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## CANADA SUPPORTS UN MEASURES TO ELIMINATE TORTURE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today announced that the Government of Canada has taken additional steps to bring the practice of torture under greater international scrutiny. These steps, taken under the United Nations Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, will allow Canada to bring formal complaints against other states that have taken similar action under the special procedure of the Convention.

"While Canadian practice has been, and will continue to be, to raise allegations of torture concerning certain states both bilaterally and multilaterally, acceptance of these new procedures will also allow us to bring such complaints to a special international monitoring body created for that purpose," stated Mr. Clark.

A newly established UN Committee Against Torture will in future consider these types of complaints. "Only a few states thus far have accepted this optional complaint procedure," Mr. Clark noted. "However, by taking this step, Canada will be in a better position to encourage other countries to make their human rights records subject to review."

The Canadian action will also allow individual complaints concerning allegations of torture in Canada to be brought to the UN Committee Against Torture, assuming local remedies have been exhausted. Although existing remedies under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms mean that the UN procedures are unlikely to be used, Mr. Clark stated "we are proud of our record of addressing allegations of human rights abuses and are pleased to be part of this convention which will further our objective of eliminating torture throughout the world."

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Secretary of State  
for  
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État  
aux  
Affaires extérieures