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January 31, 2008

The Right Honourable Steven Harper
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Harper:

I am writing you from the Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime (CRCVC) regarding Bill S-225. As you may know, this Bill is based on a proposal by the Canadian Coalition Against Terror (C-CAT) and is endorsed by terror victims from across the country. We are writing to you to voice our support for this important legislation and ask that you ensure its speedy adoption by the government.

Bill S-225, *An Act to Amend the State Immunity Act and the Criminal Code*, proposes that victims of terrorism should have the ability to seek justice and accountability from those states or individuals that are responsible for aiding a terrorist attack by lifting state immunity in controlled circumstances with proof of knowingly or recklessly supplying materials or supports to terrorists.

This legislation is crucially important to terrorism survivors in that it will enable them to seek justice for their loved one. The civil process provides effective deterrence and a sense of justice for victims by publicly identifying terror sponsors, holding them civilly accountable, utilizing the discovery process to unravel the illegal sponsorships that terror sponsors so desperately try to obscure, as well as establishing as a matter of public record the victimization of the plaintiffs by the defendants, and society's revulsion for terrorist conduct.

The CRCVC fully endorses this legislation. It is our hope that the government will recognize the severe trauma suffered by victims and survivors of terrorism and enable Canadian terror victims and their families to launch civil suits against foreign states and hold local Canadian organizations and individuals that have supported terrorist entities responsible for the death or injury of such victims.

Sincerely,

Heidi Illingworth
Executive Director