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The Ottawa Muslim Women's Organization

Ottawa, March 29<sup>th</sup> 2017,

Ottawa Muslim Women's Organization  
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The Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould, PC, MP  
Minister of Justice  
House of Commons,  
Ottawa, Ontario. K1A 0A6

Re: The case of Canadian Citizen Hassan Diab

We are writing to you regarding the troubling case of the Ottawa academic, Mr. Hassan Diab.

Mr. Diab was arrested in Ottawa in 2008 for an alleged role in the 1980 Paris Synagogue bombing. The French authorities wanted his extradition to stand trial in France.

In 2011, during the extradition trial, the Canadian Justice Robert Maranger of the Ontario Superior Court declared:

"I found the French expert report convoluted, very confusing, with conclusions that are suspect."

Speaking about a possible trial of Hasan Diab in France, Justice Robert Maranger stated "the prospects of conviction in the context of a fair trial seem unlikely."

Despite all these weaknesses surrounding the case against him, on November 14, 2014, Hassan Diab was taken out of his cell prison early in the morning and

deported to France while his wife, Dr. Rania Tfaily, was seven months pregnant with their second child. He was not even allowed to say goodbye to his family. Ever since his wife has been a single mother raising their two young children with no answers for them about the release of their father or when he will be back in Canada.

In 2016, the French investigative judge found “consistent evidence” supporting Hassan Diab’s innocence and ordered his immediate release on bail. Unfortunately, French prosecutors filed an appeal and ever since then Hassan Diab has been lingering in prison separated from his wife and both his young children who are living in Canada.

Today, we appeal to you, the Honourable Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould, to raise the case of Hassan Diab with the French authorities and demand that he is returned to Canada. Please use your influence in getting an innocent man released from prison and reunited with his wife and children on humanitarian and compassionate grounds. The young children need their father. The ordeal of Hassan Diab has been going on for almost ten years. It is time for justice to prevail.

Sincerely,

Nazira Naz Tareen,  
President and Founder of the Ottawa Muslim Women's Organization