

Minister of Canadian Heritage
and Official Languages



Ministre du Patrimoine canadien
et des Langues officielles

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0M5

Mr. Alex Neve
Secretary General
Amnesty International Canada
312 Laurier Avenue East
Ottawa, Ontario
K1N 1H9

AUG 03 2009

Dear Mr. Neve:

In response to your correspondence addressed to the Prime Minister dated February 23, 2009, and forwarded to me by the Honourable Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Foreign Affairs, I appreciate being advised of the concerns of Amnesty International Canada and the other signatory organizations regarding Canada's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) by the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council. Please excuse the delay in my reply.

Please be assured that this Government values the views presented in your correspondence, as well as your continued commitment in the area of human rights, both at home and abroad. As I understand, all of the signatory organizations were intricately involved in the planning and delivery of the engagement sessions held across the country in January 2009, as part of the preparations for Canada's UPR. We appreciate your involvement in helping to organize these sessions, as well as your participation in the session that was held in April 2009 to discuss the recommendations.

Your contributions to Canada's UPR process have greatly assisted us and I thank you for your input. The proposals put forward in your correspondence and the views presented during the engagement sessions earlier this year were taken into consideration in the drafting of Canada's response and will continue to inform our discussion as we move toward the implementation phase of Canada's UPR.

It is important to note that this was Canada's first review under the UPR. As we continue to move forward, we will be reviewing and assessing our UPR approach and building upon the lessons learned to enhance the process for our next review in 2013.

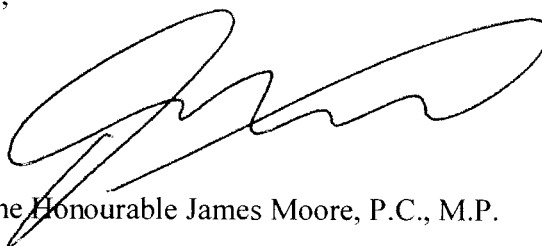
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Once again, I thank you and your colleagues for the suggestions put forth and urge you to continue your important work in the field of human rights.

Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Moore', written in a cursive style.

The Honourable James Moore, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: The Honourable Lawrence Cannon, P.C., M.P.