

From: Rehman Asif asif_rehman37@yahoo.ca
Date: Tue, Aug 9, 2011 at 12:06 PM
Reply-To: Rehman Asif <asif_rehman37@yahoo.ca>
To: "jstackhouse@globeandmail.com" <jstackhouse@globeandmail.com>, "jgeiger@globeandmail.com" <jgeiger@globeandmail.com>, "nhassan@globeandmail.com" <nhassan@globeandmail.com>
Cc: david McGuinty <mcguinty.d@parl.gc.ca>, "paul.dewar@parl.gc.ca" <paul.dewar@parl.gc.ca>, "bob.rae@parl.gc.ca" <bob.rae@parl.gc.ca>, "Elizabeth.May@parl.gc.ca" <Elizabeth.May@parl.gc.ca>, "khansalter@rogers.com" <khansalter@rogers.com>, "diabsupport@gmail.com" <diabsupport@gmail.com>, "rob.nicholson@parl.gc.ca" <rob.nicholson@parl.gc.ca>, Stephen Harper <harper.s@parl.gc.ca>
Subject: Re: The Case of Hassan Diab

Open Letter to Minister Nicholson and Prime Minister Harper

Dear Minister Nicholson,

I have been following the case of Hassan Diab (the former University of Ottawa Professor accused by France of murder and currently undergoing extradition proceedings) with complete and utter dismay.

How is it that in Canada, a democracy that operates under the rule of law, one of our fellow citizens can be stripped of his legal rights due to the allegations of a foreign government?

Dr. Diab fought his extradition which was based upon charges having arisen from secret intelligence, the sources of which are unknown even to French authorities. There is serious concern that this intelligence may be the product of torture. Dr. Diab's case represents the first time that a foreign government has sought the extradition of a Canadian citizen based on secret intelligence - evidence that cannot be challenged in a court of law. In addition, there are several troubling points in this case:

As Dr. Diab's case shows, the standard of evidence for extraditing Canadian citizens does not come near to meeting Canadian standards for a fair trial.

It is alarming that Dr. Diab's extradition may be allowed to proceed SOLELY on the basis of handwriting analysis that the judge has said is "very problematic, very confusing, and with conclusions that are suspect".

It is unacceptable that France based its original extradition request on completely unsourced and secret intelligence that may be the product of torture.

It is unacceptable that France has withheld information favorable to Dr. Diab from the judge, such as the fact that Dr. Diab's palm prints and fingerprints do not match those of the suspect.

As with security certificates, cases like these undermine our due judicial process which is the basis of our democracy. They undermine the very system that is in place to protect us all. I fear

that one day (maybe tomorrow) I shall wake up and not recognize my home, what was once the true north strong and free.

I urge you to make a strong stand for Canadian democracy and refuse to allow the extradition of Dr.Hassan Diab.

Best Regards,

Asif Rehman
Advisor - Muslims for Progressive Values Canada (MPV)
www.mpvottawa.com

1438 Palen Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario
K1H 7E7
613 799 0274