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U.S. Government Fails to Protect Tortured American Majority Leader, State Department Brush Incident Aside

Washington D.C. (10/24/2008) The U.S. House Majority Leader and the State Department have tried their best to wash their hands of Scott Loper, a former New Jersey police officer who was imprisoned in Canada eight years ago, denied his rights under international agreements, and, according to Loper, tortured by an illegal drug ring run by Durham Region, Ontario police.

A series of letters displayed on Loper's web site indicate that House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer and the State Department are willing to accept an unsigned document provided by the Canadians as proof that Loper waived his right to contact the U.S. Embassy. The letters are between Loper, Hoyer, the State Department, Loper's attorney Scott Shields, and House staff attorneys, and can be viewed at the Web site, ScottLoperStory.com. According to Shields, the alleged waiver, blank where Loper's signature should be and dated three years after his arrest, holds no credibility whatsoever.

When Loper moved into Congressman Frank Wolf's (R-VA) district this year, Wolf became involved, calling for an investigation. Wolf is Co-Chair of The Congressional Human Rights Caucus and a ranking member of the State Foreign Operations Subcommittee. Loper is hoping Wolf's action will begin to unravel a joint effort, on the part of Canadian and U.S. officials, to cover up his story. Hanging in the balance is news about the whereabouts of Loper's wife and son, whom he hasn't seen for eight years.

While living in Canada, Scott Loper discovered the illegal drug ring. The police officers involved in the ring arrested him before he could present information to authorities, and obtained a conviction of violating what Loper claims was an extorted and unfounded restraining order filed by his Canadian wife, Carolyn. "She had no reason other than fear. They had to have threatened her in order to get her to file that order", said Loper. "The minute I called her on the phone, several of them appeared and arrested me." Loper alleges he was then tortured repeatedly over a two year period of his four year incarceration. Had Loper been granted communication with U.S. Consular Services, he would have had the protection granted by article 36 of the Vienna Convention, an agreement signed by Canada, the United States and 162 other nations. Scott Loper is still seeking justice.

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Further information on this story as well as documentation of any information stated here can be obtained by visiting the web site at <http://www.ScottLoperStory.com>, or contacting Buddy Logan (see top) or attorney Scott Shields at 610-892-777 or SShields@ScottLoperStory.com