

## **BCCLA Reacts to Release of Report into the Extradition of Dr. Hassan Diab**

**OTTAWA (27 July 2019)** – The BC Civil Liberties Association (BCCLA) reacted this morning to the release of the report into the extradition of Dr. Hassan Diab. Josh Paterson, Executive Director of the BCCLA, stated:

“If Canada’s horrendous treatment of Dr. Hassan Diab was legal, then Canada’s extradition law is severely broken and must be changed. This report makes clear that our extradition laws are deeply unfair.

Dr. Diab was shipped off for lengthy imprisonment in a foreign country on a flimsy case, without even having the right to see and to respond to the evidence against him. Canada’s laws must be changed to prevent anything like this from happening again in the future.

The report makes suggestions as to how federal lawyers might conduct their cases better in order to protect Canadians’ rights – with respect, that’s not good enough. The law must be changed to guarantee fairness for Canadians whose freedom and lives are at risk.

We continue to be inspired by the courage of Dr Diab, Dr Rania Tfaily and their family who have fought for years to bring Canada’s practices and laws to light. Their lives and those of their children have been completely disrupted while Dr Diab was torn from his family and thrown into solitary confinement in France, with no opportunity to properly defend himself. It must not happen again.”

Along with the Justice for Hassan Diab coalition, Amnesty International Canada and others, BCCLA has advocated in court and to the government for the just treatment of Dr. Diab, and for Extradition Act reform, for over eight years. In 2018, the BCCLA gave its highest award for achievement in human rights – the Reg Robson Award – to Dr. Diab, Dr. Tfaily and their lawyer Don Bayne, LL.D., in recognition of their long fight for justice for their family and for everyone in Canada.

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Josh Paterson

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