

## **Government Response to the Report of the Standing Committee of Foreign Affairs and International Trade**

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Canada and Jordan collaborate to good effect in the search for solutions to conflicts in the Middle East (the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and the situation in Iraq), where Jordan's moderate and constructive policies make it an interlocutor of choice for Canada. Jordan is a signatory of the Ottawa Convention banning Land Mines and has advocated for the Convention in the region as well as ridding itself of its own stock of mines, an objective it achieved in April 2003. Jordan is also a signatory of the Rome Treaty which created the International Criminal Court.

Prince Hassan bin Talal, uncle of King Abdullah, is a world leader in promoting inter-faith dialogue. He has advocated in support of this concept in many countries including Canada.

### **RECOMMENDATION 20**

**Canada should continue to encourage and provide support to the Government of Morocco as it pursues its broad program of reform. In particular, Canada should increase assistance in the area of education and continue assistance for democratisation, governance reform and strengthening civil society.**

Canada maintains excellent relations with the Kingdom of Morocco and supports the social, political and economic reforms undertaken by the Kingdom. CIDA programming in Morocco for 2003-2010 will allow the creation of programs to support primary education, professional education, democratic development and equality between genders. Initiatives such as the \$13 M Reinforcement of institutional capacities during the decentralisation of the Moroccan education system Project (PROCADEM) or the \$10 M Reinforcement of local capacities and citizen participation in local governance Project are good examples. Foreign Affairs Canada and the Canadian embassy in Morocco encourage the efforts of the Government of Morocco. For example, the embassy has developed the "I Read With Canada" initiative, which established three libraries for children aged 5 - 12 years. Two others will be established in 2005. Foreign Affairs Canada also facilitates sending young Canadian interns to work for various Moroccan NGOs. These young Canadians contribute to the development of these NGOs, through developing information technology such as websites or databases, or by offering specific expertise.

Prime Minister Martin discussed issues of reform with His Majesty King Mohamed VI and with Moroccan Prime Minister Driss Jettou during his visit in December 2004. He took this opportunity to reiterate Canada's support for the ambitious reform program being undertaken in the Kingdom of Morocco.

### **RECOMMENDATION 21**

**Given the importance of the states of Central Asia and the developments that have taken place there since September 2001, the Government of Canada should revisit the recommendations contained in the Committee's 2001 report Advancing Canadian Foreign Policy Objectives in the South Caucasus and Central Asia in the context of reviewing its relations with the countries of the Muslim world.**