

UJPO Supports Hassan Diab

On September 15, 2014 the United Jewish People's Order wrote a letter of solidarity for Hassan Diab, a university instructor from Carlton University sought for questioning by the French government for his alleged role in a 1980 Paris bombing that claimed four lives. The RCMP arrested him in November 2008, following a request from France. He has maintained his innocence throughout this ordeal. Until November 14, 2014 the French government had not charged Dr. Diab with any crime. His fingerprints, palm prints, handwriting, and physical description did not match those of the suspect. Evidence brought forth by the French authorities on this matter was even withdrawn, after several internationally renowned handwriting experts claimed that the French allegations were flawed and unreliable. Yet, Canada has been very committed to extraditing him overseas to France to face a hearing likely based on unknown sources of evidence.

Dr. Diab was committed for extradition by an Ontario Superior Court Judge, and an extradition order was signed as far back as April 2012. The Supreme Court of Canada declined to hear the appeal in Hassan Diab's case. Consequently, on Friday November 14, 2014 Hassan Diab was extradited to France before he could say goodbye to his pregnant partner and their child. He will now have to remain in prison for another 18 months in Paris while a trial is being prepared.

Canada has permitted this extradition on very unsuitable grounds, and without providing Dr. Diab with a fair trial under due process of the law. France does not extradite its own citizens, yet Canada has allowed a Canadian citizen to be extradited based on extremely flawed and secret evidence. As members of the United Jewish People's Order (UJPO), we are very worried that Dr. Diab will not have a fair trial in France. French anti-terrorism laws and secret evidence will be used unjustly against Dr. Diab to push for a conviction; even more so in the wake of the massacre at Charlie Hebdo and the ensuing increase in Islamophobia in France and Europe. We hold the Canadian government and the judicial system accountable for bringing such injustice to Hassan Diab and his family.

UJPO was founded on the principles of social justice over 87 years ago, and we continue to fight for these principles and oppose injustice when and where we see it. In the case of Hassan Diab we support, along with countless other civil society organizations and individuals who support human rights, the right to a fair trial and accountability of our judicial and our elected officials. It is not coincidental that this comes at a time of increasing lack of due process under the law, and the obvious targeting of Muslims, people of colour, and Indigenous peoples within a climate of Islamophobia and racism that is on the rise internationally. The legal system that claims to be based on fairness and equality appears to be warped.

UJPO calls on all people of conscience to call for the immediate repatriation of Hassan Diab to Canada, and for these erroneous charges to be dropped. Please see the below links for more information on what you can do as well as for more background on Dr. Diab's case. And please, if you can, donate to the support fund.

For more information and updates on Hassan Diab's case:

<http://www.justiceforhassandiab.org/bring-hassan-home>

To make a donation:

<http://www.justiceforhassandiab.org/donate>

On behalf of United Jewish People's Order – Toronto

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