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SENT VIA EMAIL

The Right Honorable Justin Trudeau
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON KIA OA2

Dear Mr. Trudeau,

On behalf of the 260,000 members of CUPE Ontario, we are writing to express our disgust and dismay over the mistreatment and injustice in the extradition of CUPE 4600 member, Dr. Hassan Diab. As we have previously written to your government, Hassan spent more than three years in French detention with no charges being laid. The Kafkaesque circumstances surrounding his extradition by Canada and imprisonment without charge by France were, quite frankly, a legal farce that should embarrass all Canadians who believe in due process and natural justice.

Now, we have learned, through media reports, that the theft of Hassan's liberty, which first began under the Harper government but continues under yours, involve the active complicity of Canadian government officials.

Indeed, a confidential memo obtained by CBC News reveals that Canadian Department of Justice lawyers actively campaigned to have France come up with new evidence as the case against Hassan was "falling apart".

Is this the justice and support that Canadians should expect; that citizens can be abducted from our communities by invisible bureaucrats and detained in foreign jails even though overwhelming evidence of their innocence was known? Or, possibly of even greater concern, that further evidence that could have assisted in clearing them of charges will not be shared by our government with either their defense or with the Canadian judge determining their extradition? All of these injustices, and many more, have happened to Dr. Hassan Diab and it is imperative that your government makes sure they never happen again.

We join Amnesty International Canada, the BC Civil Liberties Association, the Canadian Association of University Teachers, the Canadian Union of Postal Workers and other civil society and human rights groups in calling for a thorough and independent public inquiry into CUPE member Hassan Diab's extradition. We demand to know what factors caused this travesty to take place and what steps and accountability will be applied to ensure this never happens again.

Fred Hahn
President

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Candace Rennick
Secretary-Treasurer

Prime Minister, an internal review by the Department of Justice is not sufficient. As noted in an open letter, dated May 2, 2018, by Amnesty International Canada and the BCCLA to the Ministers of Justice and Global Affairs:

"[Given the revelations that Canadian government lawyers may be directly implicated in the shortcomings, failures and possible wrongdoing that led to his extradition, it is clearly not appropriate for this to go forward as a largely internal review carried out by the very Department that may be responsible for transgressions... We urge you to move quickly to appoint an independent commissioner to conduct a thorough and public inquiry into Dr. Diab 's case, ensuring that the person appointed has full access to and powers to compel disclosure of any and all relevant information."

We strongly support the call by Amnesty International Canada and BCCLA for action. Please proceed quickly to empower an independent commissioner to begin the process of investigating this tragic miscarriage of justice. We need to make sure that no other Canadian would go through what Hassan, his family, and his CUPE 4600 co-workers have had to go through.

Sincerely,



Fred Hahn
President



Candace Rennick
Secretary-Treasurer

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