



YWCA
TORONTO

A TURNING POINT
FOR WOMEN



July 5, 2010

Prime Minister Harper
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa
K1A 0A2

AN OPEN LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER HARPER

Dear Prime Minister Harper,

The right to protest and the right to free speech are fundamental to our democracy and our ongoing struggle for social justice in Canada. Indeed, social activism has made tremendous contributions to Canada, making it more just and secure. Protecting these rights must be a priority not only for all governments in this country, but also for the people of this country. It is a priority for YWCA Toronto.

YWCA Toronto is concerned that before and during the G20 Summit in Toronto the mass arrests and many of the security measures taken violated the rights associated with peaceful protest and due process, including the rights to freedom of expression and assembly and the right to be protected from arbitrary arrest.

YWCA Toronto urges the Government of Canada to work with the Government of Ontario to launch an independent review of the security measures taken for the G20 Summit in Toronto. The serious threat posed to our city, province and country by any measures that undermine our freedom of assembly and freedom of expression are worthy of careful, independent review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sally Palmateer".

Sally Palmateer
Acting CEO