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Where is Stephen Harper?

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Ottawa -- As I leave Ottawa to participate in the International AIDS Conference in Toronto, joining 24,000 professionals, non-governmental organization representatives and concerned individuals, I keep wondering why my Prime Minister won't be there to welcome the world (AIDS Conference 2006 -- Aug. 12). Canada is the host for this important congregation of those determined to beat this scourge. Where is its national leader? Does Mr. Harper not value our international image or the opportunity to take global leadership on this issue? How can he justify forfeiting this role to others?

I am ashamed. My Prime Minister represents everyone in this nation, including those who are suffering from HIV/AIDS. As the leader of a G8 country, he should exercise his obligation and this unique opportunity to represent the developed countries' moral responsibility to eradicate this international pandemic. This is bad politics, shows poor judgment and demonstrates a lack of humanity.

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