

**To:** pm@pm.gc.ca

**CC:** chrystia.freeland@international.gc.ca, jody.wilson-raybould@parl.gc.ca, omar.alghabra@parl.gc.ca

**Subject:** Bring Dr. Hassan Diab Back to Canada

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

I am writing to you about the case of Dr. Hassan Diab, a Canadian citizen and sociology professor who was unjustly extradited from Canada to France over three years ago. Since then, he has been locked up in a French prison cell, deprived of his freedom and torn from his home and family in Canada.

Hassan was extradited based solely on a discredited handwriting analysis report. The Canadian extradition judge described the report as “illogical”, “very problematic”, and “convoluted”. However, the judge stated that the low threshold for evidence under Canada’s extradition law left him no choice but to commit Dr. Diab to extradition.

**I urge you to work towards the immediate release of Dr. Hassan Diab and his return to his home and family in Canada.**

On November 6, 2017, a French judge ordered the release of Dr. Hassan Diab on bail. This marks the **eighth release order of Hassan Diab by four different French judges**. However, as on seven prior occasions, the prosecutor filed an appeal and the French Court of Appeal overturned the release decision because of the political climate in France.

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. “After 36 years and since no one else was indicted, the court of appeal is clinging to Hassan Diab. He is detained because of fear of being accused of laxity in the context of today’s fight against terrorism in France. Such a situation would be inconceivable in an ordinary law situation.”

The French investigative judges in charge of the case found “consistent evidence” that Dr. Diab was not in France at the time of the 1980 Paris bombing outside a Paris synagogue that tragically killed four and injured dozens. Official documents as well as several witnesses confirmed that Dr. Diab was studying and taking his university exams in Lebanon at that time.

Dr. Hassan Diab is innocent. His fingerprints, palm prints, and physical description do not match those of the suspect. He is not an anti-Semite, and he strongly condemns all forms of bigotry and violence. Hassan must not be in prison for a crime that he did not commit and that runs contrary to everything he has ever stood for.

**Since his ordeal began in Canada in 2008, Hassan has been imprisoned or under very strict bail conditions for over nine years.**

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. I urge you to heed the calls of thousands of Canadians and numerous human rights and civil liberties organisations and take immediate steps to prevent Hassan Diab’s wrongful conviction. Bring Hassan back to his home in Canada.

Sincerely,

**Name**

**Address**

**Phone number**