



# communiqué

N°:  
No.: 133

June 24, 1987.

CANADA RATIFIES THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION  
AGAINST TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN OR  
DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, announced that Canada has ratified the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The instrument of ratification was deposited this morning at the United Nations headquarters in New York by Canada's Ambassador to the United Nations, Mr. Stephen Lewis.

The Convention, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December 1984, was signed by Canada on August 23, 1985.

The Convention defines torture and requires that states make it a punishable offence. It provides for states to prosecute or extradite alleged torturers and sets up a Committee for monitoring the application of the Convention.

Following extensive consultations with the provinces conducted by the Department of Justice, amendments to the Canadian Criminal Code that will make the offence of torture as defined in the Convention a crime under Canadian law were passed by Parliament in April 1987 and entered into force on June 1, 1987.

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