



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
CABINET DU PRÉSIDENT

April 6, 2006

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, PC, MP
Prime Minister of Canada
Langevin Block
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa ON K1A 0A2

The Honourable Peter MacKay, PC, MP
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Lester B. Pearson Building
125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa ON K1A 0G2

Dear Prime Minister and Minister:

I am writing to urge the Government of Canada to call on the United States Government to respect the Rule of Law by ceasing to hold foreign combatants at its naval base in Guantanamo Bay without charge or fair trial.

The Canadian Bar Association supports the right of every citizen of the world to personal security. However, the war on terrorism cannot be won by denying those suspected of terrorism the fundamental right to answer the charges against them in a fair and open process. The U.S. has held several detainees in Guantanamo Bay for years without due process.

The underlying principles of the Rule of Law are an independent, impartial judiciary, the presumption of innocence, the right to a fair and public trial without undue delay, a rational and proportionate approach to punishment, a strong and independent legal profession, strict protection of confidential communications between lawyer and client, and equality of all before the law. Canada adheres to these principles through the Charter of Rights and as a signatory to several international covenants.

We ask that you add Canada's voice to those of other international leaders, and condemn the failure of the United States to meet the underlying principles of the Rule of Law vis-à-vis the Guantanamo Bay detainees.

Yours truly,

(Original signed by Brian Tabor)

Brian A Tabor, Q.C.

500 - 865 Carling, Ottawa, Ontario Canada K1S 5S8

Tel/Tél. : (613) 237-2925 Toll free/Sans frais : 1-800-267-8860 Fax/Télécop. : (613) 237-0185

Home Page/Page d'accueil : www.cba.org E-Mail/Courriel : info@cba.org