

IJV Stands with Hassan Diab: No Evidence, No Trial

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Independent Jewish Voices is calling for immediate action by the Canadian government after a French court ruled on January 27th, 2021, to proceed to trial in the case of Canadian professor Dr. Hassan Diab. Dr. Diab was accused of acts of terrorism in relation to the bombing of a Paris synagogue in 1980 – accusations that turned out to be groundless.

It is outrageous that a French court of appeal has decided to overturn the dismissal (https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/hassan-diab-france-1.5888310?fbclid=IwAR1WhNgQKliuwMPP8j6JNieMR_9SQVD8ozjQ51wwLEKrc50gAtBpvEh84A) of the case against Hassan Diab and to order a trial. There has been no new evidence introduced, and nothing that changes the decision from three years ago when the investigating judges released him without charge.

For three years, Dr. Diab languished in a French prison (<https://iclmg.ca/diab-webcomic/>), away from his family, in near solitary confinement, while the French prosecution investigated. Three years, and the French prosecution could not make a case for even charging him, let alone going to trial.

The families of the victims of the Paris synagogue bombing deserve justice, but dragging a clearly innocent man through another baseless legal proceeding will bring justice to no one. As Amélie Lefebvre, one of Diab's criminal lawyers in France, points out, the right "to have the real perpetrators accountable is not a right that could be satisfied in any way with the trial of a man who is innocent and for whom we have so [much] evidence that show his innocence."

IJV is calling on the Canadian government to take the following three actions:

1. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Foreign Affairs Minister Marc Garneau must intervene with their French counterparts to put a stop to this endless, Kafkaesque affair.
2. The Prime Minister must put into action his statement of June 20, 2018 (<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/hassan-diab-extradition-france-1.5226033>), that what happened to Dr. Diab should never happen again, and commit to not extraditing him to France a second time.
3. The government must immediately initiate steps to reform its extradition laws to ensure that no other person is forced to suffer

through the same ordeal as Dr. Diab ever again.

IJV will continue to stand with Dr. Diab, his partner Rania, their children and the Justice for Hassan Diab Support Committee until this matter is resolved and Dr. Diab is completely free.

For more information and updates on Hassan Diab's case, visit:
www.justiceforhassandiab.org (<http://www.justiceforhassandiab.org>).



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