

May 1, 2017

BY E-MAIL

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, PC, PM,
Minister of Foreign Affairs
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

- and -

Mr. Omar Alghabra
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Freeland and Mr. Alghabra:

Hassan Diab, Canadian citizen unjustly imprisoned in France

On behalf of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), we are writing to you about the case of Dr. Hassan Diab, a Canadian citizen, sociology professor and CUPE member, who was unjustly extradited from Canada to France in November 2014. We urge you to raise Hassan's case with the French authorities. Hassan must be released from prison as soon as possible, and allowed to return to his home and family in Canada. At the very least, Hassan must be released on bail as the French investigative judges have ordered.

Dr. Diab was arrested in 2008, in connection with the deadly bombing of a Paris synagogue that occurred 28 years prior, in 1980, yet we believe there are valid reasons to be concerned about due process in this case. Hassan was extradited based solely on a widely-discredited handwriting report, even though his fingerprints, palm prints and physical description do not match those of the suspect. The Canadian extradition judge described the handwriting report as "illogical", "very problematic" and "suspect", but conceded that due to the low threshold for evidence under Canada's extradition law, that he was left with no choice but to commit Dr. Diab to extradition.

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We are aware that as recent as April 24, 2017, two French investigative judges ordered the release of Dr. Diab on bail. The French judges found that there is “consistent evidence” that Hassan was not in France at the time of the 1980 bombing. This is the sixth release order for Dr. Diab. William Bourdon, Hassan’s lawyer in France, noted that it is “unprecedented” in France to have multiple release orders of investigative judges overturned by the Court of Appeal.

Considering recent developments, Dr. Diab’s continued incarceration is wholly unjust. It is past time for the Canadian government to come to the aid of a Canadian citizen, and end this travesty of justice. We again urge you to take the necessary steps to ensure Dr. Diab is granted bail and returned to his home and family in Canada.

Yours truly,



MARK HANCOCK
National President



CHARLES FLEURY
National Secretary-Treasurer

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cc: T. Jarzebiak; M. Butler; D. Ivanochko; K. Cameron; H. Laverdière, NDP Critic on Foreign Affairs;
P. Kent, Conservative Party Critic on Foreign Affairs; CLC International; Hassan Diab Support Committee