

## **Craig Scott remarks June 8 2016 on release of Open Letter calling for commission of inquiry**

Hello. My name is Craig Scott. As Professor of Law at Osgoode Hall Law School, I was involved in trying to highlight and clarify the issues at stake with the Afghan detainees issue, especially during the period when Stephen Harper prorogued Parliament in order to shut down a committee seeking information from the government. When I was then elected as a Member of Parliament (Toronto-Danforth) in 2012, Tom Mulcair asked me to keep digging on this matter. After failing to be re-elected on October 19, I have continued my efforts – I am now back as professor at Osgoode – by initiating e-petition E-70 calling for a commission of inquiry.

E-70 has to be answered on June 16. This government must be consistent with its past stances, especially now that Stéphane Dion is the lead minister (I refuse to accept this file is 'internal' to the Department of National Defence) and also given the Prime Minister's focus on transparency and his claims to want a strengthened democracy.

A commission of inquiry would be able to get to the bottom not only of how and why so many unjustifiable decisions and practices occurred but also, as revealed by information I acquired while an MP, of the nature of a parallel system of PUC'ing. A PUC is a "person under control" who is not registered as a "detainee", and any transfer of whom is never reported to the Red Cross or subject to any follow-up monitoring. The existence of PUC'ing was not revealed in the processes that took place up to 2011 and the military has actively kept it from view. I believe evidence will emerge of PUC'ing leading to executions and not 'just' to torture.

I am also convinced via high-level international sources that some detainees and PUCs were transferred on to the US after first being transferred by Canada to Afghanistan, and we must find out whether some ended up at CIA black sites and what then happened.

As a law professor, I believe an inquiry also needs to know the role lawyers played in terms of seeking to ensure no cover-up activity, abuse of process or undermining of the rule of law took place.

We owe it to ourselves as a society not to allow what happened to corrupt our soul by turning our backs and thereby making ourselves complicit in a system of complicity in serious human rights abuses.

Thank you.

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The Open Letter is here: [http://www.rideauinstitute.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Afghan\\_OpenLetter-Jun7-2016\\_EN.pdf](http://www.rideauinstitute.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Afghan_OpenLetter-Jun7-2016_EN.pdf)

E-petition E-70 is here: <https://petitions.parl.gc.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-70>

Rideau Institute blog posting on the Open Letter and E-70, with forward link to their report (authored by Omar Sabry) of September 2015 -- [Torture of Afghan Detainees: Canada's Alleged Complicity and the Need for a Public Inquiry](#) -- which explained why a commission of inquiry is needed: <http://www.rideauinstitute.ca/2016/06/08/open-letter-to-pm-urging-public-inquiry-on-afghan-detainee-transfers/>