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Human rights activists call for moratorium on Taser use

By THE CANADIAN PRESS

MONTREAL - Several groups of Quebec community activists want a ban on the use of stun guns by police across Canada.

The groups, including Amnesty International, argued in Montreal Thursday that not enough is known about the risks posed by the Taser weapon to allow police to continue to use it.

Several people have died in recent months after being shocked by Taser-wielding police during arrests, including two cases in Quebec in the past six months.

Warren Allmand, a former solicitor general now with the International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group, says recent reviews did not go far enough to study the medical damage caused by Tasers.

Manufacturer Taser International maintains the deaths cannot be blamed on the device, which immobilizes suspects with an electrical shock.

Last fall, a witness captured the death of Robert Dziekanski on video after he was shocked at the Vancouver International Airport by the RCMP.