

Today's Martyrs – Grace and Matthew Huang



The greatest loss must be the death of a child. It is every parent's nightmare. It became the nightmare of Grace and Matthew Huang, Evangelical Christians from Pasadena, California. Their 8 year old daughter Gloria suddenly died from cardiac arrest on January 15, 2013. Then, their tragedy quickly changed into an atrocity of international proportions, and a nightmare beyond belief.

The Huangs had adopted their three children, Gloria and her two brothers Josiah and Emmanuel (aged 7 and 9), from impoverished locations in Africa. Gloria was born in Ghana. After the adoption medical testing showed that Gloria suffered from parasites, vitamin deficiency, and a bone marrow disorder. Later she began to develop an eating disorder. She would go days without food, and then binge. Other times she would be caught eating from the garbage pail. These symptoms are not unusual for children who have suffered significant malnutrition.

Matthew worked as an engineer for MWH Corporation, and agreed to transfer to Doha, Qatar, in the Persian Gulf, for a 2022 FIFA World Cup infrastructure project. It was there that Gloria died. The autopsy was totally inadequate and did not consider her preexisting conditions. Within two days the Huangs were charged with murder, human trafficking and organ harvesting and were jailed, and their sons were placed in an orphanage. The prosecutor sought the death penalty. On March 27, 2014, they were sentenced to 3 years' imprisonment, although the verdict on the actual charges was deferred for a later date. Technically they were still innocent.

How did this happen? One of the toxic fruits of the twentieth century, the myth of adoption for organ harvesting, had been partly responsible. The documents released by Soviet KGB Major Vasili Mitrokhin demonstrate that this myth was created by the KGB as part of an anti-Western disinformation effort (this KGB directorate was likely also responsible for the creation of the play *The Deputy*, which began the myth of the 'silence' of Pope Pius XII during the Nazi genocides). The first known account of Westerners supposedly adopting for the purpose of organ harvesting came in the late 1960's from a Quito, Ecuador newspaper with known ties to the Castro government in Cuba. It has since spread and is widely believed around the globe.

Racism had also been at play. The Qatari police report stated '...the adoption process consists of searching for children who are good-looking and well-behaved, and who have hereditary features that are similar to those of the parents. But the children connected to this incident are all from Africa...The deceased girl was black from Africa with a plump figure, while the parents have wheaten or white complexion. Those who adopt normally choose beautiful children...'

But religion had also played a part. Muhammed was an adoptive parent. He had freed his slave Zayd ibn Harithah and adopted him as his son. In ca. 632 Zayd married Zaynab bint Jahsh. Within a year Muhammed revealed that he had incurred divine displeasure when he adopted Zayd, and so from that day Islam no longer recognized any adoption as legal [cf. Quran 33:40]. Zayd and Zaynab divorced and Muhammad married Zaynab; it was a marriage that would have been illegal had the adoption of Zayd not been invalidated.

This event has had an immense impact on Islamic culture: at best Islam allows for a kind of legal guardianship for orphans. This is fine when extended families have the motivation and resources to support their orphans. It can lead to homelessness and even death for orphans in traditional settings who lack such connections. So it was no surprise that when the Qatari prosecutor presented his case against the Huangs he said of adoption "Allah has banned it as it leads to assembling of foreigners with each other, which leads to extremely bad outcomes".

The Christian love and charity of the Huangs thus became proof of criminality. They spent 11 months in prison, where Matthew was sexually assaulted. The U.S. government finally secured their release on November 6, 2013, but they remained under house arrest for over a year and were prohibited from leaving the country (their sons were allowed to go to California in September 2013 with Grace's parents). Both exhibited symptoms of clinical depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. The prosecutor still demanded the death penalty. Matthew resigned from MWH when they insisted he continue to work while under house arrest. An appellate court ordered their release on November 30, 2014 and granted them permission to leave the country, but they were stopped at the airport and their passports seized when the prosecutor appealed their release. After more negotiations by the U.S. Embassy they finally left the country and arrived in Los Angeles on December 7, 2014.

Grace and Matthew Huang need every prayer in the world, please remember them and their sons in your prayers.

Today's Martyrs
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