



*Olivia Chow*

Member of Parliament/Députée  
Trinity-Spadina

The Honourable Vic Toes, P.C, M.P.  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada  
284 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, OM K1A OH8

Dear Minister Toews,

I am writing on behalf of Mr. Douglas Gary Freeman, who faces extradition to the United States. Mr. Freeman has been held in the Don Jail for over two years after being arrested in July 2004 in Toronto for an incident that allegedly took place in Chicago in 1969. It is alleged that Mr. Freeman shot a police officer, Mr. Terrence Knox in the arm. Mr. Knox is the only police witness alive. Any other eye-witness testimony has been difficult to verify in court.

This alleged incident occurred in 1960's during a time of extreme racial tension in the United States. Ms. Coelho, Mr. Freeman's spouse, fears her husband will face mistreatment, including torture if he is jailed in Chicago. She also fears he will not receive a fair trial in the United States. She has informed me that the victim impact statement, which was used as the basis for arresting Mr. Freeman, was withdrawn and replaced with a very different statement at the hearing committee and that all the alleged evidence has since been lost or destroyed.

Mr. Freeman has resided in Canada for over thirty years. He is an upstanding citizen who has raised four Canadian children with Ms. Coelho. Before his arrest he was gainfully employed at the Toronto Public Library and is known as a mentor in his community.

I urge you to give Mr. Freeman every consideration and allow him to continue his honest life in Canada with his family.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this urgent matter. Should you require any further information, please contact my constituency office at 416-533-2710.

Sincerely,

Olivia Chow, M.P.  
Trinity-Spadina

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