

Dear Prime Minister,

RE: World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and the right to freedom of expression in Tunisia













WHEREAS in 2003, the 175 countries participating in the first round of WSIS organized under the auspices of the U.N. adopted a Declaration of Principles stating that *as an essential foundation of the Information Society, and as outlined in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, that everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; that this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers;*

WHEREAS in Tunisia, freedom of expression is systematically repressed and communications and information are strictly monitored;

WE ASK THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

1. Demand that the Tunisian government comply with its 2003 commitments and cease investigating, monitoring, intimidating, convicting, or imprisoning anyone based on opinions, information, or communications broadcast over any medium;
2. Demand that all independent Tunisian non-governmental organizations and defenders of human rights in Tunisia have access to WSIS activities in Tunis in November 2005, and that they be able to speak freely;
3. Demand that international human rights organizations have access to WSIS and be able to speak freely in Tunisia before, during, and after the Summit;
4. Request that the Tunisian government release young Zarzis and Ariana Web users from prison, along with all other prisoners of conscience.

<i>SIGNATURE</i>		<i>NAME (print)</i>		<i>ADDRESS</i>	

Deadline: 1st November 2005,

Destination:

Madame Meili Faille, Députée édifice de l'ouest Bureau 451 Chambre des communes Ottawa, (ON) K1A 0A6