Kidneys For Sale?

“Kidneys For Sale?” by Peter Singer is a document that explores the question of whether or not organ trading is unethical and should be considered a crime. This question arose from the arrest of Levy-Izhak Rosenbaum in New York, for trying to buy a kidney for $160,000. Other developments towards this question also include the passage of a law in Singapore that may pave the way for organ trading.

Singer answers this question in favor of organ trading. This argument is supported with statistics, as 100,000 people need an organ transplant per year and only 23,000 of those people are successful. Many patients, most notably those in New York, wait about nine years for a kidney. He also references the television program *Taboo*, in which a man in Manila sold his kidney so as to buy a motorized tricycle taxi, in order to start making money to take care of his family.

The objection to his views was also acknowledged. The most common counterargument is that organ trading exploits the poor. Singer also backed this up with facts, referencing a 2002 study in which 350 Indians illegally sold their kidney. Most of those who sold their organs to pay off any debts still stayed in debt despite this, and had regrets. Regardless of this, Singer argues that in a perfect world, there wouldn’t be people living in poverty and there would be enough organ donors. There’s a huge need for organs, such as kidneys. The real world, however, is not perfect and policies need to be made to try to perfect it as best as it can be, such as possibly regulating organ trading as they did in Iran.