



Government of Canada
Permanent Mission of Canada
to the United Nations and the
Conference on Disarmament

Gouvernement du Canada
Mission permanente du Canada
auprès des Nations Unies et de la
Conférence du désarmement

Note verbale No.: YTGR0469

Reference: Progress report of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee on human rights and issues related to terrorist hostage-taking (A/HRC/AC/9/CRP.1)

The Permanent Mission of Canada to the Office of the United Nations at Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Canada welcomes the Progress report of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee on human rights and issues related to terrorist hostage-taking. Canada supports the need to increase international cooperation in tackling terrorism, including terrorist hostage-taking in particular, as contained in the various instruments adopted by international and regional intergovernmental institutions. In order to support this endeavour, Canada is a stronger supporter of the UN Counter-Terrorism Strategy as an encouraging strategic and operational document in the fight against terrorism and various regional institutions including the CICTE and ASEAN's Convention on Counter-Terrorism.

Canada objects to having been included in the Report's list of countries which have allegedly paid ransom for the release of hostage victims, included in the progress report of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee on human rights and issues related to terrorist hostage-taking (A/HRC/AC/9/CRP.1). Government of Canada policy is not to pay ransom. We strongly request that the draft report be amended to have Canada removed from this list.

Canada agrees with the Report's recommendation that payment of ransom to terrorist hostage-takers should be widely discouraged. In this regard, Canada is in compliance with the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, and all the offences it creates have been implemented in Canadian law through the Anti-Terrorism Act's amendments to the Canadian Criminal Code.

While we understand the Report's recommendation that States need to develop a comprehensive strategy in addressing all causes, manifestations and consequences of terrorism, Canada is of the opinion that terrorism is sufficiently covered under international law, particularly through Security Council resolutions which are binding on all Member States.

The Permanent Mission of Canada to the Office of the United Nations at Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 28 September 2012.

