

**Canada – HRC 12  
Intervention under Item 4: Human rights situations that require the  
Council's attention  
General Debate, September 18, 2009**

Mr. President:

Canada wishes to take this opportunity to draw the Council's attention to a number of human rights situations of particular concern.

Canada is deeply concerned by Iran's continued human rights violations. The government's reaction to post-elections demonstrations -- including violence; unjust detention of opposition, media and human rights proponents; and limitations on freedom of assembly and expression -- constitutes a flagrant violation of the rule of law and international human rights. Canada calls for the release of all unjustly detained, including Canadian-Iranian Maziar Bahari. Other ongoing abuses include the suppression of women's rights and the persecution of minorities. Seven Bahai leaders have been detained without charges or legal counsel for over a year, due to their faith, and should be released immediately.

Canada is deeply disturbed by the ongoing repressive actions of the Burmese regime and its continued disregard for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the people of Burma, illustrated by brutal crackdowns on citizens, the denial of basic humanitarian assistance following Cyclone Nargis, the persecution of ethnic minorities, and the on-going imprisonment of political prisoners on spurious grounds. Canada calls on the Burmese regime to

unconditionally release all political prisoners, including Aung San Suu Kyi, and to allow all citizens to exercise their inalienable right to participate in free, fair and transparent elections in 2010.

The human rights situation in Sudan is one of profound concern. Increasing inter-ethnic violence and insecurity in Southern Sudan has claimed approximately 2,000 lives in 2009. This must end, as must the on-going insecurity in Darfur. The trial of Ms. Lubna Hussein highlights challenges to women's rights and personal freedoms in Sudan.

Canada remains deeply concerned by the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in particular reports of persistent disregard for individual rights and freedoms, as well as the lack of due process under the law. Canada calls on the DPRK to accept a visit by the UN Special Rapporteur Vitit Muntarbhorn at the earliest opportunity.

Canada continues to be deeply concerned about ongoing sexual and gender based violence in eastern DRC and the Great Lakes Region. This is a priority issue for Canada. This egregious violence must cease. We condemn this violence and we urge governments in the region to bring the perpetrators to justice.

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Thank you, Mr. President.

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