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March 23, 2021

BY E-MAIL

The Right Honorable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
OTTAWA, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau:

Canadian Government Intervention in Dr. Hassan Diab's Case

On behalf of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), we want to express deep concern about the recent French Court of Appeal ruling ordering Dr. Hassan Diab to stand trial. We urge you to commit to ensuring that Dr. Diab will not be extradited to France and further request that you proactively intervene with your French counterparts to have all charges dropped.

In 2018, after six years of house arrest in Canada, and three years in solitary confinement in France, French investigative judges dismissed all accusations against Diab related to the 1980 Paris synagogue bombing and ordered his release. The investigative judges stated there was clear evidence that Dr. Diab was writing exams in Lebanon at the time of the bombing that tragically killed four people and injured dozens in Paris.

CUPE has raised, on several occasions, questions about due process and the seemingly unjust procedures that led to Dr. Diab's extradition. We wrote to you to express concern in May 2018 when information emerged revealing an official in the Justice Department assisted the French government to make the case for extradition, and allegedly misled the court regarding communications with the French government which led to lengthy adjournments. We were however pleased when you, on June 20, 2018, remarked that what happened to Dr. Diab should never happen again. CUPE continues to call on your government to conduct a full, independent, and public inquiry into this case.

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MARK HANCOCK
National President/Président national

CHARLES FLEURY
National Secretary-Treasurer/Secrétaire-trésorier national

BENOÎT BOUCHARD, PAUL FAORO, FRED HAHN, JUDY HENLEY, SHERRY HILLIER
General Vice-Presidents/Vice-présidences générales

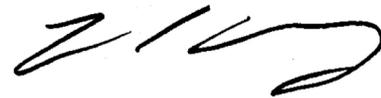
Dr. Diab is now facing a French Court of Appeal ruling ordering him to stand trial, potentially in absentia, on baseless accusations of terrorism years after a lower court in France cleared his name due to lack of evidence. There is no new evidence being introduced, and this is the first time that the French Court of Appeal has ever overturned the findings of the investigative judges in a terrorism case.

In the short-term, we urge your government to ensure the rights of Dr. Diab are protected by committing to not extradite him to France a second time and by proactively intervening with your French counterparts to have the charges against him dropped. The ordeal and travesty of justice that Dr. Diab and his family have endured must end and must not happen to anyone else. We further call on your government to conduct a full, independent, and public inquiry into this case and to ultimately take steps to reform Canada's extradition laws.

Sincerely,



MARK HANCOCK
National President



CHARLES FLEURY
National Secretary-Treasurer

cc.

The Honourable David Lametti, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
The Honourable Marc Garneau, Minister of Foreign Affairs Canada
The Honourable Michael D. Chong, Official Opposition, Foreign Affairs Critic
MP Jack Harris, NDP Foreign Affairs Critic
Hassan Diab Support Committee

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