhan, the origin of the virus, adding that the news sends “a message of hope to a world grappling with the pandemic.” A March 18 article in The New York Times reported the same narrative, with a headline titled “China Hits a Coronavirus Milestone: No New Local Infections.”

Experts say the international community shouldn’t believe any numbers coming out of China due to the regime’s efforts to cover up the outbreak. Internal government documents obtained by The Epoch Times have highlighted how the regime purposefully under-reported cases of the CCP virus and censored discussions related to the outbreak, helping to fuel its spread.

“The Chinese propaganda ma-

chine is going to tell us what they want the rest of the world to hear and not necessarily what is fact,” Rep. Jim Banks (R-Ind.) told The Epoch Times.

The CCP is set to expel U.S. journalists based in China who work for The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, and The Washington Post.

“That was an act of informing the rest of the world that they [China] have no intent upon being transparent,” Banks said. “Any statistic or anything that you read coming out of China should be readily dismissed simply because of that.”

“They don’t want the real story to be told because they know that they are culpable and they know that this coronavirus will always be associated with the current regime and the CCP leadership in China today.”

U.S. national security adviser Robert O’Brien, during a speech at Washington-based think tank The Heritage Foundation on March 11, said the regime had initially attempted to censor doctors who tried to speak about the outbreak, “so that word of this virus could not get out.” He said it likely “cost the world community two months to respond.”

Li Wenliang, one of the eight whistleblowers who first publicized information about a “SARS-like” outbreak in December 2019, was reprimanded by Chinese authorities for “rumor-mongering.” Li was forced to sign a “confession statement” in which he promised that he wouldn’t commit further “unlawful acts.” In February, he died from the CCP virus.

“China’s track record of sup-



Chinese police officers wear protective masks as they patrol at Beijing Station before the annual Spring Festival in Beijing, on Jan. 22, 2020.

pressing news or conversations on topics that are concerning to the regime is a long-standing practice,” John Schaus, fellow at the International Security Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, told The Epoch Times via email.

“Early response by local and on-line authorities is in line with its consistent [censoring] practices.”

On the claim of zero new cases, Schaus said, “In a country with 1.3 billion people, it would be remarkable if there was 100 percent certainty on such a number.”

In another example of the regime’s coverup, funeral home directors in the Chinese city of Jining discovered that some local hospitals had death certificates marked with “unidentified pneumonia” as

the cause of death.

Last week, a U.S. state department official summoned the Chinese ambassador to the United States after a high-ranking Beijing official pushed the conspiracy claim that the CCP virus came from the U.S. Army.

“This isn’t a partisan issue,” Banks said. “This is about China’s efforts to stop America and [to] prevent America from preparing for this—and ultimately how they should be held responsible for that type of behavior.”

The disinformation campaign aims to primarily deflect blame from the Chinese regime’s botched handling of the CCP virus and to portray the image that the regime is in control.

Earlier this month, a team of Chi-

nese officials, including Chinese Vice Premier Sun Chunlan, visited a residential compound in Wuhan. They were greeted by locals who had been sealed inside for more than a month, yelling from inside their buildings, with one woman shouting out her window, “It’s fake, everything’s fake!”

“The U.S. must counter that [propaganda] message with a determined information campaign,” author and China expert Gordon Chang told The Epoch Times.

The Epoch Times refers to the novel coronavirus, which causes the disease COVID-19, as the CCP virus because the Chinese Communist Party’s coverup and mishandling allowed the virus to spread throughout China and create a global pandemic.



# ‘Truth is the Only Comfort’: Chinese Citizens Fed Up With Beijing’s Coronavirus Propaganda

EVA FU

The Chinese regime has deployed its gargantuan propaganda machine to boost its leadership in its “all-out war” against the coronavirus outbreak. But its efforts do not appear to be winning the hearts and minds of its citizens.

Campaigns by Chinese state-run media to promote ‘positive’ propaganda on its outbreak containment efforts have spurred fiery backlash online, while those living under lockdown in regions hit hard by the virus have consistently vented their frustrations online—in posts which are often later scrubbed by China’s internet censors.

In a February video propagated by Chinese state media, 14 nurses from China’s northwestern Gansu Province get their heads shaved as a precautionary measure before being dispatched to the frontlines in coronavirus epicenter Wuhan. Several wept during the ordeal, while others looked visibly upset.

The nurses who purportedly volunteered to undergo the procedure were lauded as heroes by state media. Yet many Chinese netizens who saw the video, which has millions of views, thought differently.

“To shave off their hair as a group ... use their sacrifice to put out this performance, then create publicity hype—such an act is far too cruel,” a Chinese commentator wrote on Shanghai-based media Eastday. State-run media Gansu Daily, which first published the video, later deleted the post from Weibo, China’s Twitter-like social media platform.

But the outrage has not been limited to online—in the country’s worst-hit virus zone Wuhan, locals, in a rare show of defiance, took to voicing their displeasure with authorities’ handling of the outbreak in unconventional ways.

On March 5, when Sun Chunlan, the country’s Vice Premier, visited a residential compound in Wuhan along with a group of officials, locals who were sealed inside their apartments greeted them by yelling out complaints from their windows.

“It’s fake, everything’s fake!” One woman shouted. Their shouts continued until the officials exited the compound.

However, authorities made sure this episode wouldn’t be repeated when Chinese leader Xi Jinping visited Wuhan five days later. Footage circulating online show police wearing hazmat



(L) A security guard walks past a propaganda banner saying, “Do Not Leave Home Often During Holidays, Wear a Mask When Going Out, Keep a Distance and Do Not Shake Hands When Meeting” in Temple of Heaven Park, Beijing on Feb. 15, 2020.

(R) A Chinese man takes a gate ticket from a woman on the other side of a makeshift barricade wall intended to control the entry and exit of outsiders in Beijing, China, on Feb. 25, 2020.



suits standing guard inside people’s apartments and on their balcony. In a notice on Chinese super-app WeChat, a local residential committee officer at a building complex in Wuhan said the officers would stay in residents’ homes for around an hour for “security clearance.”

“Anybody with a clear mind will not fail to see that this is purely an inspection show,” Chinese political commentator Yuan Bin wrote in a column for the Chinese-language edition of The Epoch Times.

### Beijing’s Propaganda Playbook

A recently leaked document from Hubei Province, whose capital is Wuhan, revealed that authorities have deployed huge efforts at tightening the flow of information and shaping the official narrative amid the outbreak.

Officials have engaged at least 1,600 trolls in the province alone to aggressively monitor online speech and scrub any information critical of the regime.

The main goal is to enhance the “promotion of the positive side,” the document said, in part by having a “wartime” propaganda mechanism in place to control public opinion online and offline, “big and small,” with “minute precision.”

The propaganda efforts, according to the document, should focus on illuminating the effective containment measures, and “vividly retelling” the “moving deeds” of medical staff, officials, police officers, and volunteers.

Further, it asked all media to step up their promotion of “exemplary

figures” and heroes from the outbreak frontlines, with the goal of having each state and provincial outlet feature two to three such models in their daily reporting.

In line with such directives, the province’s major media have published over 50,000 outbreak-related reports by mid-February, the document said, with some articles garnering hundreds of millions of views.

Hyping the regime’s capability to handle the virus, the central government also declared 113 medical teams and 506 medical workers as “model citizens.”

### ‘Truth Is the Only Comfort’

Wang Zhonglin, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) Secretary of Wuhan, triggered an outpouring of rage after he recently called for a thorough “appreciation education” to teach the public to be grateful to the Party for its outbreak response.

“Wuhan people are heroic people who also know how to be grateful,” Wang said on March 6, according to state-affiliated Changjiang Daily.

The remark did not sit well with local residents. “Gratitude should be self-initiated, right?” Gao, a Wuhan local, told The Epoch Times. “Saving Chinese people is its obligation, the basic responsibility of a government ... what is there to be grateful about?”

Hu, who lives in the Jiangnan District of Wuhan, said the official has “reversed the proper order.” “He should thank the people of Wuhan,” Hu told The Epoch Times.

More people, locked in their homes, lamented the struggle in obtaining fresh food supplies and sustaining their lives. One resident, speaking on condition of anonymity, said he had been skipping meals every day to cut down expenses.

“They have buried us alive,” Wuhan resident Xin told The Epoch Times, adding that certain food prices have surged by up to ten-fold. Officials, however, are able to abuse their privileges and obtain the products at cost, Xin said.

Xin had recently filmed a video to protest their lack of supplies, for which he was reprimanded by local police officers. “They don’t solve the problems, but only go after people who raise the problems.”

“We commoners can only pray for heaven’s blessings, we live one day at a time.”

Jiang, who lives in Wuhan’s Qingshan District, the same area where locals heckled officials from their windows, labeled the CCP as the “most shameless” regime in the world.

“Nobody believes in the CCP anymore,” he said.

Zhang, also from Wuhan, believes that locals’ experiences of this crisis have made people less willing to cooperate with the regime.

“When locals circulate the images of police in hazmat suits in their homes, there’s a message they are trying to convey: we can’t talk, and dare not talk,” she said, referring to the measures adopted during Xi’s visit to the city.

“Truth is the only comfort.”

**Saving Chinese people is its obligation, the basic responsibility of a government ... what is there to be grateful about?**

Gao, a Wuhan local

## Wuhan Residents Analyze Chinese Communist Party’s Brainwashing Tactics

ANGELA BRIGHT

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) begins brainwashing people in kindergarten. They are taught to believe that anyone who criticizes the CCP is their enemy, and seeks to control China. Whenever anyone in the international community doesn’t agree with the CCP, they will brand them as anti-China, and then proceed to brainwash the Chinese people into believing the new narrative. There are many Chinese people who can be easily tricked into believing this, but there are also discerning people.

Today we interviewed two of them from Wuhan: Mr. Chen Yang and Ms. Liu.

Chen Yang is a Wuhan native who has been brainwashed by the CCP. His father, a CCP member who deeply believes in the Party, didn’t have an opportunity to be hospitalized, even after becoming critically ill from the novel coronavirus. Chen Yang had to contact an overseas media company to expose the truth. After doing this, he was able to get his father hospitalized. His father is still receiving treatment at the hospital. Since the outbreak, Chen Yang has been locked-down in his home and is in good health.

Chen Yang: There isn’t any freedom to choose under the CCP because the TVs and newspapers continuously

**So I filed a lawsuit to protect my rights, but as a result, the CCP sent me to a mental hospital under the guise of paranoid psychosis.**

Chen Yang, Wuhan native

brainwash their audience. I was also brainwashed under its education. The CCP states it has laws and human rights, and I used to believe they were protecting my rights and interests under the law. So I filed a lawsuit to protect my rights, but as a result, the CCP sent me to a mental hospital under the guise of paranoid psychosis. This is how the CCP rules China. If you believe the CCP and file a report or appeal against the CCP, it will label you as having a mental illness. If you don’t blindly follow its rule, it will manipulate the laws to persecute you. There’s no way to rationally deal with the CCP.

For example, my father is a communist. He unquestionably believes in the Party’s lies. He doesn’t have original thought or discernment and instead blindly goes along with the Party. If the Party were to lead him into a pit, he would jump into it. This time my father became infected with the CCP virus. With his faith in the Party, he was looking for a CCP hospital but medical staff told him there were no beds available and ordered him to go home and wait. So, my father went home and waited. He waited over 10 days and now he’s dying, and to make matters worse, they kept telling us to go to another hospital while he was already dying.

I reached out to overseas media to help expose the evilness of the CCP

and its persecution of its own people. After the CCP found out they were condemned for persecuting their own people, they then let my father be admitted to a hospital. However, after my father was admitted to the hospital, the CCP resumed its brainwashing tactics again: “Believe in the Communist Party!” Its brainwashing does have an effect on ignorant people. As for people like myself, who were once deceived by it, we can no longer be deceived by it. If you believe in the Party, you’re condemning yourself to death. It’s evil. Only by distancing yourself from the CCP and escaping the CCP’s brainwashing tactics, can you get your life back. If you believe in the CCP, it will persecute your families even after you die. The Chinese Communist Party is an evil organization.

Ms. Liu, who lives in Wuhan, has a clear understanding of the CCP’s tactics and its true nature. She’s had some trouble explaining these things to her friends and family. As a result, she’s perceived as an outcast, brainwashed by foreign anti-China forces.

Ms. Liu: The regime’s purpose is to cover up the facts and disguise the truth to deceive, persecute, and brainwash people. I’ve seen a lot of people on WeChat groups who have been duped. They’re still praising the CCP. They believe it’s patriotism.

Ever since the outbreak until now, I’ve been very concerned about my friends and family in Wuhan and Hubei. I’ve patiently disclosed the truth to them, but they refuse to listen. They feel I’ve offended them. They’ve blocked me and don’t even speak to me. I’m being ignored. They believe I’m the one who’s been deceived by anti-communist propaganda and say that I speak nonsense. I tried to persuade them to not return to work. As long as the two annual CCP meetings in Beijing are not taking place, it’s best not to return to work, but some people refuse to listen. They want to return to work because otherwise they’ll starve to death. I also patiently spoke to them, informing them that even if there’s no money, they should try to stay alive. Don’t return to work. If one person becomes infected, then their entire family is doomed. Chinese state media is spreading propaganda that the Americans caused this disaster [the spread of the virus.] They listen to the hate speech instigated by the regime. They hate the United States and they hate [so-called] foreign anti-China forces.

The origin of the virus is still unclear. Yet the Communist Party is asking its people to be grateful for the regime. What should we be grateful for? For killing so many people? For allowing so many innocent people to die by suicide?



THINKING ABOUT CHINA

# The Web of Lies Spun Around the CCP Virus

HENG HE



The world can learn much by paying attention to how the outbreak of the CCP virus—commonly known as the novel corona-

virus—has been handled in China.

There were at least two well-known doctors at Wuhan Central Hospital during the outbreak, the whistleblower Dr. Li Wenliang and whistle-provider Dr. Ai Fen.

Ai is the emergency room director who saw a SARS coronavirus-positive test report for a patient on Dec. 30, 2019, and sent the report to a friend. The report immediately circulated in a circle of eight doctors that included Li.

The reaction was almost instantaneous. At 10:20 p.m., the hospital sent a message conveying a Wuhan Health Commission notice that anything about the “unknown pneumonia” shouldn’t be made public. One hour later, the hospital sent another, similar notice. Then, on Jan. 2, Ai was called to the hospital office and was rebuked by a hospital official, who also conveyed orders from higher authorities. Ai didn’t talk about the virus afterward, not even to her husband, until Jan. 20.

Li and seven other doctors who were considered whistleblowers got more serious punishment. They also were censured, and not by hospital officials, but by police on Jan. 3. The censorship effort turned out to be very successful; all of the doctors who knew about the outbreak kept silent.

Meanwhile, the rest of China and the world were kept in the dark for at least another 20 days.

The coverup and censorship had begun before Ai shared the test report. Wuhan Central Hospital sent out the first “unknown pneumonia” patient sample on Dec. 24, 2019. The report, which the hospital received Dec. 27, indicated that a coronavirus was found in the sample, with 70 percent similarity to SARS coronavirus. A report from a second test facility stated simply, “SARS.” Both facilities were private companies.

The hospital reported the results to the Wuhan Health Commission the same day, which means that Wuhan officials knew of the disease three days earlier than Ai. While the Wuhan Health Commission can directly order the hospital to silence doctors, only administrative officials can order the police to punish whistleblowers.

The coverup was already at the city government level as early as Jan. 3.

Other organizations also covered up the outbreak. On Jan. 1, the Hubei Provincial Health Commission notified gene-sequencing companies not to take the Wuhan pneumonia samples, not to test the samples, not to submit scientific papers, and not to reveal the results to the public. It also was ordered that all samples must be destroyed.

On Jan. 3, the National Health Commission formally banned all non-governmental facilities from testing samples related to the Wuhan pneumonia case, which the Beijing financial magazine Caixin recounted, in the report “Tracing the Novel Coronavirus Gene Sequencing: When Did the Alarm Sound.” The Caixin article was taken down several hours after being published.

## Human-to-Human Transmission

An esteemed, senior doctor named Zhong Nanshan was used to manage part of another coverup. Zhong went to Wuhan on Jan. 19. Before he left Wuhan to go to Beijing the next day, he announced that the virus was capable of human-to-



STRINGER/GETTY IMAGES

human transmission, which authorities at different levels had denied.

Before Zhong, two groups of experts had been sent to Wuhan by the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (China CDC). Why is it that Zhong could find something within one day while so many experts visiting Wuhan couldn’t? Caijing, another Beijing-based financial magazine, interviewed an expert from the second group, and asked those in the group whether hospital staff had been infected—the key evidence for human-to-human transmission. The experts never got an answer.

Zhong had earned a good reputation for fighting SARS and is the leading Chinese official for fighting respiratory infectious diseases. An outsider to Wuhan, he hadn’t been involved in the previous coverup. He had the authority to change the status of the epidemic disease, and could change the tone without exposing government wrongdoing.

Zhong, then, was just another tool of the Party. During this outbreak, even partial “truth” from the CCP becomes part of the lies.

From day one, every Party and government organization—and the hospitals and individuals inside the system—has been involved in weaving a web of lies. Anyone who intentionally or unintentionally exposed the lies was immediately silenced, by different organizations, at different levels, and by different authorities.

## ‘Disasters Make the Nation Strong’

The CCP’s institutions are designed for keeping its power, not for preventing and handling natural disasters, especially not for something like the novel coronavirus.

The pattern is usually like this. When a large-scale natural disaster such as an earthquake or flood occurs, the CCP doesn’t need to do much for the victims and survivors. Digging up survivors is for taking photos or videos—saving lives is the least concern.

During the Sichuan earthquake in 2008, classrooms collapsed, killing schoolchildren, while government buildings remained standing. But officials were never held accountable for the corruption that caused the shoddy school construction. The CCP’s “solution” was to jail parents and activists who sought the truth and justice.

A man wears a mask at a makeshift barricade wall intended for deliveries that is meant to control entry and exit of outsiders to a residential compound in Wuhan, China, on March 14, 2020.

Did the CCP lie about the Wuhan outbreak at the early stage? Yes. Is the CCP still lying now? No doubt. Will the CCP lie in the future? Definitely. What should we do? Don’t trust anything from the CCP. That’s what Taiwan has been doing, and doing so well.

Heng He

In fighting disasters, the most important work is to brag about how great the CCP is. The people can only see the gratitude of the survivors to the Party, the red-flag-waving rescue teams, the award and victory celebration ceremonies, and other similar actions. As time goes by, people who have no direct experience of the suffering can only remember the propaganda, while totally forgetting the victims and the officials responsible for the disaster.

This pattern is captured in the CCP slogan, “disasters make the nation strong.” It might be difficult to understand that natural or even man-made disasters can be transformed into a “good thing” to enhance the CCP’s power. After the victims, the survivors, and the activists are silenced, CCP can easily generate the support of those who haven’t suffered personally.

The disasters don’t make the nation strong. They make the CCP strong.

## Scapegoats

During this virus outbreak, the CCP has gone even further. “Disasters make the nation strong” has become “CCP saves the world.” The CCP has claimed that China bought time for the world, a boast that has been echoed by some Western media.

But if the CCP didn’t cover things up, there was no need to “buy time.” The CCP is very good at allowing a small problem to grow, then using all resources to fight the “big problem.” People see the CCP fighting the big problem so efficiently that they tend to forget the problem was originally created by the CCP. This is part of the Party’s information war.

From the beginning, Chinese authorities have sought to pass the blame for the outbreak. The first scapegoat was Huanan Seafood Market (HSM). HSM was formally mentioned as the source by Chinese authorities on Dec. 30, 2019, on Jan. 11 by the Wuhan Health Commission, and on Jan. 22 by Gao Fu, the director of China CDC.

However, three papers, including two from Lancet and one from the New England Journal of Medicine, and all by Chinese doctors and scientists, published between Jan. 24 and 30, tell a different story.

In the first 41 cases, 13 of them had no HSM contact history, and the first case, and two of three subsequent cases, had no HSM

history. Since those cases were all confirmed before Jan. 11, the Wuhan Health Commission was aware that HSM could only be the first cluster, and not the original source. Denial of human-to-human transmission is one thing, while intentionally misleading about the origin of the disease is a totally different issue. What did they want to hide?

The second scapegoat is the pangolin, the odd mammal with scales whose meat is considered a delicacy. On Feb. 7, a research group at South China Agriculture University announced that they had found a virus in the pangolin that has a 99 percent similarity to the coronavirus causing the Wuhan pneumonia.

However, one of the researchers, Shen Yongyi, pointed out in an interview with Nanfang Daily that the pangolin sample wasn’t from the university’s collection but from a certain specific government unit. Shen said that under heavy pressure, results were revealed to the public, rather than publishing them in a scientific journal first.

Since those two scapegoats didn’t work well, the United States has become the new target.

Zhao Lijian, the spokesperson for the Foreign Ministry Department, has claimed that a U.S. military team brought the coronavirus to Wuhan. This was not Zhao’s personal mistake. Before Zhao’s accusation, the SARS-fighting Dr. Zhong said that because the coronavirus outbreak appeared in China doesn’t mean it originated in China. Since then, Zhao’s accusation and similar finger-pointing have flooded China’s social media.

If the HSM and pangolin were put forward to find someone, anyone, to blame, out of a spontaneous response, the decision to point at the United States is an equally well-orchestrated strategy from the top circle of the leadership. Why does the CCP want to do something so obviously wrong that nobody around the world would believe? The CCP is trying to turn the coronavirus controversy to its advantage, especially in China.

What else could be more effective and convenient than blaming the United States? The United States has been the No. 1 scapegoat for all the CCP’s own problems for the past 70 years.

Did the CCP lie about the Wuhan outbreak at the early stage? Yes. Is the CCP still lying now? No doubt. Will the CCP lie in the future? Definitely. What should we do? Don’t trust anything from the CCP. That’s what Taiwan has been doing, and doing so well.

During the SARS outbreak in 2003, Taiwan was abandoned by the World Health Organization (WHO), which favors the CCP. Facing the coronavirus, Taiwan can only rely on itself. The most important lesson the rest of the world can learn from Taiwan is not to trust the CCP or WHO.

While some countries believe that Taiwan should be accepted by WHO, it turns out that it’s not Taiwan that needs WHO, but the whole world needs Taiwan.

The Epoch Times refers to the novel coronavirus, which causes the disease COVID-19, as the CCP virus because the Chinese Communist Party’s coverup and mismanagement allowed the virus to spread throughout China and create a global pandemic.

*Heng He is a commentator on Sound of Hope Radio, a China analyst for New Tang Dynasty TV, and a writer for The Epoch Times newspaper.*

*Views expressed in this article are the opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Epoch Times.*



STR/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



Doctors look at a lung CT image at a hospital in Xiaogan, Hubei Province, China, on Feb. 20, 2020.

ORGAN HARVESTING

# China Performs First Lung Transplant on Virus Patient, Raising Concerns About Organ Source

NICOLE HAO

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ith support from government authorities, a Chinese surgeon recently conducted lung transplant surgery for a patient who was infected with the new coronavirus that causes COVID-19.

Chinese media reports said the pair of lungs was a voluntary donation from a person who died.

Ethics and virology experts questioned whether the treatment would be effective and raised concerns that the surgery could have involved forced organ harvesting.

In a June 2019 judgment, an independent people’s tribunal in London unanimously concluded “beyond a reasonable doubt” that prisoners of conscience in China had been—and continue to be—killed for their organs “on a significant scale.”

Lung Transplants

Beijing’s government-run newspaper Beijing Daily reported on March 1 that top Chinese lung transplant specialist Chen Jingyu spent five hours and completed the first lung transplant operation for a virus patient in Wuxi city, located in eastern China’s Jiangsu Province.

The patient was a 59-year-old man who began to exhibit symptoms on Jan. 23. He was diagnosed with COVID-19 on Jan. 27. Days later, on Feb. 7, he received a medical procedure to insert tubes into his airways.

The patient’s situation continued to deteriorate. On Feb. 22, he began receiving extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) treatment. ECMO involves using equipment outside the human body to replace the function of the lungs. It uses a pump to circulate blood through an artificial lung and into the patient’s body.

On Feb. 24, the patient was transferred to the Wuxi Infectious Disease Hospital. “After the [ECMO] treatment, the coronavirus diagnostic test kits continually came back negative. But the patient’s lungs were seriously damaged and could not be repaired,” the newspaper reported.

Regarding the source of the organ for transplant, it said, “The lungs were donated from a brain-dead patient. ... The lungs were shipped to Wuxi from another province via a seven-hour high-speed train.”

Chen is deputy director of the Wuxi Infectious Disease Hospital. He told the Beijing Daily reporter: “The operation is very risky. Medical staff must wear protective suits and perform the surgery in a negative air pressure operating room.”

Chen himself could not confirm that the

For over a decade, researchers have collected mounting evidence that the regime is killing prisoners of conscience for their organs and selling them in the transplant market.

patient was free of the virus.

On March 1, Chen told another state-run media outlet The Paper: “The negative result of the nucleic acid test doesn’t mean that there’s no coronavirus in his lungs. So we took strict precautions when we performed the operation.”

Chen said he would propose that the central government set up a team to perform lung transplant operations on “relatively young COVID-19 patients in critical condition.”

Chinese state-run media announced on March 2 that a second lung transplant operation was performed for a COVID-19 patient at the First Affiliated Hospital of the College of Medicine, Zhejiang University, on March 1.

The patient was a 66-year-old woman who was diagnosed with COVID-19 on Jan. 31 and had been receiving treatment at the hospital since Feb. 2, according to news reports. This patient also underwent ECMO treatment, but on March 1, both of her lungs failed.

The news report said the transplanted organ came from Hunan Province and was transported by airplane. The donor was reported to have been a brain-dead patient.

Han Weili, director of the hospital’s lung transplant department, performed the operation.

Media reports haven’t elaborated on the current conditions of the two transplant patients.

Questions

Chen said that transplant operations could be a solution for other COVID-19 patients whose lungs are severely damaged and whose diagnostic test results turn up negative.

But Dr. Sean Lin, a former virology researcher for the U.S. Army, said a transplant is unlikely to help treat such virus patients, as their seriously ill condition indicates that they still have the virus.

“Doing this [transplant surgery] is completely blasphemous,” Lin told The Epoch Times in a phone interview.

“From the progression of the treatments this [first lung transplant] patient received, it’s clear that his lungs, respiratory tract, and his body is full of the novel coronavirus,” Lin said, noting that the patient was transferred to an infectious disease hospital after his condition worsened, suggesting that the viral infection was serious.

Lin said it’s unlikely a pair of new lungs could alleviate the patient’s illness, as the new organ would likely become infected.

Due to the viral infection, the patient’s immune system is likely on “the edge of collapse,” Lin said, adding that with transplant

surgery, the body is also struggling against rejection of the new organ.

Source of the Organs

Though Chinese media reports claimed that the lungs for both transplant surgeries came from donors, experts who have investigated the Chinese regime’s organ harvesting practices raised the alarm about the organs’ provenance.

“Investigators have found that it is highly likely that the majority of organs used for transplantation in China have been forcibly harvested from non-consenting individuals. Therefore, it is logical to assume that the lungs used was, as well,” said Ann Corson, spokesperson for Doctors Against Forced Organ Harvesting, a Washington-based advocacy group that has published reports on the subject.

For over a decade, researchers have been collecting evidence that the regime is killing prisoners of conscience, most of whom are practitioners of the persecuted spiritual group Falun Gong, for their organs and selling them in the transplant market.

Falun Gong, also known as Falun Dafa, is a spiritual practice consisting of meditative exercises and teachings based on the principles of truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance. The Chinese regime has heavily suppressed the practice since 1999. Adherents are subject to arbitrary detention, forced labor, and torture. Thousands have died in custody, according to the Falun Dafa Information Center.

A 2016 report by the International Coalition to End Transplant Abuse in China (ETAC) found that the Chinese regime was performing roughly 60,000 to 100,000 transplants each year, far outstripping the official claim of 10,000 to 20,000 per year from a newly set-up public donation system.

David Kilgour, former Canadian secretary of state for Asia-Pacific and co-author of the ETAC report, told The Epoch Times he would be “very surprised” if the organ donors for those two transplants were genuine consenting donors.

He added that independent observers should go into China to examine exactly what happened during the recent procedures.

Ethan Gutmann, a China expert and co-author of the ETAC report, suggested that the state media’s publicization of these lung transplants was akin to a public relations exercise.

“These lung transplants done in record time suggests that they are open for business,” Gutmann said, noting that China’s lucrative transplant industry would have taken a hit since the outbreak began.

“I’m reading the announcements as an ad.”



ORGAN HARVESTING

# World Can No Longer Ignore Crime of Forced Organ Harvesting in China, Experts Say

CATHY HE & FRANK FANG

Governments and international bodies can no longer turn a blind eye to one of the “worst atrocities committed” in modern times, experts said, as the world’s first independent legal analysis of evidence regarding forced organ harvesting in China concluded that the grisly practice has continued unabated.

An independent people’s tribunal, known as the China Tribunal, on March 1 released its full judgment after an 18-month investigation. Panel members reviewed written and oral evidence, including testimony from more than 50 witnesses given during two public hearings in December 2018 and April 2019.

Last June, the tribunal delivered its findings in London, concluding beyond a reasonable doubt that state-sanctioned forced organ harvesting from prisoners of conscience had taken place in China “on a significant scale” for years, and is still taking place today.

The main organ supply came from imprisoned practitioners of the persecuted spiritual group Falun Gong, according to the tribunal.

Falun Gong, also known as Falun Dafa, is a spiritual practice consisting of meditative exercises and moral teachings centered around the tenets of truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance. It has been brutally persecuted by the Chinese communist regime for more than two decades. Hundreds of thousands of adherents have been thrown into prisons, labor camps, and brainwashing centers, where many have been tortured in an effort to force them to renounce their faith, according to the Falun Dafa Information Center.

The tribunal concluded that the Chinese regime’s sustained campaign of forced organ harvesting constituted a crime against humanity.

“The conclusion shows that very many people have died indescribably hideous deaths for no reason, that more may suffer in similar ways, and that all of us live on a planet where extreme wickedness may be found,” it said in its final 160-page report, which included 300 pages of supplementary materials.

The international panel was chaired by Sir Geoffrey Nice QC, who previously led the prosecution of former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic for war crimes at the International Criminal Tribunal, and included six other experts, in law, transplant surgery, international politics, Chinese history, and business.

Findings

The tribunal considered a range of evidence in reaching its conclusion, such as hospitals offering extremely short wait times—from a few days to weeks—for organ transplants, widespread blood testing and other medical testing of imprisoned Falun Gong practitioners and Uyghurs, and previous research on the issue.

“Such short-time availability [of organs] could only occur if there was a bank of potential living donors who could be sacrificed to order,” the judgment said.

It found that blood testing and medical testing, including ultrasound, radiographic, and physical organ examinations, of Falun Gong and Uyghur prisoners—which was not conducted on other prisoners—“is highly suggestive of methods used to assess organ function.”

“The Tribunal must ask itself why a prison management system might test anyone in [such] ways ... when such testing was not required for the purposes of intern-



JIM WATSON/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

ment,” it said.

While the Tribunal could not definitively conclude that imprisoned Uyghurs were victims of forced organ harvesting, it said that the vulnerability of the group to “being used as a bank of organs is ... obvious.”

It’s estimated that up to 1.5 million Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities are detained in internment camps in the northwestern region of Xinjiang as part of the Chinese regime’s purported crackdown on “extremism.”

Chinese Officials

One piece of evidence presented in the report directly implicated former regime leader Jiang Zemin, who directly ordered the harvesting of organs from Falun Gong adherents.

“Jiang issued the order [to take organs],” said Bai Shuzhong, a former minister of health for China’s military, when he was questioned by an investigator during an undercover phone call in 2014.

Another piece of evidence of officials’ direct involvement in forced organ harvesting was revealed during an undercover phone call in 2016 with Zhu Jiabin, who was the head of the 610 Office in Mudanjiang, a city in Heilongjiang Province. The 610 Office is a Gestapo-like secret police force that was established expressly to carry out the persecution of Falun Gong adherents.

Adherents of the spiritual group Falun Gong reenact the practice of forced organ harvesting in China during a protest in Washington, in this file photo.

“I am called the butcher specializing in live organ harvesting. ... It’s nothing, just like slaughtering pigs,” Zhu said in the phone call, adding, “After scooping the organs out, I would sell them.”

All phone calls submitted to the China Tribunal and included within the report have been “individually validated by independent investigators to ensure credibility [of] origin and content,” according to the Tribunal’s press release.

‘The Time for Ignoring the Issue Has Passed’

With the release of the tribunal’s comprehensive findings, advocates and experts urged governments and international organizations, such as the World Health Organization and The Transplantation Society, to take action and hold the Chinese regime to account.

Susie Hughes, executive director of advocacy group International Coalition to End Transplant Abuse in China, similarly said: “It is no longer acceptable for governments, medical bodies, and leading human rights organizations to say there is not enough evidence. The enormous task of assessing all available evidence has now been completed and is available for all to see.”

Ethan Gutmann, a China analyst who has investigated organ harvesting for more than a decade, said the tribunal’s undertaking

amounted to the most comprehensive inquiry yet into the issue.

“These people sat down and read everything. No one else could have claimed to have done that,” Gutmann told The Epoch Times.

He said that the judgment’s release, at a time when countries are working to contain the novel coronavirus outbreak that originated from central China—which may have been prevented from spreading had the regime not initially covered up the severity of the outbreak—provided a good opportunity for the international community to “take stock on who we’ve partnered with here.”

**[The Chinese Communist Party] should be blackballed from the medical world. They should not be coming to our conferences, they should not be publishing in our medical journals. They should be treated right now as pariahs.**

Ethan Gutmann, China expert and longtime researcher on organ harvesting

“The Chinese Communist Party is not a reliable partner in any sense,” Gutmann said. “They should be blackballed from the medical world. They should not be coming to our conferences, they should not be publishing in our medical journals.”

“They should be treated right now as pariahs.”

More than two dozen academic studies about transplanted organs written by researchers in China were retracted in 2019 after doctors couldn’t prove that donors gave consent.

David Kilgour, former Canadian Secretary of State for Asia-Pacific and another longtime researcher on the issue, told The Epoch Times that countries that have Magnitsky Acts—legislation that sanctions human rights abusers—should target Chinese officials involved in organ harvesting. Their assets should be seized, and they should be denied entry visas, he said.

“We should show that we have some backbone on this issue,” Kilgour said.

ENDTRANPLANTABUSE.ORG





EDITORIAL

# Giving the Right Name to the Virus Causing a Worldwide Pandemic

EDITORIAL BOARD

There has been controversy recently about what to call the virus that has unleashed a worldwide pandemic. The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) prefers “novel coronavirus.” Others have referred to it as the “Wuhan virus,” after its place of origin, as is common in naming diseases.

The Epoch Times suggests a more accurate name is the “CCP virus,” and calls upon others to join us in adopting this name.

The name holds the CCP accountable for its wanton disregard of human life and consequent spawning of a pandemic that has put untold numbers in countries around the world at risk, while creating widespread fear and devastating the economies of nations trying to cope with this disease.

After all, CCP officials knew in early December that the virus had appeared in Wuhan, but they sat on the information for six weeks. They arrested those who tried to warn of the danger, accusing them of spreading “rumors,” and employed the regime’s rigorous censorship to prevent media coverage and to delete any mentions of it from social media.

What might have been contained was allowed silently to spread, showing up in all of China. Individuals who might have protected themselves became victims, in numbers far greater than the CCP has admitted. By late January, there were reports that all of the crematoria in Wuhan were operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week to deal with the crush of dead bodies.

Meanwhile, the measures taken to quarantine and treat the population of Wuhan were grotesquely inhumane. Apartment buildings were welded shut.

Temporary “hospitals” were created that actually served as jails for those believed to be sick with the virus. Locked into these places with no medical treatment and little food, the unfortunates were trapped there until death.

In lying about the danger facing China, the CCP was acting according to its usual script. The CCP’s dominant narrative is that the Party is “great, glorious, and correct.” The presence of the deadly CCP virus in Wuhan, or, in 2003, of the SARS virus, doesn’t fit the script. As with SARS, the first response was denial.

But in dealing with this virus, denial is not acceptable. The world needs to know its origin, and the CCP has refused to cooperate. Outside experts have not been allowed into Wuhan.

And there is understandable concern about the activities of the Wuhan Institute of Virology, China’s only P4 lab, one meant for working with easily transmitted pathogens that can cause fatal illness. As the official narratives offered for the source of the virus have been disproven, questions have been raised about whether the CCP virus leaked from the institute.

In any case, as questions about the origin of the virus have gone unanswered, the CCP has begun throwing out wild charges that the United States is responsible. This will be met around the world with perplexity, if not ridicule. President Donald Trump has pushed back by referring to the “Chinese virus.”

But the CCP likely intends these charges of U.S. responsibility for its domestic audience. The CCP has victimized the Chinese people in its first denial of the virus and now seeks to victimize them again by shifting responsibility for its actions to others.

And this points out why the name



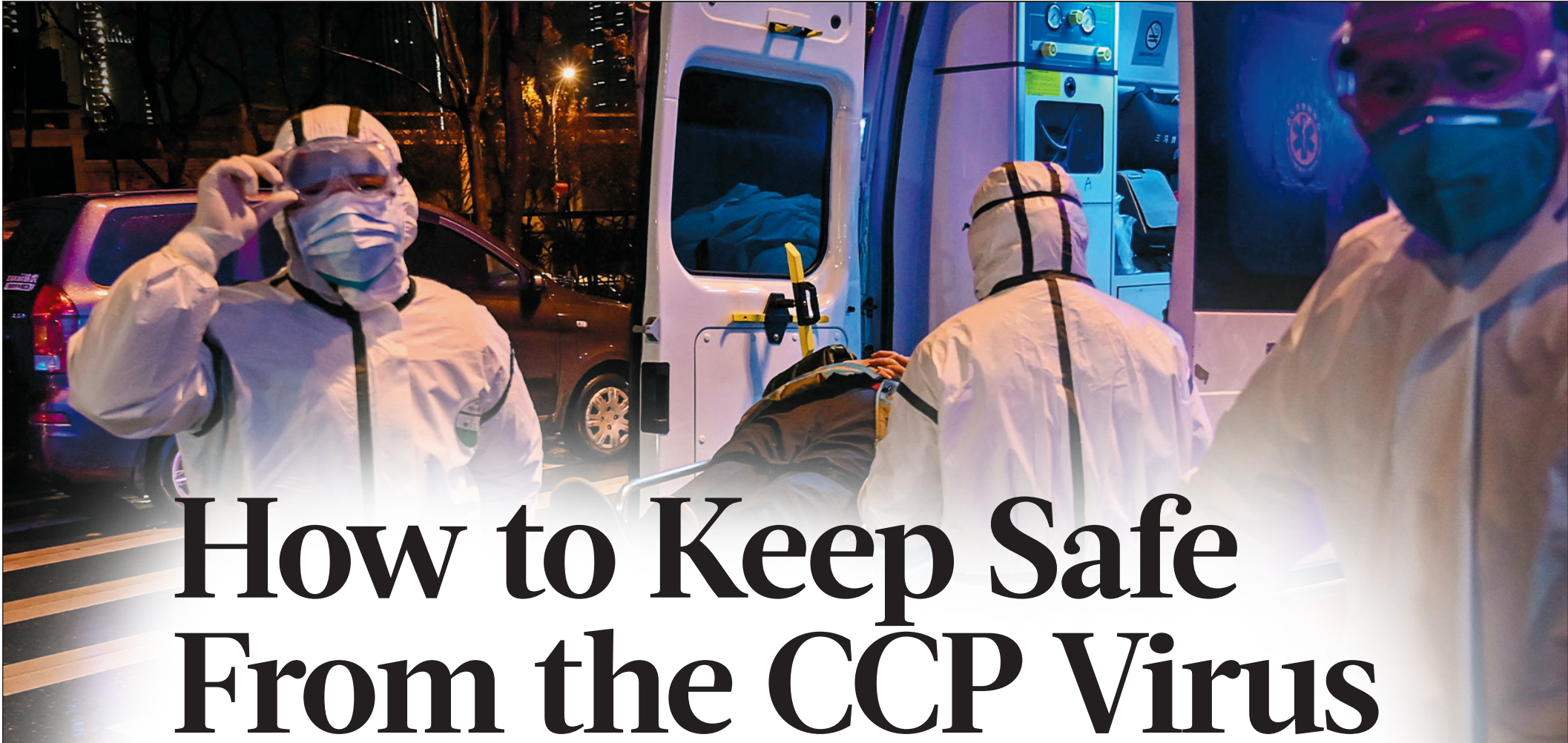
A Chinese boy hugs a relative as she leaves to board a train at Beijing Railway station in Beijing, China, on Jan. 21, 2020.

The name [CCP virus] holds the CCP accountable for its wanton disregard of human life and consequent spawning of a pandemic that has put untold numbers in countries around the world at risk.

“CCP virus” is needed, to distinguish the victims from the victimizer. The people of Wuhan and of China are the victims of the CCP’s arrogance and incompetence, expressed in this viral pandemic.

The name CCP virus also sounds a warning: Those nations and individuals close to the CCP are the ones suffering the worst effects from this virus, as is seen in the raging infections in the CCP’s close ally Iran and in Italy, the only G-7 nation to sign onto the Belt and Road Initiative. Taiwan and Hong Kong, which are highly skeptical of the CCP, have had relatively few infections.

Finally, the CCP virus reminds the people of the world that the source of the virus is itself evil. This is a communist virus, and with the name CCP virus, The Epoch Times reminds the world of the cure: ending the CCP.



# How to Keep Safe From the CCP Virus

In times like these, you need trusted information.

The Epoch Times was months ahead of other media in covering the CCP virus, commonly referred to as the novel coronavirus.

Similarly, The Epoch Times was among the first to report on the SARS epidemic in 2003.

That is because we are truly independent and not afraid of reporting honestly on the Chinese

Communist Party (CCP) and the threat it poses to the world.

Now, during the CCP virus outbreak, the CCP is flooding the world with deceptive propaganda, and The Epoch Times is at the forefront of exposing the truth.

See through the deception, and keep yourself and your family truly informed, by reading The Epoch Times.

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