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Ron Stevens, QC,
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Alberta
208 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
T5K 2B6

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

Dear Minister Ron Stevens;

Thank you very much for your letter of October 16, 2006, in response to our letter of September 19, 2006 re the *Criminal Code of Canada* and torture by non-state actors. We value your comments although we do not agree with the exiting provisions perspective.

Enclosed is a background paper entitled, *Within Canada: Trafficking and Non-State Actor Torture Combined*, providing insights into non-state actor torture victimization. Two brief first person stories are included, contextualized within the environment of captivity created by human traffickers—spousal and parental—and the acts of non-state actor torture committed. Canadian civil society must be willing to name and address the full extent of the violent acts that occur within families. This is where prevention begins. It is where impunity must also begin to be addressed.

We do watch what occurs in Alberta as we are contacted by Albertans via our website: www.ritualabusetorture.org. Some write to thank us, others seek educational materials, others support. Such as a young Albertan woman who contacted us over a year ago. She was struggling, with recent success, in exiting from a family system she described as involving pedophilic-to-adulthood incestuous rape and ritual abuse-torture which includes human trafficking and non-state actor torture. Her struggles to escape have been compounded by lack of awareness within society-at-large and specifically lack of understanding and knowledge within supportive and protective services. Exposing and then sharing our transnational knowledge, gathered over 14 years, regarding non-state actor torture of infants, toddlers, children, youth, and adults who are unable to ‘fight’ for them-Selves is where our responsibilities as citizens lie. It is the ethics behind what we do.

The enclosed background paper provides a deeper insight into non-state actor torture that occurs within families and like-minded groups. We ask that you consider the need for due diligence by naming non-state actor torture as a stand alone criminal offence and human rights violation.

Respectively,

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

cc. MP Bill Casey