

## **Subject: Ensuring Justice for Hassan Diab**

Dear Sir or Madam:

We, the Hassan Diab Support Committee, are writing to request your assistance in raising public awareness about Dr. Hassan Diab's case, and in ensuring the strict observance of justice in his case. We are a group of concerned citizens in North America and Europe dedicated to ensuring that Dr. Diab receives due process and fair treatment entitled to all accused under French law.

Dr. Diab is a Canadian citizen and university professor who was recently extradited from Canada to France in connection with a bombing that killed 4 and injured approximately 40 near a synagogue on the rue Copernic in Paris on October 3, 1980.

While we believe firmly in Hassan's innocence, we only ask that you join us in calling for a fair and transparent legal process, one that gives Hassan a real chance to demonstrate his innocence.

You may well ask why Dr. Diab's case should warrant special concern with regard to procedural fairness. In answer, we note that innocent men and women can, and sometimes are, wrongfully convicted and punished even in the best systems of justice. In Hassan's case, we further note that the risk of wrongful conviction is greatly increased due to the circumstances surrounding his case.

- Dr. Diab's was extradited to France based on an extremely unreliable handwriting analysis report that was discredited by five world-renowned handwriting experts who testified that an objective analysis would actually point to Dr. Diab's innocence.
- Two previous handwriting reports against Dr. Diab were withdrawn after it was shown that many of the comparison writings that were "matched" to those of the suspect were actually written by someone other than Dr. Diab.
- The Canadian extradition judge described the handwriting evidence against Dr. Diab as "very problematic", "convoluted", "very confusing", and with "conclusions that are suspect". He also stated that the case against Dr. Diab is "weak" and that "the prospects of conviction in the context of a fair trial seem unlikely".
- The rules under which anti-terrorism investigations and prosecutions operate allow for exceptional practices, such as the use of secret intelligence from unknown sources that cannot be tested or challenged. This runs contrary to protections put in place centuries ago to protect accused persons against wrongful conviction.
- Evidence showing that Dr. Diab's palm and finger prints do not match those of the suspect has been suppressed.
- There is a strong desire for closure and resolution of a deadly crime that has remained unsolved for decades.
- The accusations concern politically charged and emotionally loaded words like "terrorism" and "anti-semitism".
- Dr. Diab falls into social categories of "otherness", including being of Middle Eastern background.
- Dr. Diab has been torn away from all moral supports, including family, friends, and supporters who remain in his home country, Canada; and he must defend himself in an unfamiliar legal system and language.

These are just some of the many factors that increase the risk of wrongful conviction and impede the attainment of true justice in Dr. Diab's case.

Hassan received support from thousands of Canadians and numerous labour, human rights, academic, and Jewish organizations who expressed their concerns about the evidence in the case. These organizations include:

Amnesty International Canada  
British Columbia Civil Liberties Association  
Canadian Association of University Teachers  
Canadian Civil Liberties Association  
Canadian Union of Postal Workers  
Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice  
Civil Liberties Association - National Capital Region  
Comité Justice Sociale des Soeurs Auxiliatrices  
Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada  
European Group for the Study of Deviance and Social Control  
Independent Jewish Voices  
International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group  
Ligue des droits et libertés  
National Union of Public and General Employees  
Public Service Alliance of Canada  
United Jewish People's Order

We believe it is a matter of great importance to the people of France and Canada that due process of law be strictly observed in Hassan's case, and most especially with regard to the presumption of innocence. Wrongful conviction will not bring justice to Hassan or to the victims of the rue Copernic attack.

Sincerely,

Rachel Anjorin  
Judy Deutsch  
Ria Heynen  
Colin Stuart  
Elizabeth Whitmore

Nick Aplin  
Mary Foster  
Donald J. Pratt  
Vannina Sztainbok  
Jo Wood

Nawal Copty  
Peter Gose  
Rania Tfaily  
Bob Thomson

for the Hassan Diab Support Committee  
<http://www.justicepourhassandiab.org>  
[diabsupport@gmail.com](mailto:diabsupport@gmail.com)

December 2014