



INTERMEDIATE

Global body parts trade increases

A serious shortage of donated organs in rich countries is leading to a worrying increase in the shady and illegal body parts trade. Wealthy foreigners with life-threatening illnesses are looking to poorer nations like China, Colombia, Egypt, Pakistan and the Philippines to get hold of an organ that will give them a new lease of life. The World Health Organization recently estimated that up to 21,000 liver transplants are carried out annually. Medical experts say this figure is greatly understated and put annual worldwide demand at over 90,000. This means there is a thriving trade in organ trafficking and a booming black market in human body parts. “Transplant tourists” are finding it easier to find new organs because the number of poor willing to sell their liver or kidney as a short-term escape from poverty increases.

The body part trade is banned in many countries around the world but laws are often very confusing and full of loopholes. This makes it difficult for authorities to regulate and to crack down on illegal sales, which increases the number of deaths among donors. Transplant surgery carries high risks, especially with liver transplants, which involve removing part of the donor's liver. In Pakistan booming demand has led to a “kidney bazaar” - rich patients pay \$8,000 for a new kidney, for which donors are paid \$300 - \$1,000 and often get no medical care after the surgery. China recently banned the sale of human organs and restricted transplants for foreigners. It transplants many organs from executed prisoners after obtaining consent from the convicts or their next of kin.

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READING / LISTENING

TRUE / FALSE

Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- a. A body parts supermarket has opened to meet demand for organs.
- b. Chinese and Egyptians top the list of those wanting new organs.
- c. The WHO believes 21,000 liver transplants occur every year.
- d. Transplant tourists are finding it more difficult to find new organs.
- e. Not one country has banned the trade in body parts.
- f. Organ donors in Pakistan get very good after surgery medical care.
- g. China has restricted the use of body parts for foreigners.
- h. China uses body parts from executed prisoners.

SYNONYM MATCH

Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. shortage | a. permission |
| 2. shady | b. obtain |
| 3. get hold of | c. gaps |
| 4. thriving | d. prepared |
| 5. willing | e. limited |
| 6. loopholes | f. lack |
| 7. crack down on | g. booming |
| 8. restricted | h. prisoners |
| 9. consent | i. unethical |
| 10. convicts | j. put a stop to |

PHRASE MATCH

Match the following phrases from the article

(sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. A serious | a. high risk |
| 2. give them a new lease | b. transplants are carried out annually |
| 3. up to 21,000 liver | c. and full of loopholes |
| 4. there is a thriving | d. of life |
| 5. the number of poor | e. and to crack down on illegal sales |
| 6. difficult for authorities to regulate | f. led to a "kidney bazaar" |
| 7. laws are often very confusing | g. shortage of donated organs |
| 8. Transplant surgery carries | h. trade in organ trafficking |
| 9. In Pakistan booming demand has | i. or their next of kin |
| 10. obtaining consent from the convicts | j. willing to sell their liver |