Execution Vans, Organ Harvesting – Business as Usual in China



BY BRIAN EVANS February 19, 2009 at 1:49 PM

Jinguan Auto's Execution Van

Jinguan Auto

For many years, it has been known that China uses **execution vans**, kind of like specially outfitted ambulances, to more efficiently carry out its exceedingly large number of executions. The method of killing in these vans is **lethal injection**, which has been slowly but surely replacing the firing squad as

China's preferred means of execution, and both lethal injection and the vans are believed to facilitate the widespread practice of **harvesting organs of the executed prisoners**, an unbelievably appalling practice.

In October 2006, *Sky News* did a compelling video report – China's Execution Buses – on the death penalty in China, including a discussion of the vans and organ harvesting, as well as cases of innocence, and the plight of death penalty defense lawyer Gao Zhisheng who has been harassed and detained since at least 2006, and who was once again detained on February 4 of this year.

Today, a story in the *Irish Times* discusses these vans, and the Chinese automaker that manufactures and sells them – Jinguan Auto. (The execution van itself is here.)

In the months leading up to the Olympics, there were a number of hints and statements that reforms in China's death penalty were being seriously considered, including a declaration from the Chinese Medical Association "not to transplant organs from prisoners or others in custody, except into members of their immediate families." This statement was noted in an Amnesty International report two weeks prior to the Beijing Olympics Opening Ceremonies, but the report went on to caution that "... Ministry of Health officials have reportedly stated that prisoners will remain a source of organs for five more years as execution-related transplantation winds down."

Of course, the Olympics are over now, and the execution vans are apparently still providing "slow but steady business" for Jinguan Auto.

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About Brian Evans

Brian Evans is the Director of Amnesty International USA's Death Penalty Abolition Campaign.

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Debbie Kearns on F 19, 2009 at 2:48 PM said:

That's not all that's shocking. I see that Virginia Governor Tim Kaine hasn't heard our pleas for clemency of Edward Nathaniel Bell, and now Virginia is about to kill him in spite of innocence and mental retardation, despite the fact that witness who testified against him recanted their testimony, there was no mitigating evidence presented at the time, evidence of innocence and mental retardation are ignored, and the justice system has ignored requests for a new hearing. In other words, Virginia's corrupt justice system has failed Eddie, and now, along with the family of its slain police officer, it will kill him soon without even realizing that the real killer is still around! First Wayne Tompkins and now Eddie! I pray that God may comfort and forgive them and the justice system for taking Eddie's life without paying attention to his innocence and mental retardation. I also ask God to console Eddie's family as they are about to undergo the pain of losing their loved one to one more act of statesponsored violence and the injustice that may break the Atkins v. Virginia rule of the US Constitution. May God have mercy on the soul of poor Eddie, though he is innocent, and bring him to the glory of heaven.

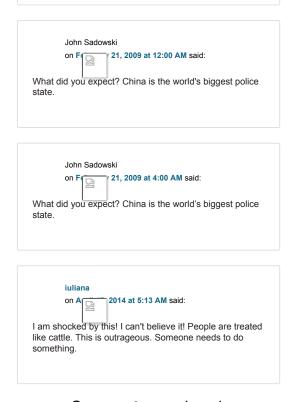


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