



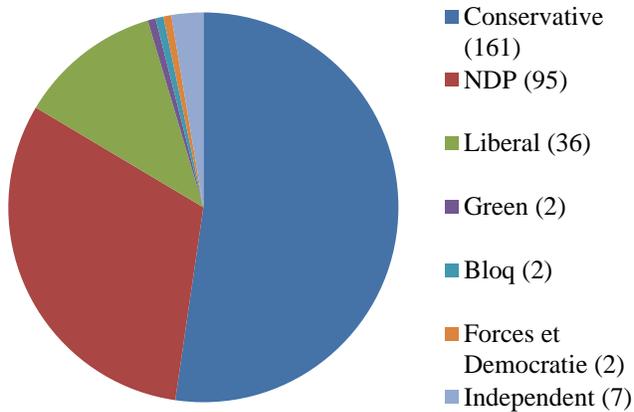
Canadian Parliamentary Division Monthly Report

June 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:

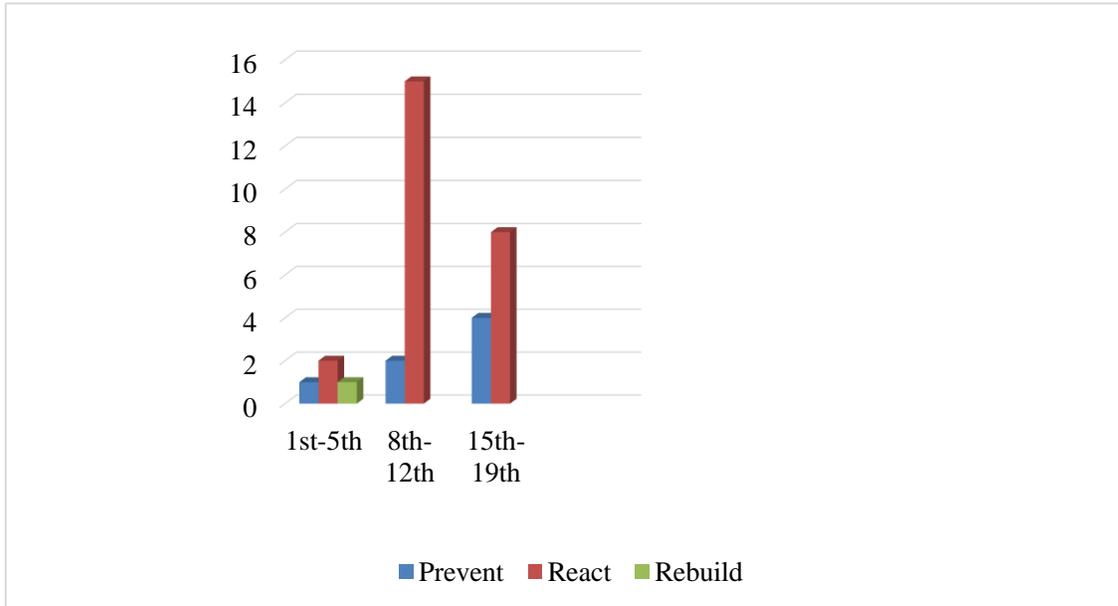
Bill C-544, Act to amend the Auditor General Act

Bill C-689, Act to enact the Global Human Rights Accountability Act and to make related amendments to the Special Economic Measures Act and the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act

Bill S-4, Act to amend the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act

Bill S-7, Act to amend the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, the Civil Marriage Act and the Criminal Code and to make consequential amendments to other Acts

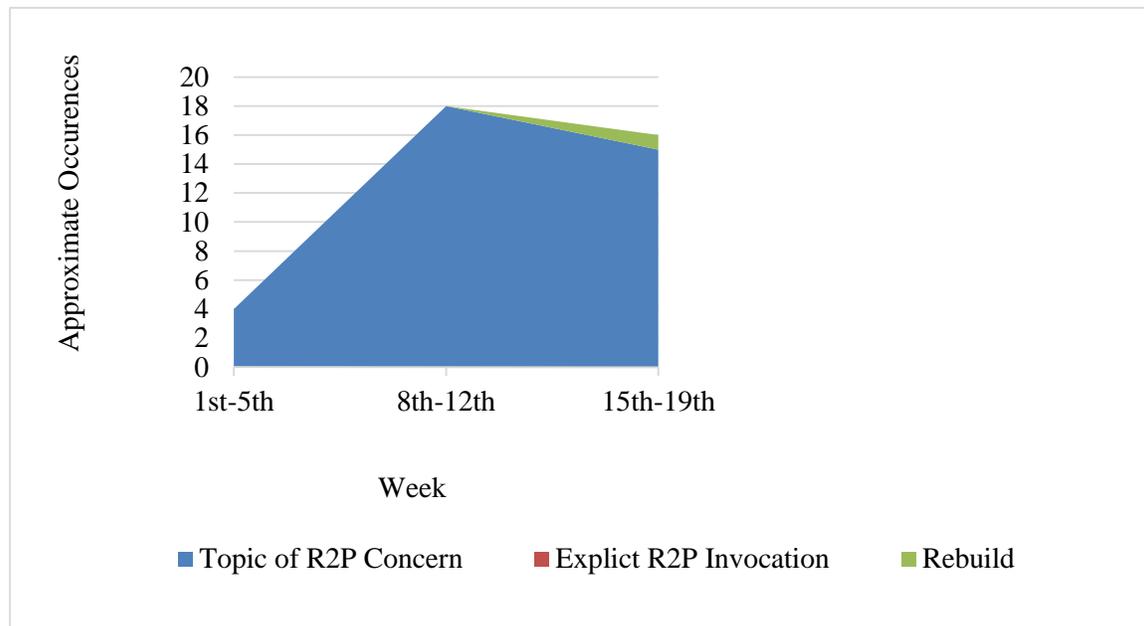
How Many Times R2P was mentioned weekly:



Explanation of Findings:

R2P was not mentioned explicitly during the month of June. The react category from the 1st to the 15th scored the highest numbers. Please see the react section below for further details.

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

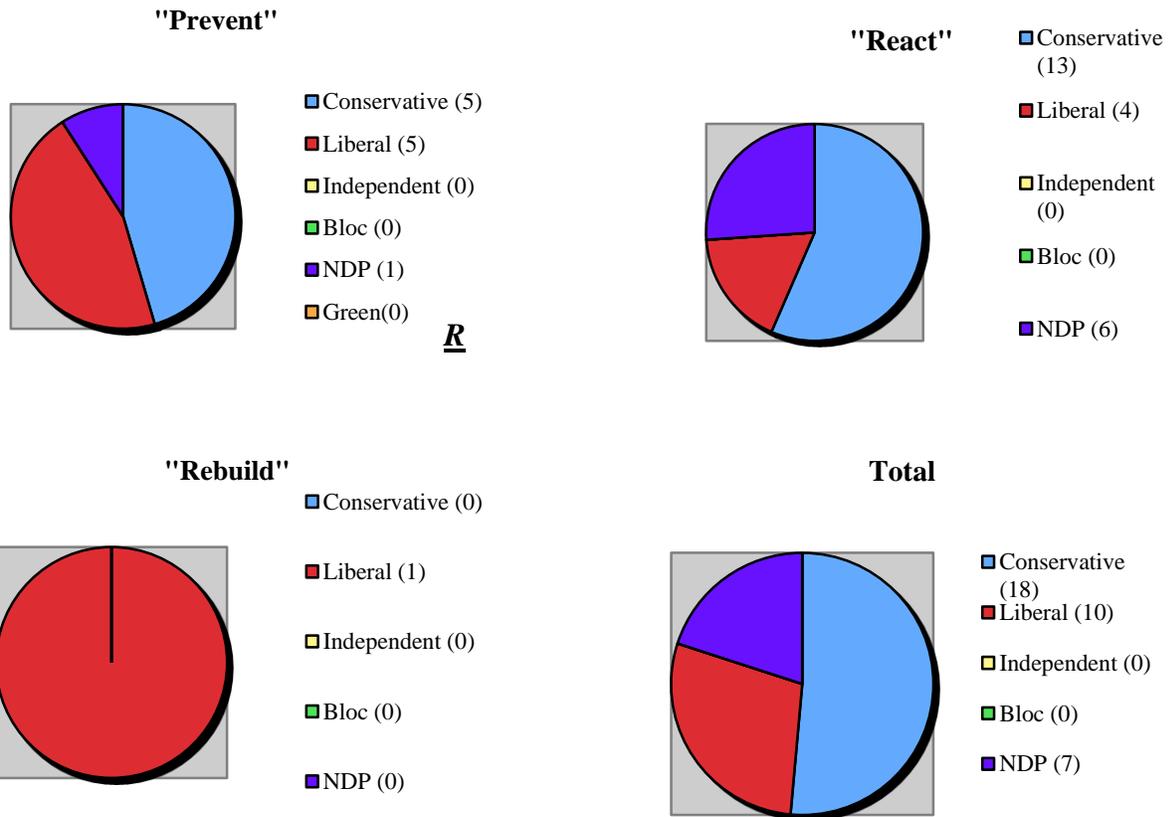


Explanation of Findings:

R2P was not explicitly mentioned during the month of June, topics of concern dominated the entire session.

Break Down 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.**



Explanation of Findings:

Following an examination of parliamentary discussions in June 2015, it can be concluded that there has been no specific mention of R2P in the House of Commons. Nonetheless, Members of Parliament across all parties appeal to Parliament with regards to humanitarian concerns internationally and in varying contexts. Calls to action ranged from local level human rights awareness, in the case of discrimination against individuals suffering from Albinism in Africa, to calls for refugee recognition for individuals from Burundi, to calls for high-level intervention diplomatic intervention in Saudia Arabia and sanctions against individuals from Russia.

Prevention:

On 5 June 2015, MP Lysane Blanchette-Lamothe (Pierrefonds-Dollard, NDP) discusses the current situation of Burundians refugees to Canada. She argues that the Canadian Border Services Agency continues to deport Burundians despite the worsening political situation in Burundi, which the Canadian Council for Refugees has recognized as catastrophic. She questions how the Minister of Foreign Affairs can justify advising Canadians to leave Burundi amidst the conflict, while continuing to deport Burundians. In response, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Costas Menegakis (CPC) replies that decisions regarding deportation are evaluated and made by qualified individuals and that the safety of Canadians comes first.

On 9 June 2015, Hon. Irwin Cotler (Mount Royal, Lib) re-introduces Bill C-689, Act to enact the Global Human Rights Accountability Act and moved to make related amendments to the Special Economic Measures Act and the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act. The Act, also known as the Magnitsky human rights accountability act name after Moscow lawyer Sergei Magnitsky who was tortured and murdered for speaking out against corporate tax fraud in Russia, seeks to sanction human rights violators through travel bans and asset freezes. Cotler urges the House to take over the bill or pass similar legislation out of “solidarity with the victims of human rights violations and those who struggle valiantly on their behalf in Russia and around the world.” The motions of the bill are adopted, read for the first time and printed.

On 12 June 2015, MP Lois Brown (Newmarket-Aurora, CPC) and Hon. Mauril Bélanger (Ottawa—Vanier, Lib.) both express concern for the safety of individuals in Africa who suffer from the disease of Albinism. They both contend that individuals with Albinism face discrimination, attacks and possibly murder on the basis of their condition. Bélanger calls on all parliamentarians to educate their communities to fight against prejudice and protect the fundamental rights of all persons with Albinism.

On 17 June 2015, Hon. Mauril Bélanger (Ottawa—Vanier, Lib.) calls on the Government of Canada to expedite family reunification applications for Burundians seeking refugee status. Given the worsening political situation in Burundi, Bélanger wishes to confirm that the Canadian Government would “temporarily stop the 650 or so scheduled deportations of Burundian citizens.” Hon. Chris Alexander (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, CPC) responds that while the situation in Burundi is being closely followed, decisions regarding deportation are being carefully considered by qualified officers.

On 18 June 2015, Hon. Irwin Cotler (Mount Royal, Lib.) presents a petition for the Government of Canada and the members of Parliament to investigate human rights violations perpetrated by the Government of Venezuela, lead by President Nicolás Maduro, by conducting a study and first hand evaluation of the current situation. According to Cotler these abuses are underscored by the current hunger strike by the Venezuelan opposition leader Leopoldo López and former San Cristobal mayor Daniel Ceballos out of protest for their imprisonment.

Furthermore on 18 June 2015, Hon. Irwin Cotler (Mount Royal, Lib.) presents a petition on behalf of Canadians for the reunification of Iranian citizen and former political prisoner Seyamak Naderi who is living as a refugee in Albania. Cotler explains that Naderi’s health is in poor condition and

the petition asks that the Canadian Government expedite the recognition of Naderi as a refugee to unite him with his sister who is to take care of him in Canada. His supporters argue his safety is at peril if he returns to Iran. This petition is echoed by Mr. LaVar Payne (Medicine Hat, CPC).

Additionally on 18 June 2-15, Mr. LaVar Payne (Medicine Hat, CPC) presents a petition to “assist the current humanitarian crisis by accepting a group of Rohingya people as government-assisted refugees.

Reaction:

On 5 June 2015, MP James Rajotte (Edmonton-Leduc, CPC) cites recent media reports stating that “Vladimir Putin has broken the ceasefire in eastern Ukraine” and that “Ukrainian President Poroshenko is warning against a possible full-scale invasion from Russia.” In response, Deepak Obhrai (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and for International Human Rights, CPC) responded that Canada condemns any violation of the ceasefire treaty and that Canada will continue to work with NATO in responding to Russian military aggression. He states that Canada has led the way in terms of sanctioning those with ties to the Putin regime and that Canada Stands with a sovereign Ukraine.

On 8 June 2015 Marc Garneau (Westmount-Ville-Marie, Lib.) raises concern for the protection of human rights and well-being of Raif Badawi. He states that the Saudi Arabian Supreme Court continues to uphold the imprisonment and punishment of Badawi of \$330,000 fine and 1,000 lashes. At this time, Garneau asks for direct intervention from the Prime Minister with the King of Saudi Arabia to end this case of human rights abuse. This is following a unanimous motion made in April 2015 for Canadian intervention. In response, Hon. Rob Nicholson (Minister of Foreign Affairs, CPC) agrees that it is a clear violation of human rights and that Canadian Representatives have raised the issue with the Saudi Government.

Furthermore to the above on 8 June 2015, the issue is further pressed by Pierre-Luc Dusseault (Sherbrooke, NDP) and later Ms. Hélène Laverdière (Laurier—Sainte-Marie, NDP) where in both instances, the MPs highlight that, alongside the monetary fine and physical abuse Mr. Badawi will be subjected to, his 10 year prison sentence will be upheld. In his remark, Dusseault asks that the Canadian Government send a clear message to the Saudi Government that freedom of expression is a fundamental right that must be upheld. In addition, Laverdière suggests that high-level intervention must occur to prevent further human rights abuses. In both instances, Hon. Rob Nicholson (Minister of Foreign Affairs, CPC) agrees and reaffirms the MP’s that the Government is working to have Badawi released.

On 9 June 2015, MP Joyce Bateman (Winnipeg South Centre, CPC) praises Prime Minister Harper and the rest of the G7 countries for their continued action against Russian President Vladimir Putin through economic sanctions out of support for the protection of Ukraine’s sovereign borders.

On 11 June 2015, MP Ted Falk (Provencher, CPC) affirms the Royal Canadian Air Force for guarding Canada in continuing air strikes against ISIS in Syria and Iraq.

On 12 July 2015, MP Lysane Blanchette-Lamothe (Pierrefonds-Dollard, NDP), MP Wayne Marston (Hamilton East—Stoney Creek, NDP), and Hon. Irwin Cotler (Mount Royal, Lib.) continue to pressure the Canadian government to take action in the defense and protection of Raif Badawi. All cite the announcement from the Quebec Government that it would issue a selection certificate to Mr. Badawi on humanitarian grounds. However, they argue there has been no collective action from Ottawa, the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration or PM Stephen Harper, respectively. In response to all remarks, Hon. Deepak Obhrai (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and for International Human Rights, CPC) states that the Minister of Foreign Affairs spoke with Minister St-Pierre from the Quebec Government regarding the sentencing and agreed that the sentence was in violation of human dignity; the Canadian government will continue to press the Saudi Government until clemency is granted.

Furthermore on 12 June 2015, Hon. Deepak Obhrai (Calgary East, CPC) speaks to the protection of vulnerable people fleeing their countries due to persecution, devastating economic conditions and deteriorating security that in turn get exploited by human smugglers. Obhrai asks for governments to target and punish human smugglers, and praises Canada for doing its part in offering refugee status to those listed as vulnerable people through the UN.

On 16 June 2015, Hon. Peter Kent (Thornhill, CPC) calls on the House and the Government of Canada to expedite the recognition of Mr. Seymanak Naderi as a convention refugee. The individual endured torture and isolation as a political prisoner in Iran and is currently living in Albania as a refugee claimant in urgent need of care. According to Kent, Mr. Naderi is in danger of being executed if he returns to Iran.

On 18 June 2015, MP Sadia Groguhé (Saint-Lambert, NDP) comments on Canada's sanctions against Russia, questioning why a member of the Russian business elite Vladimir Yakunin is on the U.S. sanctions list and not on Canada's. Hon. Rob Nicholson (Minister of Foreign Affairs, CPC) responds that Canada is leading the way with sanctions, with over 270 individuals and entities listed - more than the U.S. and the E.U. The sentiment of Groguhé is echoed by Mr. Paul Dewar (Ottawa Centre, NDP) to which Nicholson responds that the Government of Canada is doing the right thing for Ukraine, Israel and Iraq.

Further to this, on 18 June 2015 Hon. Mauril Bélanger (Ottawa—Vanier, Lib.) calls on the Government of Canada to act on the current violence in Burundi brought about by the disregard for the 2000 Arusha Accord by the Government of Burundi. The petition calls on the Government of Canada to “temporarily suspend financial aid to Burundi until a legitimate election is held and to suspend the deporting of Burundian citizens...” Bélanger is seeking unanimous consent to table to petition, to which it was agreed.

On 19 June 2015, Mr. Royal Galipeau (Ottawa—Orléans, CPC) commends the Government of Canada for voting to launch air strikes against ISIS, given their attacks against minority religious groups including Eritrean Christians, Coptic Christians, Jews and Muslims.

Furthermore on 19 June 2015, Hon. Irwin Cotler (Mount Royal, Lib.) makes a statement asking the Government of Canada to hold the Iranian government accountable for its poor human rights record, which includes unparalleled numbers of executions and wide-spread domestic repression.

Rebuilding:

On 17 June 2015, Hon. Irwin Cotler (Mount Royal, Lib) makes a statement in solidarity of four international political prisoners, affirming Canada's support for their cause. This included Saudi Arabian blogger Raif Badawi, Venezuelan democratic leader Leopoldo Lopez, Iranian Freedom of religion advocate Ayatollah Boroujerdi, the persecuted leadership of the Baha'i community; and the Mauritanian anti-slavery advocate Biram Dah Abeid.

Summary of Findings:

Members continue to call for high-level action in the case of blogger Raif Badawi, a case of humanitarian abuse requiring intervention that has yet to be resolved. Across all parties, members ask that the Canadian government provide refuge for persecuted and vulnerable groups from around the globe, particularly for affected by the current political instability in Burundi. Additionally, some call on the government to better examine cases of human rights abuse in Venezuela and Iran, stopping short of calling for direct intervention. Overall, this month has seen a great and varied amount of discussion within the context of the protection of fundamental human rights and Canada's role in securing those rights through domestic and international channels. Ultimately, Responsibility to Protect has yet to be explicitly involved.

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