



# ODVV

An NGO  
Committed to Promote a  
Non-Violence Culture,  
Associated to UNDP  
In Special Consultative  
Status to the ECOSOC

**Organization for Defending Victims of Violence**

## **11<sup>th</sup> session of HRC UPR-Canada**

Mr. President,

I am speaking on behalf of the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, a nongovernmental organization active in the field of human rights. I would like to thank the Council and the Universal Periodic Review mechanism for reviewing the human rights situation of countries.

This NGO express concern towards the violence or excessive force the police in Canada use against the people. The police's bad treatment in Canada has been a going concern for years. On several occasions individuals have been injured and or even lost their lives as a result of excessive force used by the police, something which is quite obviously unconstitutional.

Mr. President,

According to Amnesty International 2009 Annual Report, in 2008 four individuals died in Canada as a direct result of the police using Tazer Stun Guns. We all remember too well the shocking footage of the uncalled for death of Polish national Robert Dziekanski at Vancouver International Airport in October 2007, after he was Tazered by officers of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The Office of the Commissioner for Public Complaints against the RCMP issued a report calling for restrictions on the use of Tasers.

Mr. President,

There are serious concerns with regards to the use of Tazer Stun Guns for their effects on health which have not fully been considered. People who have heart conditions and or use medication are more vulnerable to these weapons. The continued use of these weapons is interpreted as a systematic violent act by the police, and cold-hearted murder.

Mr. President,

While expressing grave concern towards the application of these forms of inhuman violence by the Canadian police, the ODVV deems the use of Tazer Stun Guns as a policy which is blatantly contrary to all international human rights instruments and guidelines. The ODVV calls upon the Council to consider this serious issue in its Universal Periodic Review on Canada.

The Universal Periodic Review is a perfect opportunity for reviewing these types of unnecessary acts of human rights abuses and their effects on people's safety.