

## Ottawa prof offered to take lie-detector test

### RCMP refused deal, terror suspect says

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The Ottawa university professor at the centre of an international terrorist investigation has told the Ottawa Citizen that he offered to submit to an independent liedetector test - but the RCMP snubbed him.

Hassan Diab, 57, said he agreed to a test by a "mutually agreeable" polygraph examiner after the RCMP asked him to take one of theirs.

"If he passes, the French drop the charges - that was our offer, but they were unwilling," confirmed Diab's lawyer Donald Bayne. "They didn't respond, which is a response in itself."

Diab, a Lebanese-born Canadian citizen, is facing extradition to France where prosecutors allege that he planted a bomb outside a Paris synagogue 30 years ago. The blast killed four and injured at least 40 others.

Following a protracted twoyear extradition hearing, Diab was committed for extradition in early June by Ontario Superior Court Justice Robert Maranger.

Maranger said that under extradition law he had no choice but said the French case against Diab is weak and if Diab were tried in Canada it was unlikely he would be convicted on the evidence they presented.

During two Citizen interviews - his first since his arrest in November 2008 - Diab revealed details about being tailed by the RCMP during the 13 months before he was detained.

He said he "never guessed" it was the Mounties following him and doubts he was aware of all the surveillance.

Diab meticulously recorded all the tailing incidents, including licence-plate numbers, in emails to his lawyer and had a numbered file with the Ottawa police to whom he also reported the surveillance.

At one point, he said, he called 911: "Ottawa police turned up, but when I showed them the two cars they just left."

Nor did Ottawa police appear to take any action after any of his other calls -



CREDIT: Wayne Cuddington, Postmedia  
 Hassan Diab is a Carleton University professor who is fighting extradition to France, where officials allege he is a terrorist responsible for bombing a synagogue in Paris 30 years ago.

though according to Diab they did check the registration numbers he gave them.

Diab says he and his partner, Rania Tfaily, also caught a man attempting to break into their condominium apartment.

"Rania saw someone trying to open the door and she said, 'How can I help you?' He started mumbling that he was lost and was trying to visit a friend. She asked what the friend's name was and he said, 'Oh it doesn't matter, it's just old age.' Then we saw him in the parking lot in a car.

"I drove her to work and I came back, the same car was still there but with another person in it."

Shortly before the RCMP began tailing Diab, a French journalist visited him at the University of Ottawa and told him he was suspected of the synagogue bombing.

In November 2009, a year after his arrest and after police apparently found that Diab's finger and palm prints did not match suspects' prints found in Paris, Diab said the RCMP urged him informally to take their polygraph test.

According to Diab, an officer said: 'We know you want to clear your name and look good to the friends who are supporting you. How about taking a polygraph test?'

"I said, 'I have to ask my lawyer,' and he replied, 'You can decide this on your own.'"

The RCMP approached Diab about taking a polygraph twice - once at his apartment during one of their many random visits and another time during a court recess, he said.

They did not approach Bayne, although Diab urged them to do so.

When Diab told Bayne about the RCMP approaches, the lawyer countered with his own offer.

"Diab assured me he was innocent. I asked him, 'Are you willing to do this?' and he said, 'Absolutely.' So I went to the authorities and said, 'We will do this, but only if you honour the result.'"

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