



Canadian Association of University Teachers
Association canadienne des professeurs et professeurs d'université

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June 27, 2017

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland
Minister of Foreign Affairs
125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2
Email: chrystia.freeland@international.gc.ca

The Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
284 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H8
Email: mcu@justice.gc.ca

Omar Alghabra
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs (Consular Affairs)
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
Email: Omar.Alghabra@parl.gc.ca

Dear Ministers Freeland and Wilson-Raybould, and Mr. Alghabra,

The Canadian Association of University Teachers is deeply concerned by the continuing detention of Dr. Hassan Diab, a dual Lebanese-Canadian citizen. Dr. Diab has been held by French authorities without charge since November 2014. French courts have on six occasions ordered his release on bail, and yet he remains behind bars. We urge you to call upon your French counterparts to secure his immediate release on bail.

CAUT has closely monitored Dr. Diab's case since his termination by Carleton University soon after the allegations against him became public. We've since been gravely concerned by the ongoing violations of his civil liberties and human rights.

There are serious and consistent doubts about the evidence presented against Dr. Diab. The physical evidence produced by French authorities was described during Dr. Diab's extradition hearing by the Superior Court Justice as "very problematic" and "suspect."

With no reliable physical evidence, French authorities are allegedly relying upon anonymous and unsourced intelligence -- intelligence that may have been obtained by torture. The unreliability of such evidence is well documented, and for Dr. Diab it represents his ongoing denial of fundamental justice. Dr. Diab has now spent more than 2 ½ years in a French prison cell, without formal charge or trial. This is a gross denial of human rights, and a failure of fundamental justice.

The Canadian government has an obligation to protect the civil liberties of its citizens and to uphold international human rights. The facts of this case clearly demand action on the part of Canadian authorities. We urge that the Canadian government advocate for Hassan Diab's release on bail without any further delay.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Robinson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Robinson
Executive Director

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