

Independent Jewish Voices Outraged By Supreme Court's Decision On Diab Case And Israel Lobby Support

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OTTAWA- Independent Jewish Voices – Canada (IJV) was deeply troubled to learn that the Supreme Court of Canada refused to hear the case of Hassan Diab, and that the pro-Israel lobby group, the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA), is applauding this decision.

"The lack of due process under the law, and the obvious targeting of a Muslim and Arab man within a climate of Islamophobia and anti-Arab racism are symptoms of a terribly flawed legal system," says Tyler Levitan, spokesperson for IJV. "The corporate lobby group CIJA—which falsely claims to represent Canada's diverse Jewish communities—is acting contrary to Jewish and humanist values and straying far from the former role of mainstream Jewish organizations, which advocated strongly for civil rights and justice for all those living in Canada."

The evidence levelled against Dr. Diab is "confusing," "weak," and "suspect" according to an Ontario judge. His fingerprints do not match those of the suspect, and the evidence brought forth by the French authorities on this matter was even withdrawn, after several internationally-renowned hand-writing experts claimed that the French allegations were flawed and unreliable.

"Why is Canada permitting the extradition of a fellow citizen on very unsuitable grounds, and without providing him with a fair trial under due process of the law? France does not extradite its own citizens, but Canada is moving ahead with extraditing a fellow citizen based on either extremely flawed or secret evidence," says Levitan.

"We are very worried that Dr. Diab will not be subject to a fair trial in France. Their anti-terrorism laws and use of secret evidence will be used unjustly against Dr. Diab to push for a conviction. This is a sad time for all of us who cherish justice and the rule of law. Shame on the Canadian government, the judicial system and the pro-Israel lobby for bringing such injustice to Dr. Diab and his family," concludes Levitan.

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