

Chinese drug company linked to scandal

by UPI

BEIJING - A huge state-owned Chinese pharmaceutical company has been accused of involvement in a nationwide scandal involving tainted drugs. Shanghai Hualian, which exports to the United States and dozens of other nations, was reported linked with contaminated leukemia drugs that authorities say paralyzed or otherwise harmed 200 Chinese cancer patients last summer. The company is the sole supplier to the United States of the abortion pill, mifepristone, known as RU-486, The New York Times said. However, that drug is made at another location than the allegedly contaminated drugs. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration had no comment other than to say the RU-486 plant had passed inspection in May. Chinese drug regulators have closed the factory that produced the tainted product. A criminal investigation was reported under way.

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