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Mr. Robert F. Purcell, LL.B.
Director, Policy, Planning and Research
Nova Scotia Department of Justice
5151 Terminal Road, 3rd Floor, PO Box 7
Halifax, NS, B3J 2L6

Attention: Mr. Purcell;

Re: The Criminal Code and Torture by Non-State Actors

Thank you for your reply on behalf of the Minister of Justice, the Honourable Murray Scott, dated October 24, 2006.

We noted in your letter that you plan to keep our letter as a reference should non-state actor torture be raised at a federal level. To provide further reference information we are enclosing a paper we submitted to Members of Parliament Bill Casey and Joy Smith entitled, *WITHIN CANADA: Trafficking and Non-State Actor Torturing Combined*. Ms. Smith, as Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee on the Status of Women, has been researching how best Canada can address the crime of human trafficking. Has there been Nova Scotian representation on this Committee that we could contact? Are there government committees that we can present our data to?

Based on our 14 years of work, some human traffickers who engage in sexualized exploitation of their captive victims—women and children mostly—do engage personally in committing acts of torture. They also facilitate the torture of the victimized persons they hold captive. They do so each and every time they ‘rent’ or ‘sell’ the enslaved and victimized women and children to perpetrators who pay to gain their pleasures from sadistic torturing. In our paper are two case examples. These present very brief overviews of the horrors we listened to as two Nova Scotian women struggled to heal. Such horrors are also transnational.

We are not content to accept that such brutalities occur, or wait for others to bring up the need to address non-state actor torture as a Canadian reality; nor should the Nova Scotia Department of Justice. We ask that the Nova Scotia Department of Justice, the Minister of Justice, wherever and however possible, recommend that non-state actor torture become a stand alone section of the *Canadian Criminal Code*.

We ask for your leadership support to assist us, Mr. Casey, and the enslaved persons whose voices we make visible, make Canada a country where due diligence is more than a vision, that Canada is a country that ensures, as an accepted practice, torture by non-state actors is an indictable crime and a violation of human rights.

Respectively submitted,

Jeanne Sarson and Linda MacDonald

Cc: The Honourable Murray Scott, Minister of Justice