

Jeanne Sarson, MEd, BScN, RN & Linda MacDonald MEd, BN, RN  
361 Prince Street  
Truro, Nova Scotia, B2N 1E4

Phone: 902-895-2255 or 902-895-6659; E-mail: [flight@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:flight@ns.sympatico.ca);

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Mr. Murray Scott, Minister of Justice  
Nova Scotia Department of Justice  
5151 Terminal Road, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, PO Box 7  
Halifax, NS, B3J 2L6

Attention: Minister of Justice Mr. Scott;

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

Please find enclosed a copy of our response to a letter we received from Mr. Purcell, LL.B., Director, Policy, Planning and Research for the Nova Scotia Department of Justice. A letter written on your behalf, dated October 24, 2006.

Also enclosed is a paper entitled, *WITHIN CANADA: Trafficking and Non-State Actor Torturing Combined*. A paper that explains the horrors, albeit very briefly, told to us by two Nova Scotian women who were exploited, enslaved, and captive victims of human trafficking by a spouse and parents. Although the paper focuses on the realities of two Nova Scotian women, their life-threatening ordeals mirror the 'stories' we have heard told repeatedly by youth, women, and men transnationally as we continue in our work of support, activism, research, and writing.

As we stated to Mr. Purcell, we are not content to accept that the brutalities of human trafficking and non-state actor torture occurs, or wait for others to bring up the need to address non-state actor torture as a Canadian reality; nor, in our opinion, should you as Justice Minister. We ask that you as Minister of Justice take the initiative to recommend to the federal Minister of Justice that non-state actor torture become a stand alone section of the *Canadian Criminal Code*.

And we repeat: We are asking for your leadership support to assist us, Mr. Casey, and the enslaved persons whose voices we make visible, to work to 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