

# INTERNATIONAL CIVIL LIBERTIES MONITORING GROUP

## **Press Release**

**Wednesday, October 12, 2011**

**For immediate release**

### Minister of Justice asked to investigate George W. Bush for his role in torture

(Ottawa) - The *International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group* (ICLMG) sent an open letter today to the Minister of Justice, supporting the call made by the *Center for Constitutional Rights*, the *Canadian Centre for International Justice* and *Amnesty International* for a criminal investigation against former U.S. president George W. Bush for his role in authorizing and overseeing his administration's well-documented torture program, including the "extraordinary rendition" program under which Canadians were "disappeared" and tortured (*See letter attached*).

Mr. Bush is scheduled to participate as a paid speaker in the Surrey Regional Economic Summit, in British Columbia, on October 20th.

In its letter to the minister, the ICLMG expresses the view that it is Canada's obligation as a signatory to the Convention Against Torture to take legal measures against suspected torturers within its jurisdiction. Under the terms of the Convention, 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.

Canada's rejection of torture is also reflected in criminal penalties imposed under Article 269.1 of the Canadian Criminal Code (R.S.C., 1985, c. C-46). Article 269.1 also applies to torture committed outside Canada when the alleged torturer is later present in Canada or the victim is a Canadian citizen. As noted in the draft indictment submitted by CCR and CCIJ (*attached*), Canada already has jurisdiction because a Canadian citizen was tortured as part of the U.S. "extraordinary rendition" program, and Canada will have jurisdiction over other acts of torture once Mr. Bush arrives in October.

On the basis of the extensive and detailed draft indictment in the hands of the Minister, and Canada's obligation to assert the rule of law, both internationally and domestically, the ICLMG calls on Canada to act promptly in launching an investigation against Mr. Bush or, failing such measures, that the Minister take immediate steps to refuse him entry into Canada.

The following spokespersons are available for interviews:

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