



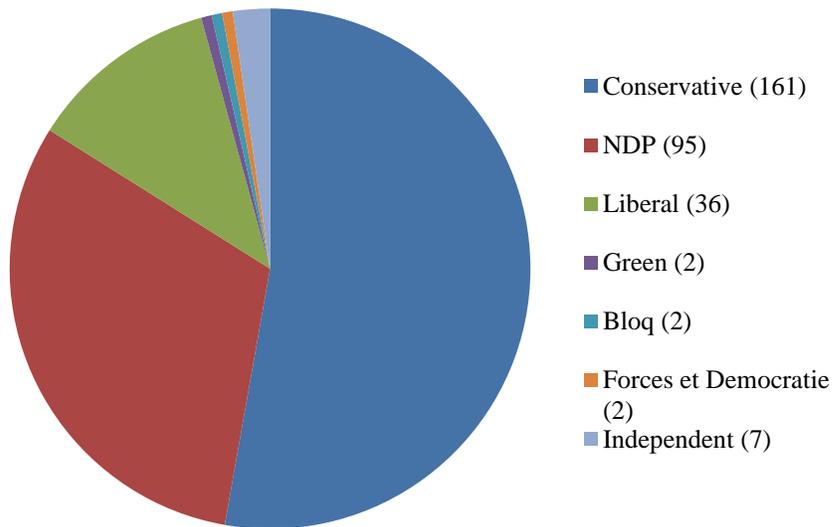
# Canadian Parliamentary Division Monthly Report

January 2015

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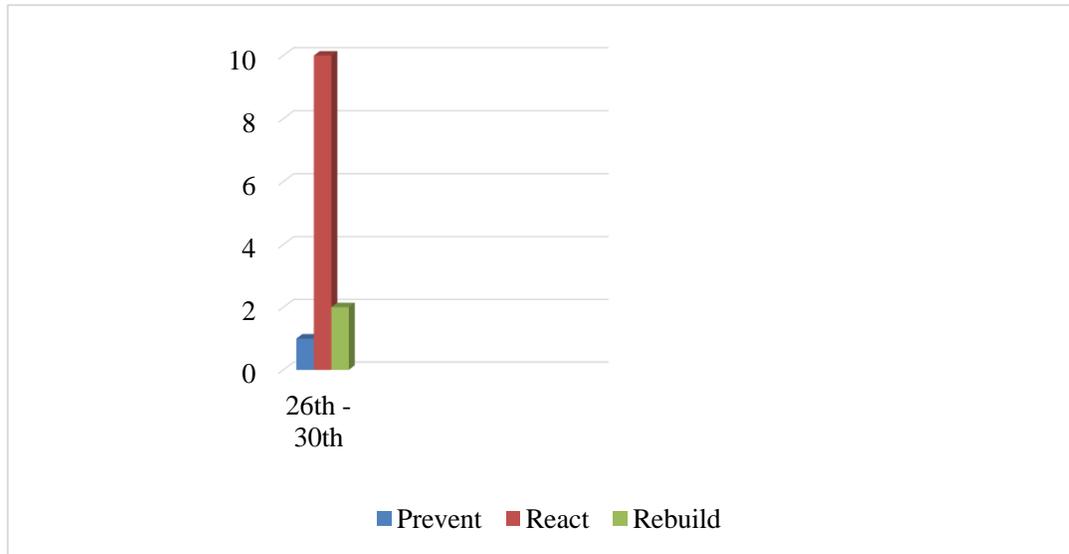
*The composition of the House of Commons this month:*



Majority Conservative Government  
Prime Minister: Stephen Harper  
Leader of Opposition: Thomas Mulcair (NDP)

Notable bills discussed:  
Bill C-627 Railway Safety Act  
Bill C-44 Protection of Canada from Terrorists Act  
Bill C-626 Statistics Act

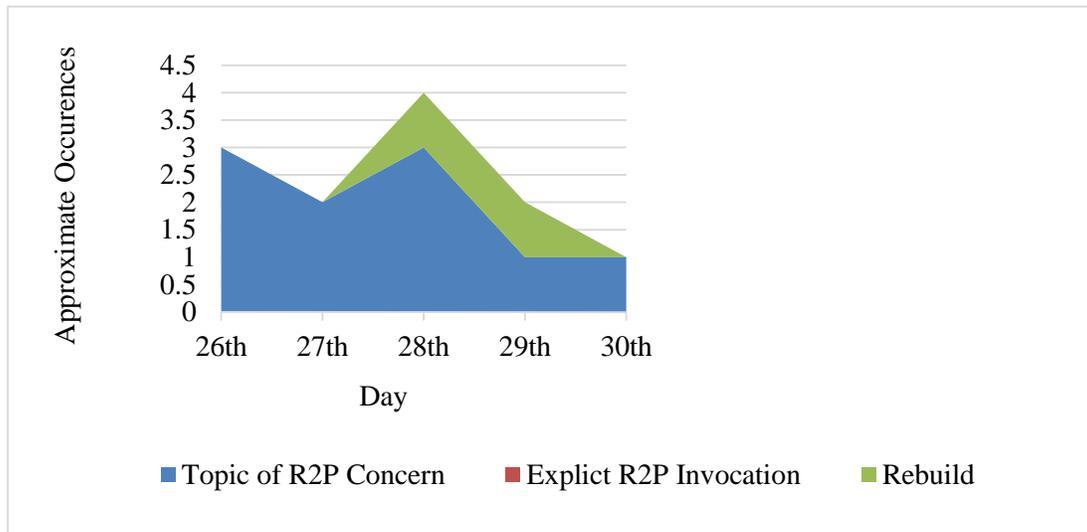
*How Many Times R2P was mentioned weekly:*



*Explanation of Findings:*

*N/A.*

## Break Down of R2P's Explicit Use and Issues Relating to R2P:



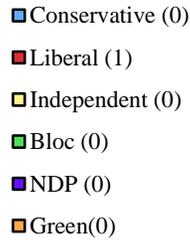
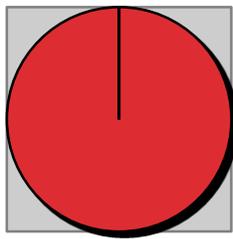
## Explanation of Findings:

R2P was not explicitly mentioned during the month of January. However, in regard to topics of concern were mentioned from the 26<sup>th</sup> through to the 30<sup>th</sup>. Please see the analysis below for further information.

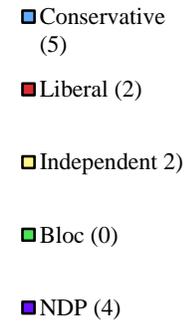
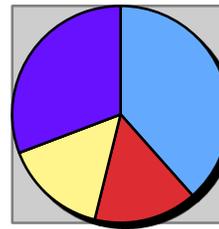
## Breakdown by Party:

**\*Numbers represent the approximate number of individual times a party member spoke to a topic relating to the responsibility to prevent, react, or rebuild.**

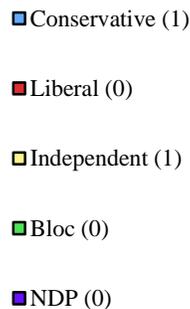
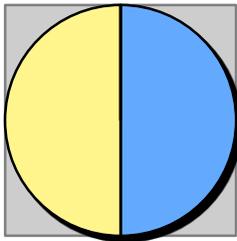
**"Prevent"**



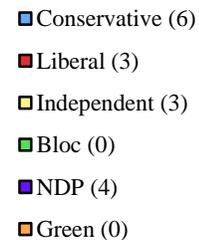
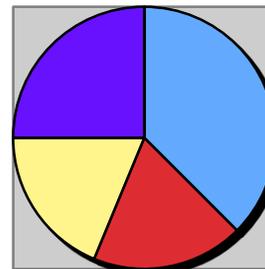
**"React"**



**"Rebuild"**



**Total**



## Explanation of Findings:

*Following an examination of parliamentary discussions in January 2015, it can be concluded that there has been no specific mention of R2P in the House of Commons. Nonetheless, MP's called on the Canadian Government to intervene in specific cases pertaining to human rights and the protection of human dignity in Saudi Arabia and Russia.*

### *Prevention:*

On 28 January 2015 MP Chrystia Freeland (Toronto Centre, Lib) questions why Sergey Chemezov, “a close friend of Putin’s from their days in the KGB and [he] is now the chief of a leading Russian defence company,” or Igor Sechin “a member of Putin’s inner circle,” have not been sanctioned by Canada following the lead of the U.S. and Europe? In response, the Hon. John Baird (Minister of Foreign Affairs, CPC) argues that Canada has been extremely vocal in denouncing Russia and supporting the Ukrainian people. According to the Minister, “Canada has implemented 199 separate sanctions, while the United States has only 127.”

### *Reaction:*

On 26 January 2015 MP Wayne Marston (Hamilton East – Stoney Creek, NDP) requests an intervention on behalf of the government into a case of human rights abuse in Saudi Arabia. He cites the case of “Raif Badawi, a free-speech activist in Saudi Arabia, condemned to 1,000 lashes for making a website...” He argues that human rights issues have not been well regarded under the current government and called for action. In response, the Hon. Lynne Yelich, Minister of State (Foreign Affairs and Consular, CPC) states that although Mr. Badawi is not a Canadian citizen, the government has recognized the punishment as a violation of human dignity and has made their position known diplomatically and publically. The issue was given further attention by MP Pierre-Luc Dusseault (Sherbrooke, NDP) and Stephane Dion (Saint-Laurent – Cartierville, Lib).

Further on this date MP Mark Warawa (Langley, CPC) calls for commitment from the government regarding crises in Ukraine, citing the death of 30 Ukrainians and highlighting Russia’s lack of adherence to the Minsk agreement. In response, MP James Bezan (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Defence, CPC) reinforces Canada’s support for the people of Ukraine and simultaneously called for the release of Ukrainian pilot Nadiya Savchenko, an individual who was illegally abducted and is being held in Russia.

Again on this date MP Peter Kent (Thornhill, CPC) calls for commitment from the government regarding actions to combat anti-Semitism following the attacks in Paris in early January 2015. In response, the Hon. Chris Alexander (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, CPC) confirms the government’s stand against anti-Semitism “the menace of terrorism and the ideology of hatred and violence...”

On 27 January 2015 Mrs. Sana Hassainia (Vercheres – Les Patriotes, Ind.) requests a confirmation from the government on the steps it will take to reunite Raif Badawi, a foreign blogger convicted in Saudi Arabia of 1,000 lashes, with his Canadian family. In response, the Hon. Lynne Yelich (Minister of State, Foreign Affairs and Consular, CPC) reaffirms Canada’s denouncement of Badawi’s treatment by the Saudi Arabian government as a violation of human dignity. Furthermore, she highlighted diplomatic efforts taken to appeal to the Saudi government.

Further on 27 January 2015 MP Lawrence Toet (Elmwood – Trascona, CPC) requests an update on Canada’s contribution to NATO’s Ukrainian assurance measure. In response, the Hon. Rob

Nicholson (Minister of National Defence, CPC) speaks of the *Fredericton* frigate which was deployed in December to assist the mission in Ukraine.

On 28 January 2015 MP Russ Hiebert (South Surrey – White Rock – Cloverdale, CPC) makes a statement denouncing North Korea as “one of the most brutal regimes on the planet, denying its own peoples the most basic rights and freedoms.” Furthermore, he recognizes North Korea’s previous threats to Canada, including the recent Sony Hack, as an attack of free speech. He concludes with stating “Canada will not be intimidated. We will continue to criticize the cruelty of Kim Jong-un and call for an end to his regime”

Further on 28 January 2015, MP Chris Warkentin (Peace River, CPC) requests an update on Canada’s position regarding Hezbollah attacks on Israel which resulted in death and injuries. In response to this, the Hon. John Baird (Minister of Foreign Affairs, CPC) reaffirms Canada’s support for Israel and the Jewish state in the battle against terrorism.

On 29 January 2015, MP Wayne Marston (Hamilton East – Stoney Creek, NDP) reiterates his concerns for Raif Badawi and questioned the actions of the Canadian government in responding to the human rights violation. In response, the Hon. John Baird (Minister of Foreign Affairs, CPC) reaffirms that while Badawi is not a Canadian citizen, Canada will continue to advocate on his behalf. MP Pierre-Luc Dusseault (Sherbrooke, NDP) subsequently requests an answer to the same question.

On 30 January 2015, MP Maria Mourani (Ahunistic, Ind) echoes concerns regarding the well-being of Raif Badawi. She specifies that Badawi’s wife and children are currently residing in Sherbrooke, Quebec, and that the Premier of Quebec is prepared to take Badawi in. In response, MP David Anderson (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, CPC) states that the government continues to call for clemency in the case, and that it will continue to promote human rights.

On 30 January 2015, the Hon. John McCallum (Markham – Unionville, Lib) cites the recent massacre of Pakistani schoolchildren by the Taliban which included many injured. He requests that the Canadian government assist families of these children, who require reconstructive surgery, in obtaining their visas in a timely matter and perhaps further assistance.

### *Rebuilding:*

On 28 January 2015 MP Ted Opitz (Etobicoke Centre, CPC) calls on the government to re-affirm and update its actions in support of Ukraine. In response, the Right Hon. Stephan Harper (Prime Minister, CPC) affirmed Canada’s support for Ukraine, “Today the government announced additional support to assist Ukraine as it works to rebuild itself into a prosperous country, free from Russian aggression.” He further goes on, “This additional support will assist Ukraine’s newly elected government to stabilize the economy and stimulate sustainable growth.” Concluding with, “we will continue to condemn the ongoing military aggression by the Putin regime, which is solely responsible for the violence and disruption.”

On 29 January 2015, MP Maria Mourani (Ahuntsic, Ind) speaks in regards to humanitarian assistance for Syrian refugees. She argues that it is clear that “the international community, which includes Canada, is not doing enough. Right now, 40% of Syrians in need – of a total 12.2 million civilians – are not being reached by UN humanitarian assistance and humanitarian operations.” She continues, “The UN would need \$2.9 billion to fund these operations. However, UN agencies have received less than half of this amount...” Moreover, Canada has not been doing enough in terms of refugee resettlement and humanitarian admission of refugees. She points out that while Germany has given asylum to 20,000 refugees and Switzerland to 10,000, Canada has been unable to settle 1,300 refugees since December 2014.

### *Summary of Findings:*

Although it was not mentioned above, one of the most discussed topics in Parliament during the January session was Canada’s deployment of troops to Iraq to combat ISIL (Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant) terrorism. Unfortunately, the issue was not presented and discussed in a framework relating to R2P, and thus was not accounted for under the prevention, reaction or rebuilding categories. In this regards, the opposition consistently critiqued the actions of the Conservative government relating to accountability and transparency of the mission. To conclude, the topics which were mentioned most often were the crises in the Ukraine and Canada’s involvement, and the detainment of Raif Badawi in Saudi Arabia. Topics also mentioned include, Canada’s response to tackle terrorism following the attacks in Paris, touching upon anti-Semitism, and also, humanitarian assistance in Syria.

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