


**From:** Williamson, John - M.P. John.Williamson@parl.gc.ca   
**Subject:** GAC and Ross Cline  
**Date:** June 2, 2025 at 12:35 AM  
**To:** melanie.joly@international.gc.ca, ross@rosscline.com  
**Cc:** Madsen, Darlene (Williamson, John - MP) darlene.madsen.258@parl.gc.ca

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Dear Minister,

I am writing on behalf of Mr. Ross Cline, a Canadian citizen and constituent, who returned to New Brunswick after residing and working in Taiwan for many years as an English teacher.

Mr. Cline has raised serious concerns regarding his treatment under Taiwan's judicial system following a dispute with his previous landlord. In particular, due process violations and the misuse of prosecutorial authority that contributed to what he describes as an unjust legal outcome.

I believe Mr. Cline's case warrants attention from Global Affairs Canada (GAC), particularly the Asia-Pacific Team. I am unsure if Mr. Cline was in contact with GAC Consular Affairs prior to his return to Canada or during the referenced legal proceedings. The enclosed e-mail sent to SOS-International references a file already with your department.

I am respectfully requesting that your department review Mr. Cline's case and provide him with a formal response.

Sincerely,

John Williamson, MP  
Saint John—St. Croix

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Government  
of Canada

Gouvernement  
du Canada

Canada

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- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



**From:** Williamson, John - M.P. John.Williamson@parl.gc.ca   
**Subject:** Re: GAC and Ross Cline  
**Date:** June 2, 2025 at 12:40 AM  
**To:** anita.anand@international.gc.ca, ross@rosscline.com  
**Cc:** Madsen, Darlene (Williamson, John - MP) darlene.madsen.258@parl.gc.ca

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**From:** sos@international.gc.ca <sos@international.gc.ca>  
**Sent:** May 2, 2025 8:18 PM  
**To:** ross@rosscline.com  
**Cc:** Madsen, Darlene (Williamson, John - MP) <darlene.madsen.258@parl.gc.ca>;  
sos@international.gc.ca  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent Request for Diplomatic Protection and Human Rights Intervention –  
Canadian Citizen Under Abusive Foreign Sentence in Taiwan

Hello Mr. Cline,

Thank you for contacting the Emergency Watch and Response Centre at Global Affairs Canada in Ottawa.

We will add your email to your case.

Sincerely,

**Emergency Watch and Response Centre (EWRC) | Centre de surveillance et  
d'intervention d'urgence (CSIU) / CF**

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Email/Courriel : [sos@international.gc.ca](mailto:sos@international.gc.ca) | Tel./Tél. : (613) 996-8885  
SMS/Texto : (613) 686-3858 | WhatsApp : (613) 909-8881  
Address/Adresse : 125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, Canada K1A 0G2  
Global Affairs Canada | Affaires mondiales Canada



Government  
of Canada

Gouvernement  
du Canada

Canada

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**From:** Ross Cline <[ross@rosscline.com](mailto:ross@rosscline.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 2, 2025 6:39 PM  
**To:** SOS (CSW) <[sos@international.gc.ca](mailto:sos@international.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Darlene Madsen <[darlene.madsen.258@parl.gc.ca](mailto:darlene.madsen.258@parl.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Urgent Request for Diplomatic Protection and Human Rights Intervention – Canadian Citizen Under Abusive Foreign Sentence in Taiwan

**To:**

Global Affairs Canada  
Consular Services and Emergency Assistance Division  
[sos@international.gc.ca](mailto:sos@international.gc.ca)

**Subject:** Urgent Request for Diplomatic Protection and Human Rights Intervention – Canadian Citizen Under Abusive Foreign Sentence in Taiwan

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Dear Sir or Madam,

My name is Ross Cline. I am a Canadian citizen from New Brunswick and a long-term foreign resident who lived in Taiwan for over 15 years, where I operated a legally incorporated language consulting business. I am writing to formally request **urgent diplomatic protection and intervention** under Canada's obligations to protect its citizens abroad, as set out in the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Act and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations.

This request is **not** a private legal dispute, nor a request for assistance with a routine foreign judicial matter. It is a matter of:

- Documented human rights abuse,
  - Systemic judicial misconduct,
  - Proven harm to a Canadian citizen's life, livelihood, and safety,
  - And an unresolved foreign legal threat that Canada has a duty to engage on diplomatically.
- 

## Summary of the Case

In 2020, I was criminally charged in Taiwan three separate times over the brief online posting of a rental contract — an act that caused no harm and was widely reported in Taiwanese media. Despite presenting five willing defense witnesses and extensive video evidence (including materials broadcast on national television), the Taiwanese courts:

- Ignored all exculpatory evidence,
- Denied me access to proper legal counsel and interpretation,
- Imposed a six-month prison sentence despite clear recognition of **lack of malicious intent**.

In 2024, under the advice of legal counsel, I was forced to flee Taiwan under threat of immediate imprisonment and permanent criminal record. Over four years, I have endured judicial harassment, severe financial losses, reputational damage, forced business collapse, and medical harm — including a formal medical diagnosis of adaptive disorder caused by prolonged legal persecution.

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## New Developments

In April 2025, the Taichung District Prosecutors Office issued formal correspondence acknowledging:

- That I acted without malicious intent and caused no public or private harm,
- Yet Taiwan **continues to uphold the original criminal sentence** of six months' imprisonment or over 1,000 hours of community service.

This is a clear-cut example of:

- Disproportionate punishment,

- Arbitrary application of law,
  - Systemic denial of due process,
  - And ongoing human rights violation — all in breach of Taiwan's public commitments under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
- 

## Why This Demands Canadian Diplomatic Action

This is **not** a private legal or appealable matter.  
This is:

- A Canadian citizen who has been forced into exile by a foreign government's abusive system.
- A case where domestic remedies are exhausted, and foreign legal outcomes are grossly inconsistent with fair trial standards.
- A situation where Canada's duty to protect its nationals abroad, and to safeguard their fundamental rights, is clearly engaged.

Canada has a responsibility to:

- Intervene diplomatically,
- Advocate for formal acknowledgment of harm,
- Support fair compensation negotiations,
- And challenge the continued enforcement of an indefensible foreign sentence.

This is precisely the type of case where Canadian consular and diplomatic engagement is not just appropriate but required.

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## Request for Action

I respectfully request:

1. Formal acknowledgment of this case by Global Affairs Canada.
  2. Assignment of a case officer to coordinate diplomatic engagement with Taiwan.
  3. Immediate communication with Taiwanese authorities regarding:
    - The documented harm caused,
    - The disproportionate and arbitrary sentence,
    - And the need for a fair and just resolution.
  4. Guidance on additional steps I, as a Canadian citizen, should take to protect my rights.
- 

## Attached Documentation

I am providing:

- A bilingual formal case statement (including a detailed timeline),
  - The recent letter from the Taichung District Prosecutors Office,
  - A document index with over 50 supporting legal, medical, and media files.
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I respectfully ask for prompt confirmation of receipt and an outline of next steps, as this matter continues to pose active risk to my legal safety, personal security, and ability to return to Taiwan without arbitrary imprisonment.

Thank you for your time, your service, and Canada's commitment to defending the rights of its citizens abroad.

Sincerely,  
Ross Cline  
Canada

[ross@rosscline.com](mailto:ross@rosscline.com)  
+1 506 321 8659







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**Date:** June 2, 2025 at 7:02 AM  
**To:** anita.anand@international.gc.ca  
**Cc:** Darlene Madsen darlene.madsen.258@parl.gc.ca, Williamson, John - M.P. John.Williamson@parl.gc.ca

Dear Minister Anand,  
Dear MP Williamson and Darlene,

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter and for forwarding it to Global Affairs Canada.

I wanted to respectfully emphasize that this is not a typical foreign legal matter. It is a textbook case of **arbitrary punishment and human rights abuse** — the complete destruction of a Canadian's life and livelihood due to a minor, non-malicious act: sharing a rental contract online for two days, four years ago. That alone led to **three criminal charges**, a six-month sentence, and ultimately forced exile from the country I called home for over 15 years.

Even Taiwan's own prosecutors acknowledged in writing (May 2025) that I acted **without malicious intent** and caused **no harm**. And yet the sentence remains in full force, and I remain unable to return without facing jail or over 1,000 hours of punishment. Additional enforcement documents arrived by mail on **June 1, 2025** — a friend retrieved them on my behalf. These continue to reinforce the absurdity of the state's response.

While several human rights lawyers in Taiwan are now reviewing my case, including the **Taiwan Innocence Project**, I must be honest: I fear the institutional tendency in Taiwan to downplay such cases. The **selective enforcement of law**, combined with **systemic indifference** to disproportionate harm, puts foreign nationals like myself in an extremely vulnerable position.

I sincerely hope that Global Affairs Canada can recognize this for what it is: a **human rights crisis involving a Canadian citizen**, not a matter for routine consular deferral. I am deeply homesick and committed to resolving this case justly and restoring my right to return.

Please let me know if any further documentation is required. I remain at your full disposal.



With deep appreciation,  
**Ross Cline**  
New Brunswick, Canada  
ross@rosscline.com | +1 (506) 321-8659  
<https://rosscline.com> | <https://il.earn.tw>

On Jun 2, 2025, at 12:40 AM, Williamson, John - M.P. <John.Williamson@parl.gc.ca> wrote:

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SMS/Texto : (613) 686-3858 | WhatsApp : (613) 909-8881

Address/Adresse : 125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, Canada K1A 0G2

Global Affairs Canada | Affaires mondiales Canada

<image001.jpg>

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<https://rosscline.com> | <https://tlc.earth.be>

TAIPEI  
TIMES

[ LETTER ]  
taipeitimes.com

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<image001.jpg>

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