

March 21, 2011

The Honourable Robert Nicholson
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
Department of Justice Canada
284 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0H8

By mail and email: <mailto:Nicholson.R@parl.gc.ca>

Dear Minister Nicholson:

I am writing to you on behalf of the 54,000 members of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers about the case of Canadian citizen and university professor Dr. Hassan Diab.

Our Union is concerned about the nature of the information being presented in this extradition case.

The French Government seeks the extradition of professor Diab on charges related to the bombing of a French synagogue in 1980. While our Union abhors and condemns attacks on any house of worship, we are extremely concerned about the use of secret information, from unidentified sources in these proceedings.

Recently, the court refused to exclude "very problematic" and "very confusing" handwriting evidence against Dr. Diab saying that Canadian standards of evidence do not apply in an extradition case.

The court also refused to admit finger and palm print evidence. The court dismissed it as "competing inference" – which is not allowed in an extradition case.

CUPW believes that in any extradition case, the court must ensure there is sufficient and reliable evidence to support the request. This does not appear to be the case in Dr. Diab's extradition hearing. It appears the source of much of the evidence against Dr. Diab is unknown. This is very problematic as the reliability of unsourced evidence cannot be adequately tested or challenged.

As a result, the Canadian Union of Postal Workers is asking you to exercise the power you have under the extradition law to immediately halt the proceedings against Dr. Diab.

Thank you for your attention to this very serious matter.

Yours truly,



Denis Lemelin
National President
Canadian Union of Postal Workers

Cc: Justice for Hassan Diab Committee: diabsupport@gmail.com

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