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PERSONS AGAINST RITUAL ABUSE-TORTURE
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The Honorable Irwin Cotler
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
284 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON
Canada, K1A 0H8

Letter sent via E-mail: webadmin@justice.gc.ca

Dear Mr. Cotler, Minister of Justice:

Today we submit our fourth representation to you on behalf of some of Canada's most vulnerable. Infants, toddlers, children, youth, and captive enslaved women who remain entrapped within ritual abuse-torture inter-generational families and like-minded others/groups or who are suffering as a result of surviving their ritual abuse-torture victimization and traumatization. Persons who report enduring family/gang inflicted brutalities of abuse, terrorization, torture, animal cruelty, bestiality, necrophilism, of being trafficked—victims of baby, toddler, child, youth, and adult pornography, pedophilic/adult exploitation, and slavery. Persons whose relationship with them-Self intentionally fractured by the perpetrators acts of horrification; persons who remain marginalized and discriminated against despite the Canadian governments knowing, since 1993, that such criminal violations of human rights existed.

Our last representation to you was received by your office on Sunday, December 12, 2004 at 9:39 PM. We have never received a response. A brief review of the actions we and persons so victimized requested, whose signed statements accompanied an earlier correspondence dated May 12, 2004, was that ritual abuse-torture be recognized as a human rights violation and an emerging form of torture by 'non-state actors'. We asked for changes in the criminal code, expanding the crime of torture to include torture by 'non-state actors' and that ritual abuse-torture are named as a distinct crime.

We acknowledge the positive direction of legislative Bills aimed at organized crime, at human trafficking and modern day slavery, and at animal cruelty for example; however, naming ritual abuse-torture is equally as important as naming the specific crimes these Bills address. Without naming ritual abuse-torture there is no equality route for seeking justice or protection under the law for victimized persons of any age. Perpetrators will continue to function with impunity.

And, naming the crime of torture by 'non-state actors' is equally as important as naming torture by 'state actors'—both must be eliminated. You said in your speech of August 18, 2005, to the Canadian Association of Police Boards and in the speech you gave to the Canadian Bar Association three days earlier, that "Torture must always and everywhere

be prohibited.” If this statement reflects a principle of justice then the pathways to a fair and equitable justice system must be amended to include torture by ‘non-state actors’.

In your speech to the Canadian Association of Police Boards, you spoke of front-line stakeholders who struggle for justice, equality, and human dignity. Thirteen years ago a Canadian adult sought our help to escape a ritual abuse-torture family/group into which she reported being born, remained entrapped and enslaved. Her goals were to exit, to heal, and become a person who would know the social value of human dignity, to be treated with equality, and to have justice. To date, she continues to experience the oppressive and marginalized harms of devaluation, no protection under the law—by police—because of the lack of recognition for the criminal victimization she was enduring—and with no opportunity for achieving justice in a court of law as there is no law that makes ritual abuse-torture illegal. She suffers from the reality her human rights are not protected. In fact, her spoken and reflective words are of how re-victimized she feels by a social system that fails to care. She is not alone as the 15 signed statements accompanying our May 12, 2004 letter testify to.

Writing our letters to you are representative of our struggle to seek justice for this person and the many who have contacted us from various countries in the world all reporting the same victimization of ritual abuse-torture. The shocking reality is they remain the most untouchable—the invisible of the vulnerable—not only in Canada but in countries around the world. They have been neglected, their human rights denied, their injustices unnamed, their traumatization mis-and-maltreated. There has been no social place for them to disclose and to be heard on the stage of humanitarianism.

In May of this year we had a feature article published in the RCMP *Gazette*, available at http://www.gazette.rcmp.gc.ca/article-en.html?category_id=1&article_id=105. The editor asked us to suggest a definition of ritual abuse-torture, which we did. We ask that you and the appropriate justice department staff consider this definition as a starting place for building legal reforms into the Criminal Code that would make ritual abuse-torture a crime.

In your speech to the Canadian Bar Association you made mention of a “...pro bono movement – a pro bono culture – on behalf of the public good.” All our work over the past 13 years has been pro bono as the most vulnerable seldom have a means to pay. Once we became aware of the human right violations of ritual abuse-torture being inflicted on citizens—Canadian and global—on girl and boy babies, toddlers, children, youth, and captive enslaved women (we have not been contacted by men who present them-Selves as captive and enslaved adults)—we have been unable to rest. Our world view has been forever changed as we were forced to integrate the reality that there were ritual abuse-torture parent(s), families, and like-minded others/groups—regionally in Nova Scotia, across Canada, and transnationally—some operating interconnectedly.

You closed your speech to the Bar by reminding lawyers to be at the forefront of the struggle to build a just, compassionate, and humane society ... that equality is an organizing principle for the building of such a society ... and that the promotion and protection of human dignity, security, and human rights is a public trust. We take this opportunity to remind you that for persons who have survived, who are presently enduring, or who are at risk of enduring ritual abuse-torture, and for those of us who have been harmed or might be harmed for standing against the organized ritual abuse-torture perpetrators, you are our first line of defense in the struggle to build a just society. You are the person who has the positional power to name and initiate the changes to the

criminal code that would dissolve the oppressive harms of marginalization, discrimination, disregard, and lack of safety and protection under the law. You are the person to bring the reality of ritual abuse-torture—the human rights violation and torture by ‘non-state actors—to the forefront. This is a public trust you spoke of. We ask you to exercise it.

On behalf of our-Selves and all who have included their signed statements in our previous correspondence we await your response.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Sarson and Linda MacDonald