

## Concerns about medical abuses in China

In the week that we have seen footage of blindfolded Uighurs being carted off to concentration camps, not all of us feel comfortable with Horton's characterisation of the Chinese as our "friends" (1). Perhaps of special relevance to us is the involvement of doctors in repressive abuses of power. There are convincing reports of compulsory sterilisations (<https://jamestown.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Zenz-Internment-Sterilizations-and-IUDs.pdf?x60014>) and evidence that the practice of involuntary organ donation persists (2). Mass-testing of DNA combined with arbitrary detention suggest that minority populations are being treated as a human farm of potential organ donors (3,4).

Pressure from international medical bodies was brought to bear against the Soviet Union's abuse of psychiatry against political prisoners (5). At what stage will we declare that while these practices continue doctors in China are neither our friends nor our colleagues?

## References

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4. Curtis D, Balloux F. Editorial: Topical ethical issues in the publication of human genetics research. *Ann Hum Genet*. 2020 Feb 24;
5. van Vuren R. Political Abuse of Psychiatry—An Historical Overview. *Schizophr Bull*. 2010;36:33–5.