

This Summer: Grill your MP on National Security

Parliament may be closed for the summer, but that means the heat is just turning up for MPs!

As your representatives come home for the next few months, let them know that the protection of civil liberties doesn't take time off in the summer!

Here are 7 short questions and asks you can make of your Member of Parliament when you see them at BBQ parties and other community events over the next two months.

If you want, send us their responses at communications@iclmg.ca so we can follow up with them and hold them up to what they've said.

Bill C-51 & Bill C-59

The issue: Bill C-51 created the *Anti-Terror Act, 2015*. It was passed with little debate, no evidence showing it was needed, and no amendments. The law serves to weaken our security by eroding our right to privacy, freedom of expression and freedom of association. The Liberals have introduced Bill C-59 which they say will fix the most egregious issues. However, minor changes and new review mechanisms (albeit welcome) do not fix bad laws. We need the government to take firm action on human rights and civil liberties: C-51 must be repealed.

Question for your Member of Parliament: Bill C-59 makes minor changes to some parts of C-51 and leaves most of it untouched. What actions will you take to make sure that C-51 is repealed and that our rights aren't diminished by national security laws?

Want more info?

Read our concerns on C-51: <http://iclmg.ca/issues/bill-c-51-the-anti-terrorism-act-2015/>

Read our press release on C-59: <http://iclmg.ca/bill-c-59-despite-improvements-canadian-government-misses-opportunity-for-bold-action-on-civil-liberties-and-national-security/>

Torture Memos

The issue: The Ministerial Directives on Torture allow the Canadian government to share intelligence with, and receive intelligence from, countries that engage in torture. These exceptions allow countries that practice torture to continue their illegal and unjust actions, knowing that they won't be cut off from the information-sharing community. The Liberal government has said they are absolutely against torture, and in January 2016 said they would review the directives. It's June 2017 and they just announced they will be consulting on how to change the memos (even though a big consultation on national security has just taken place in the fall of 2016). We don't need more consultation – we need action!

Question for your MP: I'm concerned that after a year and a half of review, the government is saying they want to consult Canadians about the torture memos. We need action now. Information potentially derived from torture should never be used. Will you commit to explicitly banning the use of information gathered under torture, or the sharing of information with governments that engage in torture?

Want more info?

See this explainer by the BCCLA: <https://bccla.org/2016/11/end-canadian-complicity-in-torture/>

Afghan Detainees

The issue: There are very serious concerns that the Government of Canada knew — or had been warned — that prisoners handed over to Afghan authorities by Canadians were tortured or faced the likelihood of abuse. If the government had been aware, and did nothing to stop it, then it could be considered a war crime. Federal Liberals who argued for a public inquiry, while in opposition, into the treatment of prisoners during the

Afghan war, have now said they will not conduct such an investigation. This decision was penned by Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan, who served three tours in Afghanistan as a member of the Canadian Forces, putting him in a conflict of interest. The Ethics Commissioner found no conflict of interest but based her conclusion only on Sajjan's account of his involvement in Afghanistan, which was different than what he told a military historian. This issue is grave enough, and murky enough, that we believe a public inquiry is necessary.

Question for your MP: For Liberal MPs: Why has the government flip-flopped on this issue and decided against a public inquiry? For all MPs: What actions will you take to ensure that we learn the truth on Canada's involvement in the torture of Afghan detainees?

Want more info?

Read: <http://ottawacitizen.com/news/national/defence-watch/ethics-commissioner-acknowledges-sajjan-downplayed-his-role-and-knowledge-of-afghan-detainee-issue>

No fly list

The issue: Canada's no fly list has been plagued with problems: Innocent people – including dozens of kids - have ended up as “false positives” and seen their travel delayed. People are not told if they are on the list, meaning you would only know if you are listed if you are stopped at an airport, and may never even know. The current system to appeal being a false positive or being placed on the list is ineffective and time consuming. More importantly, the criminal code is sufficient to stop people suspected of a crime from boarding a plane. A secret administrative list you cannot challenge in court is a threat to civil liberties. The no-fly list should be abolished.

Question for your MP: Bill C-59 promises changes to the no fly list, but they don't go far enough. What action are you taking to ensure there's a redress system for false positives and people who want to challenge being on the no-fly list? What is your position on abolishing the no-fly list?

Want more info?

See this explainer by the BCCLA: <https://bccla.org/2016/09/the-new-canadian-no-fly-regime-brought-in-under-the-anti-terrorism-act-2015-aka-bill-c-51/>

Counter-radicalization

The issue: The government has dedicated millions of dollars to a Office for Counter-Radicalization. They have publicly committed to addressing all forms of violent extremism. However, experts state that the causes of “radicalization” and “extremism” are still little understood. And in other countries, such offices have mostly ended up targeting Muslim and Arab communities. We do need to address violence in society, but shouldn’t the focus be on social causes of violence and tension – like poverty, lack of social services, underfunded education systems, racism, homophobia, sexism – and not aimed at marginalized groups?

Question for your MP: What are you doing to ensure that the government’s “deradicalization” efforts don’t target Muslim and Arab communities? What are you doing to ensure that dissenting ideas and groups that are not violent but challenge the government’s decisions are not caught in this? What are you and your party doing to address the social causes of the most common forms of violence, like sexual assault, domestic abuse and hate crimes?

Want more info?

Read: http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/monia-mazigh/counter-radicalization-terrorism_b_17103032.html

Oversight, Review and Accountability

The issue: The government has created a committee of parliamentarians to review national security (C-22), and introduced legislation to create an umbrella review agency for all national security activities (C-59). But the committee of parliamentarians faces significant limitations on what

information they can access and what issues they can investigate. And the proposed umbrella review agency's recommendations are not binding at this time. We need stronger, independent and more effective review and oversight.

Question for your MP: What is your party doing to ensure the efficiency of national security oversight and review bodies? Will you allow the committee of parliamentarians full access to the information they need? And will you let it and the new National Security Review Agency make binding decisions?

Want more info?

Read our short analysis of C-22: <http://iclmg.ca/our-analysis-of-c-22-an-inadequate-and-worrisome-bill/>

Read our longer brief to the Senate on C-22: <http://iclmg.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/37/2014/03/Brief-C-22-ICLMG-SENATE-COMMITTEE-final.pdf>

Hassan Diab

The issue: Canadian citizen and professor Hassan Diab was extradited to France in 2014 to be investigated for the bombing of a synagogue in Paris in 1980. He was extradited on incredibly flimsy evidence that even the extradition judge in Canada expressed concern over. Since then, multiple pieces of evidence have been shown to be faulty, and a French investigative judge found overwhelming evidence that Hassan was in Lebanon at the time of the bombing. Judges have ordered his release 6 times, but each time it was blocked by the prosecution. He has now been held without charge in pre-trial detention for over 2 ½ years in France, away from his partner Rania and their two children. The Canadian government must speak out for Hassan and demand his release and return home.

Question for your MP: Are you aware that Canadian Hassan Diab has been in jail for over 30 months without charge in Paris? Will you and your party ask the Prime Minister to speak out for the release of Hassan?

Want more info?

See the Justice for Hassan Diab website: [http://](http://www.justiceforhassandiab.org)

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Read Amnesty International Canada's press release: [https://](https://www.amnesty.ca/get-involved/take-action-now/canadafrance-hassan-diab-held-without-charge)

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