



Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies™
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Gilles Duceppe, Chef du Bloc Québécois
Stephen Harper, Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada
Jack Layton, Leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada
Paul Martin, Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada

December 10, 2005

Gentlemen,

Today, International Human Rights Day, our three organizations would like to bring to your attention the attached open letter, which has been endorsed by numerous concerned organizations and prominent Canadians. Most notably a number of Canadian citizens who have experienced torture in foreign jail cells have signed on. The letter encourages Canada to ratify the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture and other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, by May 31, 2006 at the very latest.

We realize that you are in the midst of an election campaign. We would welcome a commitment from each of you at this time that ratification of this important human rights treaty, which stands to make a significant contribution to preventing torture and ill-treatment worldwide, is a matter of the utmost priority for your party and that you would be prepared to ensure that Canada does indeed ratify by May 31, 2006.

Sincerely,

Alex Neve
Secretary General
Amnesty International Canada
(English Branch)

Kim Pate
Executive Director
Canadian Association
Of Elizabeth Fry Societies

Mark Thomson
Secretary General
Association for the
Prevention of Torture