

NATIONAL POST

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Union slams Carleton for dropping professor

Terrorism Suspect

Presented by



Joanne Laucius, Canwest News Service



Carleton University "cravenly caved to external pressure" when it relieved terrorism suspect Hassan Diab of a summer teaching job, says the executive director of the union that represents university professors.

There were no questions about Mr. Diab's qualifications, and both the provost and the dean signed off on the contract hiring after consulting with the university's lawyer, said James Turk, executive director of the Canadian Association of University Teachers, which represents about 65,000 university teachers, librarians and researchers.

The university reversed its decision to hire Mr. Diab to fill in for a few weeks in an introductory sociology course and "summarily fired" him after the Jewish advocacy group B'nai Brith released a statement critical of the hiring, Mr. Turk said.

Mr. Diab was terminated without consulting with the dean or the departmental chair, he said.

"They did this solely because of external pressure. It's an abdication of the responsibility of universities to be insulated from these kinds of pressures."

Carleton University declined yesterday to comment on the decision to terminate Mr. Diab, pointing to a statement released on Tuesday saying the lecturer was being replaced "in the interest of providing its students with a stable, productive academic environment that is conducive to learning."

The Lebanese-born Mr. Diab is accused in France of killing four people and injuring dozens more in the 1980 bombing of a Paris synagogue. He faces an extradition hearing in January and is under virtual house arrest. He must wear an monitoring bracelet, must report regularly to the RCMP and cannot own a cellphone.

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