

For immediate publication

PRESS RELEASE

The AFPAD is sounding the alarm to our legislators to ensure better protection for victims

Laval, December 6th 2018 –The AFPAD (Association of Families of Persons Assassinated or Disappeared) opposes Bill C-75 as it ignores victims' security and well-being. This omnibus bill intends to modify the criminal code by reorganizing numerous dispositions and amending certain procedures that favor a more rapid release of criminals using the minimum requirements of their sentence as a guideline. We are asking our legislators to reinforce our laws and to better protect victims rather than protecting the convicted who committed the crime.

Allow us to not go along with these principles which weaken victims' protection. Can you show us one convicted or accused person who will actually admit to a judge that they have no intention of respecting the conditions of their release or parole, however binding these conditions may be? The desire to reduce wait times and administer justice as efficiently as possible, as defined in C-75, will take precedence over victims' rights. It is disheartening to see that our legislators choose not to protect victims.

Bill C-75 should rather prioritize a burden of proof reversal in bail requests for all arrests involving violent crimes, an improved application of section 810 of the criminal code, more coercive conditions for parole and better equipping our police forces. The accused's' rights, as defined in the Canadian charter of rights, appear to take precedence over the basic right to security and sanctity of life, as well as the rights guaranteed under the Canadian victims' Bill of Rights

Once again, we are shown that victims' pleas, made in recent years for help and better protection, have gone unanswered. *"An average of ten women a year are murdered by their spouses, and approximately thirty cases of attempted murders concerning women suffering from domestic violence are reported each year in Quebec.* Whether it's Daphnée Boudreault-Huard, Gabrielle Dufresne-Élie, Francine Bissonnette, Clémence Beaulieu-Patry, Cheryl Bau-Tremblay, Brigitte Serre, Nathalie Blais, Josiane Arguin... All of these women are part of a much too large group of victims of crimes that could have been prevented; and they never benefitted of a second chance. Enough is enough."* affirms Nancy Roy, the AFPAD's general manager.

* Source: Number of infractions per 100 000 inhabitants (Statistics Canada estimated population) Public Security Ministry.

ABOUT THE AFPAD

Since its foundation in 2005, the Association of Families of Persons Assassinated or Disappeared (AFPAD) represents hundreds of families in Quebec and pursues its mission to develop new services and tools for its members in order to overcome isolation and develop bonds of solidarity.

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