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November 19, 2006

Frank Quennell, QC,
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Saskatchewan
Room 355, Legislature Building
Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada
S4S 0B3

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

Dear Minister Frank Quennell;

Thank you very much for your letter of October 17, 2006, in response to our letter of September 19, 2006 re the *Criminal Code of Canada* and torture by non-state actors. We appreciate receiving your comments and that you have forwarded our letter to your officials. We have sent The Honourable Vic Toews correspondence and he has been contacted by our MP Bill Casey.

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.

Fourteen years ago we were confronted with witnessing the harms and listening to reports of non-state actor torture involving infants, toddlers, children, youth, and adults who are unable to ‘fight’ for them-Selves. Our lives were transformed forever, as we did not know about non-state actor torture or that it can occur in intimate family relationships. However, coming face-to-face with such a reality forced us to decide where our responsibilities as citizens lie; this is the ethics behind what we do.

The enclosed background paper provides a deeper insight into the reality of non-state actor torture that occurs within families and like-minded groups. We ask that you reconsider the need for due diligence to name non-state actor torture as a stand alone criminal offence and a specific form of human rights violation.

Respectively,

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

cc. MP Bill Casey