

From: Winchevsky Centre <info@winchevskycentre.org>  
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Subject: Support of Dr. Hassan Diab  
To: diabsupport@gmail.com

September 15, 2014

Via email to: diabsupport@gmail.com

To the Committee in support of Dr. Hassan Diab:

The United Jewish People's Order (UJPO) of Toronto is deeply alarmed about the case of Dr. Hassan Diab, an Ottawa university professor sought for questioning about his alleged role in a 1980 Paris bombing that claimed four lives. The French government has not charged Dr. Diab with any crime and his fingerprints, palm prints, handwriting, and physical description do not match those of the suspect. An Ontario Court judge has ruled that the case against him is "weak," "suspect" and "confusing," concluding "the prospects of conviction in the context of a fair trial seem unlikely." Yet Canada has inexplicably committed to extraditing him overseas to France to face a hearing that could be based on unsourced information extracted from torture.

This would be the first time in Canadian history that someone would be forcibly removed under the Extradition Act on mere suspicion. Although Dr. Hassan Diab has not been charged, he must pay \$2,000 per month for the cost of his own surveillance — a GPS device he is required to wear — or be imprisoned. This has caused severe financial hardship on him and his family.

As an organization founded to promote secular values and social justice more than 80 years ago, UJPO strongly opposes Dr. Diab's extradition from Canada to France. We stand with countless civil society organizations that support human rights, the right to a fair trial and accountability.

We are gravely concerned about the involvement in the case of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA), which has lobbied strongly for Dr. Diab's extradition. This organization is a pro-Israel lobby group which falsely claims to represent Canada's diverse Jewish communities. Their call for extradition is an affront to the Jewish tradition of support for universal human rights including due process under the law. To support the extradition of a man despite the absence of any legitimate evidence against him is nothing short of a violation of international law.

We call on the Canadian government to halt the extradition process, to remove Dr. Diab's GPS device immediately, and we urge support for his family who face a significant financial burden resulting from his dismissal from the university.

In solidarity,

Julia Barnett, President  
United Jewish People's Order – Toronto

*The United Jewish People's Order-Toronto is a leading progressive voice  
in making secular Jewish life, culture and practices accessible.  
The UJPO embraces justice in all its forms.*