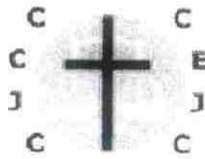


The Church Council on Justice and Corrections

507 Bank Street, Ottawa, ON CANADA, K2P 1Z5



Le Conseil des Églises pour la justice et la criminologie

Tel.: 613-563-1688 Fax: 613-237-6129 www.ccjc.ca

January 10, 2007

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Langevin Building
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A2

Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

The Church Council on Justice and Corrections (CCJC) is deeply concerned by the recent announcement that you and the Government of Canada are prepared to condone the execution of Canadians by the American Criminal Justice System.

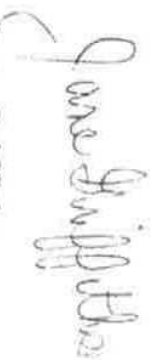
As a national church coalition, we have long embraced the teaching that justice is about healing and relationships and that the life and dignity of each person must be respected and protected without exception. Capital punishment is a denial of this teaching as it irrevocably undermines human dignity and basic respect for human life. Even if the verdict has been attained through a fair trial, the death penalty is a cruel, degrading and inhumane punishment that negatively impacts not only the one who dies, but their families and communities as well. It also denies victims opportunities for answers, restitution and healing.

In part due to CCJC's efforts, capital punishment was banned in Canada in 1976 and until October 2007, the Canadian policy has been to oppose capital punishment both domestically and internationally. On December 18, 2007, by a significant majority, the UN General Assembly endorsed the call for a worldwide moratorium on executions. We are heartened that Canada voted in favour of this moratorium and we hope that this action will translate into the Canadian government amending its recent change in policy regarding the execution of Canadians. Canada's vote for a moratorium reflects the values of Canadians and a policy which condones the execution of Canadians, or anyone, is contradictory to these values and unconscionable.

The member churches of the Church Council on Justice and Corrections include eleven (11) national churches representing approximately 14,000 congregations: The Anglican Church of Canada, Canadian Baptist Ministries, Christian Reformed Churches in Canada, Disciples of Christ in Canada, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, Mennonite Central Committee Canada, The Presbyterian Church in Canada, The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), The Roman Catholic Church, The Salvation Army, and The United Church of Canada.

We respectfully ask the Canadian government to reaffirm the policy to oppose the death penalty by seeking clemency for Canadians who face a sentence of execution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jane Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jane Griffiths
President

Church Council on Justice and Corrections