

**Jeanne Sarson RN, BScN, MEd & Linda MacDonald RN, BN, MEd**

**PERSONS AGAINST RITUAL ABUSE-TORTURE**

361 Prince St., Truro, NS  
B2N 1E4

Phone/Fax: 902-895-2255  
E-mail: [flight@ns.sympatic.ca](mailto:flight@ns.sympatic.ca)

September 21, 2004

The Honourable Irwin Cotler  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada  
284 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0H8

Letter sent via E-mail: [webadmin@justice.gc.ca](mailto:webadmin@justice.gc.ca)

Dear Minister Cotler;

On May 1, 2004, we forwarded to you the attached letter and individual statements from adults who, as Canadian girl and boy infants, toddlers, children, youth, or captive enslaved women, struggled to survive a most evil of human violence—**ritual abuse-torture**—a form of human rights violation which involves torture by “non-state actors”. We asked that you and your office initiate best practice interventions to identify, prevent, educate, and to stop this silenced organized crime! Neither you nor your office has responded.

We read in the National Post an article by Anne Dawson (August 27, 2004) that quoted you as saying that your department is “... preparing a whole strategy with regard to trafficking in women and persons, to preparing specific legislation to combating trafficking in women ... both domestically and internationally” and this strategy will include legislation that will amend the Criminal Code to combat such human rights abuses. When considering the information in this article we ask two questions:

1. Why has our letter of May 1, 2004 not been answered? Our letter dealt with human trafficking and torture of persons—infants, toddlers, children, youth, and captive enslaved women—in the context of the violent organized crime and human rights violations inflicted by non-state actors—the ritual abuse-torture family/group, thus it is important reality to consider when developing a “whole strategy with regard to trafficking”.
2. Has our letter and the victim statements been sent to the group within your department that are being entrusted with the responsibility to develop a

“whole strategy” that will include legislation that will amend the Criminal Code to combat such human rights abuses? Our letter made suggestions about Criminal Code changes. Are these suggestions been considered given the fact our letter was accompanied by statements from persons who have survived ritual abuse-torture who made reference to their inability to seek justice because the Criminal Code did not address the crimes they had endured? Such experiences were validated by the Canadian Task Force report of 1993.

To make a decision not to include the reality that non-state actors—perpetrators of ritual abuse-torture—are actively engaged in violent on-street and off-street and in-the-home trafficking would be knowingly choosing to a human rights violation that is occurring in Canada. The United Nations has identified trafficking as a specific form of torture thus this is fact also known to your office and to the group that is developing a “whole strategy”. To ignore this human rights violation which affects infants, toddlers, children, youth, and captive enslaved women would be a conscious choice by the group and in violation of Canada’s commitment to United Nations Conventions such as the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*.

Thus, we write to you for the second time asking that best practice interventions that are being planned by your office include attention to the organized human rights violation inflicted by torturers—the non-state actors—the perpetrators of ritual abuse-torture.

Anticipating your response,

**Jeanne Sarson RN, BScN, MEd & Linda MacDonald RN, BN, MEd**