



“Dedicated to Justice” • «Au service de la justice»

August 22, 2016

The Honourable Ralph Goodale, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Public Safety
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister,

As our global community continues to expand, violence committed by extremists will impact Canadian citizens both at home, and abroad. While we all hope that we never have to deal with a terrorist attack in Canada, we must consider the possible consequences of extremist violence on Canadian citizens. Some Canadian citizens have left Canada to join terrorist organizations, while others have been victimized while travelling abroad. Recently, Ontario has encountered a terrorist threat. As you are aware, Aaron Driver, a known ISIS sympathizer, was recently stopped by the RCMP from executing his plans to bomb a very populated area.

The threat of terrorism is very real in Canada. Our country must do everything in its power to prevent any future tragedies or terrorist attacks. The RCMP learned about Driver’s plans through federal bodies in the United States and they were able to stop him from completing his attack. Next time, we might not be so lucky. If Driver had succeeded, there may have been hundreds of victims. We believe the province of Ontario would not be well-equipped to assist these victims. We believe that national leadership is required to prevent radicalization and future terror attacks, as well as to support victims of terrorism and violent crime. This avoided attack in Strathroy, Ontario should act as a lesson to our country, not a bullet well-dodged.

The consequences of extremist violence are long-term for those affected and deserve further research. They may continue for decades after the violence - disrupting daily functioning and impeding some people from normalizing their lives. The family members of victims who are killed, as well as survivors who are harmed, both have unique needs due to the nature of terrorism. Past incidents have taught us about the long-term psychological, social, physical, and financial ramifications of these heinous acts and the supports that persons affected require.

We have written to you previously about the need for a national program or office that is dedicated to responding to and supporting victims of terrorism, extremism and violent crime, whether an act occurs on Canadian soil or outside our borders. The United States has an office with staff dedicated to assisting American victims affected by crime outside their borders. Many European countries have a similar programs as well. Canada needs to follow their lead and establish a program dedicated to supporting and responding to all victims of terrorism/extremism.

**CANADIAN RESOURCE
CENTRE FOR VICTIMS
OF CRIME**



**CENTRE CANADIEN DE
RESSOURCES POUR LES
VICTIMES DE CRIMES**

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Recent attacks in Paris, Brussels, Turkey and the U.S. remind us that all governments must be prepared to respond to victims and survivors of extremist violence. Public Safety Canada has a role to play in addressing persons harmed, especially where our citizens are impacted abroad. Canadians expect that their government will support its citizens harmed by extremist violence both inside and outside of Canada while also continuing to fund research into the causes and consequences of terrorism; and the prevention of radicalization and future terror attacks. We would welcome an opportunity to discuss these matters further as you continue to oversee such important issues to Canadians.

Sincerely,

Heidi Illingworth
Executive Director

Cc The Honourable Stéphane Dion, P.C., M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs
 The Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould, P.C., M.P., Minister of Justice & Attorney General of
 Canada
 The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P., Prime Minister of Canada