

European Group News

CAMPAIGN UPDATE: Hassan Diab

November 24, 2014

As many of you are aware, since the Fall of 2008 France has been seeking the extradition of Canadian citizen Dr. Hassan Diab, a sociologist who had been teaching at the University of Ottawa and Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada. The French authorities allege that Hassan Diab was involved in a bombing near a Paris synagogue in October 1980. From the outset, Dr. Diab has asserted his innocence and condemned the attack.

Despite the extreme weakness of the case put forward by French authorities, Canada agreed to the extradition of Dr. Diab, which took place on November 14, 2014. Dr. Diab is currently incarcerated in France under judicial investigation ("mis en examen"). He can expect to remain incarcerated for up to two years or more, while waiting for the French magistrate to conclude his investigation and decide whether or not to put him on trial.

The European Group has previously expressed grave concerns about the extradition law and process in Canada, as evidenced by the case of Hassan Diab. In a petition sent to the Canadian Minister of Justice in September 2011, European Group members urged the Canadian government to legally remedy and reform aspects of Canadian extradition law that are not currently in conformity with international norms concerning respect for due process and principles of fundamental justice. See:

http://www.justiceforhassandiab.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/European_Group_to_Nicholson_Sep2011.pdf

At this time, we (Maevé McMahon and the Hassan Diab Support Committee) urge you to familiarize yourselves with the latest information about this travesty of justice, and to bring this case to the attention of other individuals and organizations concerned with due process, human rights, and social justice. Latest information can be found at <http://www.justiceforhassandiab.org>

From the outset, we have been deeply concerned that Dr. Diab is wrongfully accused. Now that he has been extradited, we are concerned that, following a lengthy detention and investigation, he may also be facing wrongful conviction and life imprisonment.

We will keep you informed about this case. In the meantime, please email diabsupport@gmail.com if you can assist in identifying any individual or organizational contacts in France that can help with public education and advocacy on behalf of Dr. Diab. Also, please let us know if you can assist with English to French translation of documents.

Maevé McMahon and the Hassan Diab Support Committee