



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

May 2, 2018

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0G2

Dear Prime Minister,

I write to you today on behalf of the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) to urge your government to establish an independent and public inquiry into the treatment of Dr. Hassan Diab.

As you are aware, Dr. Diab is a dual Lebanese-Canadian citizen who, until 2007, led the life of an academic, conducting research and teaching sociology at Carleton University and the University of Ottawa. He was arrested by the RCMP after French authorities accused him of involvement in a 1980 terrorist bombing in Paris. The allegations against Dr. Diab were based on secret, unsourced evidence and what experts viewed as deeply flawed handwriting analysis. Despite the lack of evidence against him and the existence of information that he was not in Paris at the time of the bombing, Dr. Diab was nevertheless extradited to France where he was held alone in his cell for up to 22 hours a day and subjected to abuse by French security officials.

Over his more than three years in solitary confinement, investigative judges in France ruled eight times that there was not enough evidence to continue to detain Dr. Diab and that he should be released on bail. Each time, the French prosecutor appealed the ruling and had the bail revoked. French judicial investigators, who travelled to Beirut as part of their probe, have confirmed that he was in Lebanon writing exams at the time of the bombing.

Recently, there have been new and deeply disturbing revelations of the role that Canadian officials played in Dr. Diab's case. It is demanding of a public inquiry that evidence that would have pointed to Dr. Diab's innocence was apparently withheld by Canadian authorities. We ask that an independent and public inquiry look at the actions of Canadian officials and review Canada's extradition agreements in order to raise the burden of proof required in such cases.

Dr. Diab, his family, and all Canadians deserve to know why and how the Government of Canada allowed and enabled the suffering and the jailing of one of its citizens in a foreign prison for 1,156 days without proper evidence. I urge you to act on this matter immediately.

Yours 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

cc: The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Foreign Affairs Canada
The Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada