

Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice



A national faith-based organization founded in support of Unitarian values

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President, Margaret Rao

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June 29th, 2016

Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould Minister of Justice & Attorney General of Canada
House of Commons,
Ottawa, Canada K1A 0A6

Dear Justice Minister Wilson-Raybould,

I am writing to you for the second time in recent months on behalf of Dr. Hassan Diab, a Canadian citizen, extradited to France in November 2014 for alleged participation in a bombing causing death near a synagogue in Paris in 1980. The extradition judge noted that the case against Dr. Diab is “weak”, based on ‘unknown’ intelligence sources and a “very problematic” French handwriting analysis report. The alleged evidence against him would not hold up in a Canadian court of law.

A French judge released Dr. Diab on bail on May 14th, due to doubts about the evidence in the case. The prosecutor appealed the judge’s decision and Dr. Diab was ordered to return to prison after 10 days. Hassan Diab has now spent almost 600 days in prison in France while officials there continue a 35-year investigation. This makes a total of seven years that Dr. Diab has been held in detention or on strict bail conditions, in either Canada or France, without charge or trial. As Donald Bayne, Hassan Diab’s Canadian lawyer, stated: “It was an injustice to extradite him in the first place. People are extradited to stand trial, not to face investigation.”

Our Unitarian principles, such as ‘the inherent worth and dignity of every person’, and ‘justice, equity and compassion in human relations’, call us to be a witness for justice on behalf of those who have not had access to fair treatment by the law.

Minister Wilson-Raybould, on behalf of Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice, I hereby request that you immediately right these wrongs and demand that your French counterpart let Hassan Diab return to Canada to be reunited with his wife and children. Justice delayed is justice denied.

Sincerely,

Margaret Rao President, Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice

c.c. Hon. Stephane Dion , Minister of Foreign Affairs