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Factsheet: Stop Forced Organ Harvesting Act

Background

- The international trafficking of forcibly harvested human organs is a barbaric practice that the United States Congress should immediately seek to end. States, groups, or individuals which turn a blind eye to this practice must also be pressured to take action.
- Reports indicate that China is a major harvester and trafficker of forcibly acquired organs. A groundbreaking study last year in the American Journal of Transplantation found evidence that strongly suggests that physicians in China participated in executions by organ removal.
- Experts estimate that the human organ trafficking industry in China is worth \$1 billion a year and is fueled by harvesting organs from China's 1.5 million concentration camp inmates.
- Falun Gong practitioners have historically been the primary victims of this practice. However, in 2021, UN human rights rapporteurs announced they were "extremely alarmed" at reports that Uyghurs and other ethnic and religious minorities were now also targeted for organ harvesting.
- China appears to be the primary perpetrator of forcefully-acquired human organ trafficking, but it is not the only offender. Corrupt government officials, transnational criminal groups, and terrorist organizations around the world also traffic in forcibly harvested human organs.
- International pressure has made some headway in combatting forced organ harvesting, but the practice nevertheless continues. A more robust approach is therefore necessary.
- **This bipartisan bill passed House Foreign Affairs Committee unanimously on February 28.**

Bill Summary

- Authorizes the Secretary of State to deny passports and visas to illegal organ purchasers and individuals involved in organ trafficking.
- Mandates annual reporting on forced organ harvesting in foreign countries as part of the State Department's annual human rights reporting.
- Sanctions foreign individuals that fund, sponsor, or otherwise facilitate forced organ harvesting or trafficking in persons for purposes of removal of organs.