

Dick Cheney's Toronto Visit Prompts Calls For Torture Arrest

By Global Research News Global Research, October 31, 2013 The Huffington Post Region: <u>Canada</u>, <u>USA</u> Theme: <u>Crimes against Humanity</u>, <u>Law and</u> <u>Justice</u>

By Michael Bolen

In letters to <u>Toronto Chief of Police Bill Blair</u>, <u>Ontario Attorney General John Gerretsen</u> and to <u>Prime Minister Stephen Harper and several cabinet ministers</u>, <u>Lawyers Against The War</u> argues the former U.S. vice president should be arrested "as a person suspected on reasonable grounds of authorizing, counseling, aiding, abetting and failing to prevent torture."

The group contends that Cheney could be arrested either under the Criminal Code of Canada or because Canada is a signatory to the United Nations Convention Against Torture.

Cheney will be in Canada Thursday to speak at the <u>Toronto Global Forum</u>, hosted by The International Economic Forum of The Americas. The event's theme is "Globalisation At A Crossroads" and <u>Cheney is scheduled to speak about "Energy Security and Evolving</u> <u>Geopolitical Realities in the 21st Century."</u> <u>Several Conservative cabinet ministers will also</u> <u>be speaking</u> at the conference, including Treasury Board President Tony Clement and Minister of International Trade Ed Fast.

A protest organized by a number of anti-war groups is planned for the morning. The <u>Facebook group for the event</u> says several hundred people have committed to attend.

The war crimes allegations against Cheney stem from his role in the War on Terror, specifically the extraordinary rendition program and United States' use of "enhanced interrogation" techniques such as waterboarding.

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