

**Subject: Hassan Diab, Canadian Citizen Unjustly Imprisoned in France**

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

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 in November 2014. Since then, he has been locked up in a French prison cell 22 hours a day, deprived of his freedom and torn from his family, friends, and community in Canada.

**I urge you to work towards the immediate release of Dr. Hassan Diab on bail, as French investigative judges have ordered, and secure his urgent return to his family and home in Canada.**

Dr. Diab was extradited based on a widely discredited handwriting analysis report that compared his handwriting to 5 words on a Paris hotel registration card from 1980. 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.

On 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. All previous release orders have been appealed by the prosecutor and overturned by the Court of Appeal.

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.”

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 face life in prison for a crime that he did not commit and that runs contrary to everything he has ever stood for.

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 urge you to take the necessary steps to ensure Dr. Diab is granted bail and returned to his home and family in Canada.

Sincerely,

Name

Address

Phone number