

Social Justice Watch 0403

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ANIMALS | CORONAVIRUS COVERAGE

China promotes bear bile as coronavirus treatment, alarming wildlife advocates

China's National Health Commission published a list of recommended treatments, including injections that contain bear bile powder.

5 MINUTE READ

5 MINUTE READ



BY RACHEL FOBAR

PUBLISHED MARCH 25, 2020

Less than a month after taking steps to permanently ban the trade and consumption of live wild animals for food, the Chinese government has recommended using Tan Re Qing, an injection containing bear bile, to treat severe and critical COVID-19 cases. It is one of a number of recommended coronavirus treatments—both traditional and Western—on a list published March 4 by China's National Health Commission, the government body responsible for national health policy. This recommendation highlights what wildlife advocates say is a contradictory approach to wildlife: shutting down the live trade in animals

shutting down the live trade in animals for food on the one hand and promoting the trade in animal parts on the other.

Secreted by the liver and stored in the gallbladder, bile from various species of bears, including Asiatic black bears and brown bears, has been used in traditional Chinese medicine since at least the eighth century. It contains high levels of ursodeoxycholic acid, also known as ursodiol, which is clinically proven to help dissolve gallstones and treat liver disease. Ursodeoxycholic acid has been available as a synthetic drug worldwide for decades.

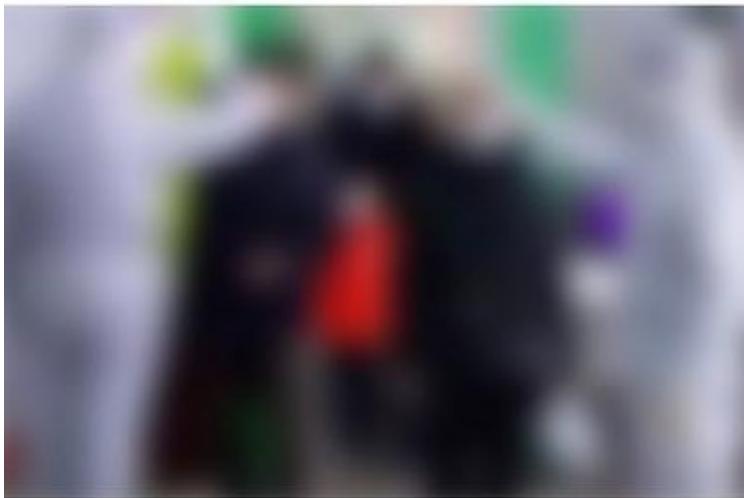
The World Health Organization says no cure exists for COVID-19, though some medicines, such as pain relievers and cough syrup, can treat symptoms associated with the disease. (Read about what scientists know and don't know about treating coronavirus.)

Traditional Chinese medicine

Traditional Chinese medicine practitioners typically use Tan Re Qing to treat bronchitis and upper respiratory infections. Clifford Steer, a professor at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, has studied the medical benefits of ursodeoxycholic acid. He knows of no evidence that bear bile is an effective treatment for the novel coronavirus. But, he says, ursodeoxycholic acid is distinct from other bile acids in its ability to keep cells alive and may alleviate symptoms of COVID-19 because of its anti-inflammatory properties and ability to calm the immune response.

Enacted in 1989, China's wildlife protection law sees wild animals as a resource to be used for the benefit of humans. In 2016, it was amended to further legitimize the commercial use of wildlife, asserting explicitly that animals can be used for traditional Chinese medicine. Humane Society

can be used for traditional Chinese medicine, Humane Society International's China policy specialist Peter Li wrote at the time.



China's government has recommended treating severe and critical cases of COVID-19... [Read More](#)

PHOTOGRAPH BY STR, AFP/GETTY

Although use of bear bile from captive animals is legal in China, bile from wild bears is banned, as is the import of bear bile from other countries. According to Aron White, wildlife campaigner for the Environmental Investigation Agency

Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA)—a nonprofit based in London, England, that exposes wildlife crimes—his organization learned first about the Chinese government's recommendations to treat COVID-19 via social media posts from illegal traders.

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“We were witnessing how this government recommendation was being coopted by the traffickers to advertise their illegal products as a treatment,” White says. Illegal bile from wild bears is produced in China, he says, and is also imported from wild and captive bears in Laos, Vietnam, and North Korea. The illegal trade persists even though Asiatic black bears, one of the species most commonly farmed for their bile, are protected from international commercial trade under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, which regulates cross-border trade of wildlife and wildlife products.

Wildlife advocates worry that China’s recommended use of Tan Re Qing injections, which contain goat horn powder and extracts from several plants

in addition to bear bile powder and gall

powder and extracts from several plants in addition to bear bile powder, will increase the trade in illegal wildlife products and justify animal abuse.

“There’s a consistent preference among consumers for the wild product, which is often regarded as more powerful or ‘the real deal,’” White says. “So, having this legal market from captivity doesn’t reduce pressure on the wild populations —it actually just maintains demand that drives poaching.”

At bear bile farms in China and across Southeast Asia, the animals may be kept for decades in small cages. Bile is routinely extracted by inserting a catheter, syringe, or pipe into the gallbladder. All methods for extracting bile are invasive and “cause severe suffering, pain, and infection,” according to Animals Asia, a nonprofit dedicated to ending bear bile farming. Neglect and disease are common on these farms, and consumers risk ingesting bile from sick bears, which

these farms, and consumers risk ingesting bile from sick bears, which may be contaminated with blood, feces, pus, urine, and bacteria, according to Animals Asia.



Bile is pumped from the gallbladder of a sedated Asiatic black bear. Because diseases... [Read More](#)

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK LEONG, NAT GEO IMAGE COLLECTION

Another traditional medicine on the National Health Commission's approved list that could be in demand for use against COVID-19 is a pill called

距离中国全面禁止非法野生动物交易不到一个月，CDC针对新冠病毒的推荐用药中就加了一味含有熊胆的中药注射剂（痰热清），引起动物保护人士不满。[source](#)

00:14



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NEWS

Teen Who Died of Covid-19 Was Denied Treatment Because He Didn't Have Health Insurance



Matt Novak

Today 7:00AM • Filed to: COVID-19 ▾



189



3





People sit on a hill overlooking Dodger Stadium and downtown Los Angeles on March 26, 2020.

Photo: Getty Images

A 17-year-old boy in Los Angeles County who became the first teen believed to have died from



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洛杉矶郡一名新冠阳性的17岁少年去诊所被拒，因为没有保险。少年被告知，可以去同区域的公立医院急诊碰碰运气，结果在过去的路上心脏骤停，抢救六小时还是过了世。世上没有完美的医疗体系，美国的市场化机制有他的益处，但一个不照顾弱势群体的医疗体系肯定不会是我的选择。这孩子后来还被移出了新冠死亡名单，因为准确的死亡原因有待进一步考证 gizmodo.com/teen-who-died-of-covid-19-was-denied-treatment-because-1842520539 source

9:23



mobile.reuters.com

U.S. judges stop Texas, Ohio, Alabama from curbing abortions during coronavirus crisis

Andrew Chung





FILE PHOTO: Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton (C) holds a news conference to announce Texas and 20 other states have filed a lawsuit against the state of Delaware over millions of dollars in unclaimed official checks Paxton says have wrongly been remitted to Delaware, at the Supreme Court building in Washington, U.S. June 9, 2016.

REUTERS/JONATHAN ERNST/FILE PHOTO

(Reuters) - Federal judges on Monday blocked officials in Texas, Ohio and Alabama from banning most abortions in those states as part of their orders to postpone surgeries and other procedures deemed not medically necessary during the coronavirus crisis.

9:20



Tweet



ACLU ✅
@ACLU



🎉 VICTORY: Just hours after filing our legal challenge, a federal court has ruled to block Ohio's attempts at preventing access to abortion during the COVID-19 crisis.

Abortion is essential, time-sensitive health care — and it will continue in Ohio.

4:06 PM · 3/30/20 · TweetDeck

565 Retweets 2,494 Likes



Paige Simonson @Matisse68 · 5h



Replying to @ACLU

Thank you for continuing to help so many.



Jessica @Jessica_in_Iowa · 4h



Tweet your reply



9:19



Tweet



ACLU ✅
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ANOTHER WIN: A federal court has now blocked Alabama's attacks on abortion providers. Clinics can now resume caring for their patients.

This is the third ruling today to stop state's attempts to use the pandemic to restrict access to abortion.

5:52 PM · 3/30/20 · Twitter Web App

5:52 PM · 3/30/20 · Twitter Web App

885 Retweets 4,070 Likes



Lee in Iowa #StayHome #TeamPe... · 2h ▾

Replying to @ACLU and @MaEnraged

We need you in Iowa too.



Andrea @Andrea_51544005 · 3h ▾

Replying to @ACLU

Now do Ohio

Tweet your reply



9:27



Thread

↪ ACLU of Texas Retweeted



Center for Reproductive Rights ✅
@ReproRights



BREAKING: Last week, we sued Texas for trying to ban abortion in the state in response to [#COVID19](#). Today, a federal judge ruled that abortion services can continue... for now.

[#AbortionIsEssential](#)

2:25 PM · 3/30/20 · Twitter for iPhone

197 Retweets 694 Likes



Center for Reproductive Rights · 7h

Replies to @ReproRights

Abortion is not a procedure that can be delayed or forgone without serious consequences to a pregnant person's health and future. We'll keep fighting to ensure that all states treat abortion as what it is: time sensitive and essential health care.

0 2

↑ 28

108

.↑

Tweet your reply



三个试图禁止堕胎的州，在民间团体诉讼下。已经被联邦法院暂时驳回咯
民间力量赞！ [source](#)

When
‘i’ is replaced by ‘we’
even ‘illness’ becomes
‘wellness’



Which dictator killed the most people?

1 drop = 1 million people

See: paper.net/~telle/n043b



Yakubu Gowon
Nigeria: 1966 – 1975
Total kills: 1.1 mill.



Mengistu Haile Mariam
Ethiopia: 1974 – 1991
Kills: 1.5 million



Kim Il Sung
North Korea: 1948 – 1994
Kills: 1.6 million



Pol Pot
Cambodia: 1969 – 1981
Kills: 1.7 million



Ismail Enver Pasha
Turkey: 1913 – 1919
Kills: 2.5 million



Hideki Tojo
Japan: 1941 – 1944
Kills: 5 million



Leopold II of Belgium
Belgium: 1865 – 1909,
Kills: 15 million



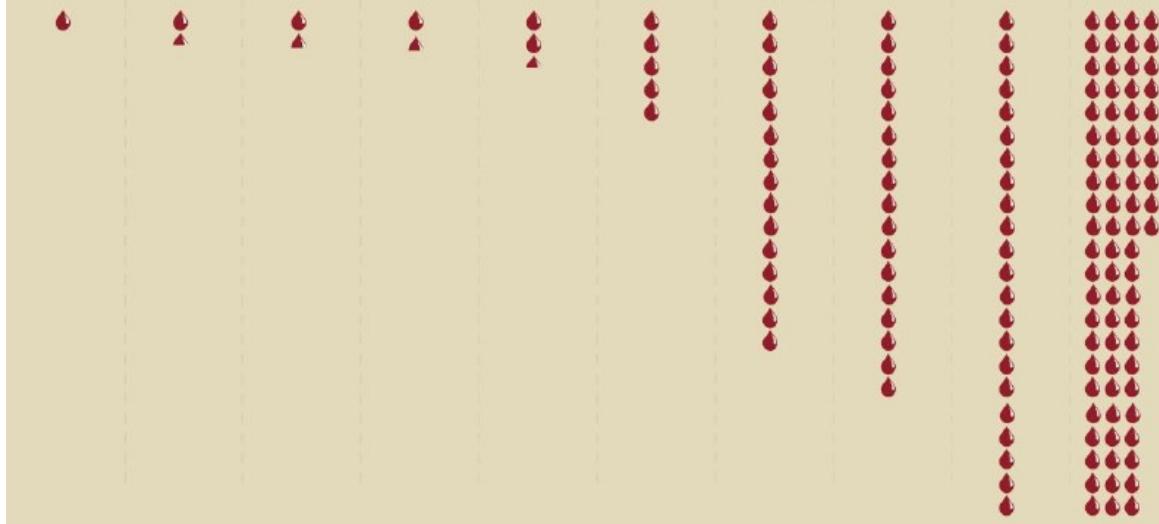
Adolf Hitler
Germany: 1934 – 1945
Kills: 17 million



Józef Stalin
The Soviet Union: 1922 – 1953
Kills: 23 million



Mao Zedong
China: 1949 – 1976
Kills: 78 million





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youtu.be/iE6_bya-AGM

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"Stand By Me" - A Chinese & American Lesbian Love Story

Michelle is a lawyer from Sichuan, China. Pat was born and raised in San Jose, California. They had China's first high-profile lesbian wedding in Chengdu, Si...

www.youtube.com/watch?v=v2KEQHB8lrs

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公益纪录片：矿民、马夫、尘肺病(Miner, Horsekeeper and

Pneumoconiosis:a Chinese public-interest documentary)

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youtu.be/hOcXk_35-rI

YouTube

Chinese Politics: Lecture 1: Introduction and Course Overview

From lecture course on Chinese Politics at Princeton University, Fall 2018.

Lecture introduces course and outlines key questions for our understanding of
con...

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Telegraph

School closures mean more child abuse is going unreported

Child abuse is going unreported this month due to school closures and worsening in frequency and severity as families experience heightened stress and children become less able to leave their homes, child welfare advocates said. “We’re seeing kids stuck at...

[telegra.ph/Dont-Nag-Your-Husband-During-Lockdown-Malaysia's-Government-Advises-Women-04-03](#)

Telegraph

Don't Nag Your Husband During Lockdown, Malaysia's Government Advises Women

In this online poster, now removed, Malaysia's Ministry for Women, Family and Community Development advised women working at home to wear makeup and office clothes so as not to offend their husbands. Malaysia has the largest number of COVID-19 cases in Southeast...

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Tips untuk ibu bekerja dari rumah 1/2

PENAMPILAN DIRI #WanitaCegahCOVID19

Elak pakai pakaian rumah. Bertatahias seperti biasa, bersolek dan berpakaian kemas.



In this online poster, now removed, Malaysia's Ministry for Women, Family and Community Development advised women working at home to wear makeup and office clothes so as not to offend their husbands.

Malaysia has the largest number of COVID-19 cases in Southeast Asia with more than 2,900 and counting. This week, Malaysia's government also had a serious public relations issue after an ill-conceived plan went online.

Malaysia's Ministry for Women, Family and Community Development issued a series of online posters on Facebook and Instagram with the hashtag #WomenPreventCOVID19. It advised the nation's women to help with the country's partial lockdown by not nagging their husbands.

The ministry also advised women to refrain from being "sarcastic" if they asked for help with household chores. And it urged women working from home to dress up and wear makeup.

"(It) is extremely condescending both to women and men," Nisha Sabanayagam, a manager at the advocacy group All Women's Action Society, told Reuters. "These posters promote the concept of gender inequality and perpetuate the concept of patriarchy."

The posters drew swift ridicule online.

"How did we go from preventing baby dumping, fighting domestic violence to some variant of the Obedient Wives Club?" wrote @yinshaoloong.

How did we go from preventing baby dumping, fighting domestic violence to some sad variant of the Obedient Wives Club? <https://t.co/1SrVYp0e5d>
— Yin Shao Loong (@yinshaoloong) March 31, 2020

"Avoid wearing home clothes. Dress up as usual, put on make-up and dress neatly. OMG! This is what Rina, our Minister of Women, Family & Community Development thinks is important during the #COVID19 lockdown?" tweeted @honeyean.

Avoid wearing home clothes. Dress up as usual, put on make-up and dress neatly. OMG! This is what Rina, our Minister of Women, Family & Community Development thinks is important during the #COVID19 lockdown? No tips on how to deal with #DomesticViolence? Just state DV is a crime. pic.twitter.com/FfswtPBIPH— Honey Tan (@honeyean) March 31, 2020

After this torrent of abuse, the ministry abruptly relented late Tuesday and abandoned its campaign. It said its suggestions were simply aimed at "maintaining positive relationships among family members during the period they are working from home."

The ministry acknowledged that the advice could have offended some people and promised to "remain cautious in the future."

Women's groups around the world have warned that the lockdowns could result in a rise in domestic violence, and some governments are reaching out to women in need. The latest World Economic Forum Global Gender Gap index puts Malaysia at 104 out of 153 countries when it comes to women's political empowerment and economic participation.

Challenged by produce

The ministry's advice to women was not the only governmental misstep as it confronted the coronavirus. The country's movement control order on March 18 specified that only the "head of the household" should leave the house to purchase necessities.

While the order did not indicate whether that person was male or female, men took it upon themselves to brave the grocery store.

It didn't work out so well for many.

Facebook posts showed male heads of households having a tough go of it in the aisles, either staring in confusion at lists in their hands or taking instruction over their cellphones from central command back home.

Malaysian Cheanu Chew made fun of both himself and others in his Facebook post headlined "Attention All Men!" He advised: Shoppers "like me, don't forget to fully charge your phone before you execute your mission. Also, get enough sleep the night before so you can stay calm over the phone to minimise disruptions during your operation."

The supermarket chain Tesco Malaysia recognized there was a problem and swiftly came to the hapless male shopper's aid with a how-to guide.

It proclaimed, "Now all husbands can shop." And assured them, "Here at Tesco,

we have your back!"

In the week or so since that announcement, men may be getting a little better at the supermarket. And with the swift climbdown on its original announcement, the women's affairs ministry is apparently learning, too.

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School closures mean more child abuse is going unreported

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Child abuse is going unreported this month due to school closures and worsening in frequency and severity as families experience heightened stress and children become less able to leave their homes, child welfare advocates said.

“We’re seeing kids stuck at home alone with abusers,” said Daphne Young, chief communications officer of Childhelp, which she said was the longest-running and largest national nonprofit against child abuse. “They don’t have their meetings, routines or connections with others. They’re stuck without that mental health outreach that they’ve relied on to stay safe and secure.”

Childhelp’s community hotline has fielded 20% more calls, texts and chat messages since school districts nationwide began closing in recent weeks, and the numbers appear to be increasing, Young said.

Meanwhile, the teachers and other educational professionals who are required to report child abuse with Child Protective Services have largely taken their eyes off of students due to school closures. As a result, CPS child abuse reports have fallen significantly in jurisdictions across California, signaling that abuse is

going largely unreported, said Katie Albright, CEO of Safe and Sound, formerly the San Francisco Child Abuse Prevention Center.

CPS hotline calls have decreased by around 42% to 55% in multiple states since schools began closing, Albright said. The San Francisco Human Services Agency did not have local data available at press time, while Albright cited both national press reports and reports from local agencies across the U.S.

The decline in reporting is accompanied by child abuse that appears to be worsening on different fronts as the economic shock of the coronavirus pandemic squeezes both families and the nonprofits and support groups that assist them and children.

“You’re seeing an increase in the severity of the cases,” Albright said. “Family stress and child isolation are significant risk factors of child abuse. In this time of deep anxiety, the coronavirus is significantly magnifying that kind of stress.”

Family members already stressed or living with mental health issues are increasingly lashing out against children as emotions escalate under quarantine, Young said.

Now more than ever, advocates and officials are urging members of the public to report child abuse where suspected through the CPS or community hotlines. Advocates are also asking the public to donate to nonprofits that support families and children so they can stay afloat.

“When you support families, you protect kids,” Albright said.

SFHSA has partnered with the 26 family resource centers citywide for remote family and child provisions that include crisis counseling, virtual visitation with children in foster care, education in parenting as well as family support, said Chandra Johnson, director of communications for SFHSA.

The San Francisco Unified School District is providing families resources remotely through its social workers, counselors, nurses, wellness centers and partnerships with community organizations, said Kevin Gogin, director of Safety and Wellness in SFUSD’s School Health Programs Department.

“Every day we learn better ways to access our students,” Gogin said. “It’s difficult for us to access students. It’s difficult for students to not be able to play

with their friends to have student contact. So we're just trying to find ways to make it work, to be successful at reaching students so we can get them the resources they need, whether it be video chats, phone conversations with families or individual students. We're working every avenue that we can find."

Meanwhile, nonprofits that support families and children are struggling to get by because their revenue largely depends on events that are now canceled and donors who are now hard-pressed to give. For example, Safe and Sound had to postpone an event until fall that would have drawn 10% of its revenue from more than 800 community members in April for Child Abuse Prevention Month, while some nonprofits are seeing half of their funding delayed, Albright said.

She said nonprofits are experiencing shortages of diapers, baby formula and personal hygiene products, and community organizations like food banks especially need volunteers now that workers who are vulnerable to COVID-19 need to quarantine.

"Child abuse doesn't sleep for a pandemic. We don't get to take that time off," said Young, whose nonprofit is based in Arizona but offers intervention, treatment and prevention services nationally. "Right now shoring up these agencies is critical. We are working overtime, short staff, trying to take care of these kids, and we are kind of on our own right now."

The National Child Abuse Coalition is collaborating with child welfare organizations to send a letter to Congress urging funding for local and state systems that prevent and respond to child abuse and neglect, said Ruth Friedman, the coalition's executive director. Children, whose brains are especially vulnerable to development, are taking the brunt of numerous impacts, advocates say.

As working parents and caregivers turn to new childcare providers with the closure of schools, some providers are turning out to be abusive, Young said. Meanwhile, the children of those who work without childcare are being neglected, Albright said.

Young and Albright also expect that children will experience more trauma with the recent rise in cases of domestic violence due to stay-in-place orders.

Child visitation services have also been temporarily suspended at Rally Family Visitation Services, a program based in San Francisco, San Mateo and Marin

counties that allows parents who are normally restricted by the family court from seeing their children to do so through supervised visitation.

Program Director Sonia Melara said the program will continue once able to provide remote services. However, she worries that in the meantime, parents desperate to see their children might do so illegally by coercing their partners.

All this while the stay-in-place orders have suspended in-person support groups that provide a safety network for victims and survivors of child abuse.

“You take away routine, add an enormous stressor and scary thing in the universe that brings up trauma, then all the mental health services and groups shut down,” Young said. “And then they isolate at home, with their fears, with no one to connect with ... We’re getting a lot of calls at night because people are stuck at home. They’re stressing. They’re remembering.”

You can call the local CPS hotline at (800) 856-5553. Safe and Sound’s community hotline is (415) 441-KIDS.

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