

## **Amnesty International Canada**

### **Suggested Election Questions:**

1. Violence against women is one of the gravest human rights tragedies in the world today, including here in Canada. Amnesty International is concerned that funding for the services needed to provide support and safety to women at risk of violence across Canada is not sufficient. Many shelters and transition houses for women escaping violence are struggling to remain open and maintain adequate programming to help women rebuild their lives. Indigenous women in Canada face a particularly heightened vulnerability to violence which has not yet been adequately understood and addressed by government and police. International human rights treaties obligate Canada to make sure that all women, in all parts of Canada, can live safely.

- a) **What will your party do to ensure that shelters and transition houses throughout Canada receive the funding they need to keep their doors open and ensure women have a safe place to run to when their lives are under threat?**
- b) **What will your party do to ensure that police forces across Canada adopt strong protocols for action that recognize and respond to the high levels of violence experienced by Indigenous women in this country?**

2. Amnesty International has highlighted the importance of ensuring that Canada's approach to counter-terrorism is consistent with Canada's international human rights obligations. But there is ample reason to be concerned this has not always been the case. A number of Canadian citizens, who were of interest in national security investigations, have provided credible testimony of their arrest, imprisonment and torture abroad, in circumstances suggesting that Canadian law enforcement or security agencies may have played a role. A public inquiry is looking at one such case, Maher Arar. But others – including Abdullah Almalki, Ahmad El Maati and Muayyed Nureddin – currently have no prospect of justice or of knowing the truth about what happened to them. The UN's Human Rights Committee has recently called on Canada to launch a full public review of all of these cases.

**What is your party's position regarding the need to launch a fair, independent, comprehensive and public review of all cases of Canadian citizens, of interest in national security investigations, who have been detained and tortured abroad?**

3. For some people who flee their country, rejection of their refugee claim will mean they are sent home to be arbitrarily imprisoned, tortured or killed. A meaningful appeals process for rejected refugee claimants is a vital safeguard against returning someone to a situation where they may face grave human rights abuses, even death. The absence of an appeal on the merits has been recognized as a fundamental flaw in the Canadian refugee determination system by both the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. An appeal was added to Canadian law in 2001 when the new Immigration and Refugee Protection Act was passed by Parliament, but it has never been enacted by the government.

**What will your party do to ensure that Canada lives up to the requirements of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act and establish the Refugee Appeal Division?**

