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## DEATH PENALTY ABOLITION NETWORK - CANADIAN SECTION

13 November 2007

Dear Friends,

In addition to writing to your local newspapers, please now consider writing to your local MP, in your own words, voicing your concerns on the recent reversal of our traditional Canadian Government position opposing the death penalty.

Canada has for decades promoted the abolition of the death penalty at home and abroad. This has been recognised by the Supreme Court in a 2001 ruling that requires Canada to seek assurances protecting individuals facing extradition, from the death penalty. Seeking clemency for Canadians abroad is the simple complement to this.

Canada is running out of time to Co-sponsor the resolution at the UN (**the vote was tentatively set for tomorrow**) - without Canada's Co-Sponsorship, we will not only be notably absent, we will be sending a terrible message to those who want to have the same human rights protections we already enjoy in Canada.

It should not matter which country we are in - being executed in Iran or being executed in Montana - it is still a violation of basic human rights and something we have recognised as being contrary to Canadian values for quite some time.

I have also been asked to pass along to the network, the message pasted below, in support of Troy Davis of the USA, to grant him a new trial (you may recall he was very nearly executed only a few months ago before worldwide rallying from groups including Amnesty International, lead to his being granted a 90-day stay).

Some recent news items that will be of interest regarding Canada and the Death Penalty:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20071113.wcomment1113/BNStory/National/home> (Globe and Mail Editorial)

<http://canadianpress.google.com/article/ALeqM5jvq7V6CMzQmG2NuJwESUT1wximLw> (CP article - Most Canadians oppose Tory moves against clemency)

[http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20071112/ron\\_smith\\_071112/20071112?hub=Canada](http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20071112/ron_smith_071112/20071112?hub=Canada) (CTV summary of Smith

interview)<http://thechronicleherald.ca/Editorial/978142.html> (Editorial from The Chronicle Herald of Halifax)

<http://www.canada.com/ottawacitizen/views/story.html?id=99479625-2e9e-4377-b321->

[bb676933fc86](#) (Ottawa Citizen editorial)

<http://www.canada.com/victoriatimescolonist/news/story.html?id=17431a19-ece3-4f21-a3b3-888538888d8f> (Rebuke of Tory policy by former Supreme Court Justice Louise Arbour, now serving as the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights)

[http://www.embassymag.ca/html/index.php?display=story&full\\_path=/2007/november/7/death\\_penalty/](http://www.embassymag.ca/html/index.php?display=story&full_path=/2007/november/7/death_penalty/) (Embassy Magazine article that includes brief comments from Bob Rae and Paul Dewar)

See also:

<http://web.amnesty.org/pages/deathpenalty-311007-editorial-eng>

[http://www.amnesty.ca/resource\\_centre/news/view.php?load=arcview&article=4103&c=Resource+Centre+News](http://www.amnesty.ca/resource_centre/news/view.php?load=arcview&article=4103&c=Resource+Centre+News) (Amnesty message of concern over Canadian change)

[http://www.amnesty.ca/amnestynews/upload/Open\\_Letter\\_DP.pdf](http://www.amnesty.ca/amnestynews/upload/Open_Letter_DP.pdf) (Open Letter to PM Harper from Alex Neve and Beatrice Vaugrante of Amnesty International Canada)

### **In Solidarity,**

Aubrey Harris

Coordinator

Campaign to Abolish the Death Penalty

Amnesty International - Canadian Section

(English-Speaking Branch)