

The Honourable Robert Douglas Nicholson
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
284 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada K1A 0H8

October 14, 2011

Dear Minister Nicholson,

We write to follow up on our letter of September 29, 2011 concerning the upcoming visit of former U.S. president George W. Bush to Surrey, British Columbia, to appear as a paid speaker at an economic forum.

In our previous letter, we called on you to launch a criminal investigation against Mr. Bush for his role in authorizing and overseeing his administration's well-documented torture program, and provided you with a draft indictment setting forth the legal and factual case against Mr. Bush, with more than 4,000 pages of supporting materials. We remind you that as a party to the *Convention Against Torture*, Canada is obligated to prosecute or extradite for prosecution anyone present in its territory for whom there is a reasonable belief he has committed torture.

Our call for investigation has been publicly joined by several other organizations, including Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International. Their appeals are based on the same legal obligations to which Canada has committed itself under the *Convention Against Torture* as set forth in our submission.

As you have seen, the evidence we submitted consists of the U.S. government's own documents and admissions by Mr. Bush and other members of his administration, as well as materials prepared by the United Nations and other governmental or intergovernmental bodies. It also includes the extensive findings of a Canadian judicial inquiry. This evidence more than satisfies the standards under Canadian or international law for opening an investigation and pursuing a prosecution for torture.

We are disappointed that we have not received any response from your office. We once again call upon you to proceed with an investigation into the case against George W. Bush for torture, utilizing the resources of the federal War Crimes Program as necessary and appropriate, and upon entry of Mr. Bush into Canada, take steps necessary to ensure his presence for prosecution.

We recall that Mr. Bush visited Toronto on September 19th to appear as a paid speaker at a private event, and are concerned that Mr. Bush could once again travel to Canada with no consequence, despite the credible case against him for torture. As we indicated previously, in the event that you take no steps to launch an investigation of Mr. Bush, we will support individual survivors of torture who wish to lay an information against him under section 504 of the Criminal Code.

It would be preferable that the War Crimes Program carry out this task because it is the federal government's duty to do so, but if Canada refuses to take action or give indications that it is willing to fulfill its legal obligations, we will proceed with assisting those survivors who want to file a private prosecution to do so in the coming days.

The Government of Canada must do what the law requires. The Criminal Code provides jurisdiction and the *Convention Against Torture* obligates Canada to prosecute Mr. Bush if it does not extradite him for prosecution elsewhere.

We await your prompt reply.

Sincerely,



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