

The Honourable Peter Van Loan
Minister of Public Safety
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0P8

By fax: 613 992 8351

August 6, 2009

Dear Minister Van Loan,

Amnesty International is aware that the Canadian Centre for International Justice and the US-based Center for Constitutional Rights have jointly written to you calling for an investigation to determine whether action should be taken pursuant to Canada's Crimes against Humanity and War Crimes Act and/or section 269.1 of the Criminal Code against retired US Army colonel and psychologist Dr. Larry C. James and others who may be attending the American Psychological Association Convention in Toronto from August 6 to 9.

The CCIJ/CCR complaint arises from the January – May 2003 time period, during which Dr. James served as Chief Psychologist and a senior member of the Behavioral Science Consultation Team of the Joint Intelligence Group at Guantánamo Bay. Amnesty International has frequently reported about concerns regarding the involvement of psychologists and psychiatrists in torture or ill-treatment at Guantánamo Bay.

Amnesty International has had an opportunity to review the complaint in its entirety. It does, in our view, outline facts which, if proved, could constitute, *inter alia*, a violation of the UN Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. It is imperative therefore that the investigation called for by CCIJ and CCR be initiated. Amnesty International notes that in such circumstances, under Article 6 of the Convention, Canada is obliged to:

- open a preliminary inquiry with a view to making an assessment as to whether they will prosecute in Canada or extradite Dr. James to another state willing to do so; and
- take Dr. James into custody or take other legal measures to ensure he will be present for the investigation and any consequent legal proceedings.

National Office:

312 Laurier Avenue East, Ottawa, ON K1N 1H9
Tel: (613) 744-7667 Fax: (613) 746-2411
info@amnesty.ca

Toronto Office:

1992 Yonge St, 3rd floor, Toronto ON M4S 1Z7
Tel: (416) 363-9933 Fax: (416) 363-3103
toronto@amnesty.ca

Vancouver Office:

Suite 430, 319 West Pender, Vancouver, BC V6B 1T3
Tel: (604) 294-5160 Fax: (604) 294-5130
vancouver@amnesty.ca

Amnesty International takes no position on the guilt or innocence of Colonel Larry James, but wishes simply to urge Canada to fulfill its obligations under Article 6 of the Convention against Torture." Thank you for your attention to this case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alex Neve". The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

Alex Neve
Secretary General