



Canadian Centre for International Justice  
Centre canadien pour la justice internationale



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**PETITION ON THE RIGHT OF CANADIANS TO SUE FOR TORTURE**

Canadians who have experienced torture, genocide and other massive human rights abuses should have the right to tell their story and seek recognition, admission of responsibility and compensation for the harm they have suffered. Foreign governments and the individuals responsible must not be permitted to commit abuses against Canadians like Zahra Kazemi and Maher Arar without accountability.

Canada’s *State Immunity Act*, intended to protect foreign governments from law suits arising from the performance of their duties, has been interpreted as shielding them from accountability through civil courts in Canada even when they torture, rape and kill Canadians.

I urge the Government of Canada to amend the *State Immunity Act* to ensure that it no longer shields foreign governments and their representatives from responsibility for such serious violations of international law as torture, war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide.

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**Honorary Council** Raynell Andreychuk, Maher Arar, Louise Arbour, Lloyd Axworthy, Ed Broadbent, Claire L’Heureux-Dubé, Flora MacDonald, Erna Paris

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