



Canadian Association of University Teachers  
Association canadienne des professeures et professeurs d'université

May 7, 2021

**BY EMAIL:** [pm@pm.gc.ca](mailto:pm@pm.gc.ca)

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0A2

**RE: Your government's support to intervene in the Hassan Diab case**

Dear Prime Minister:

The Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) is deeply concerned by the January ruling of France's Court of Appeal that Dr. Hassan Diab, a dual Lebanese-Canadian citizen, must stand trial—possibly *in absentia*—on baseless accusations of terrorism. We are writing to urge your government to refuse extradition requests from France, and to put an immediate end to this failure of fundamental justice.

CAUT has closely monitored Dr. Diab's case since his arrest in 2008 and eventual extradition to France. We've since been gravely concerned by the ongoing violations of his civil liberties and human rights.

There are serious and consistent doubts about the evidence presented against Dr. Diab. French investigating judges found reliable evidence of Hassan's innocence and called into question the secret unsourced and physical evidence produced by French authorities. Furthermore, eyewitnesses and university records place Dr. Diab in Lebanon writing exams on the date the bombing took place in Paris. The case against Dr. Diab was dismissed in 2018 and Dr. Diab returned to Canada shortly thereafter.

The French Court of Appeal's decision, three years after the case in the lower courts was dismissed due to a lack of evidence, is exceptional because never in a terrorism case has a Court of Appeal opposed the investigating judges. Dr. Diab's French lawyers have attempted to appeal and point to the immense political pressure being applied to keep the case alive.

With no reliable physical evidence, French authorities are allegedly relying upon anonymous and unsourced intelligence that may have been obtained by torture. The unreliability of such evidence is well documented, and for Dr. Diab it represents an ongoing subversion of his fundamental rights.

The Canadian government has an obligation to protect the civil liberties of its citizens and to uphold international human rights. The facts of this case clearly demand action on the part of Canadian

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authorities. We are urging your government to refuse extradition requests for Dr. Diab and to proactively intervene with your French counterparts to have these charges dropped.

Yours sincerely,



Brenda Austin-Smith  
President



David Robinson  
Executive Director

/ch

c.c: The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance  
[Chrystia.Freeland@canada.ca](mailto:Chrystia.Freeland@canada.ca)

The Honourable Marc Garneau, Minister of Foreign Affairs  
[marc.garneau@international.gc.ca](mailto:marc.garneau@international.gc.ca)

The Honourable David Lametti, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada  
[mcu@justice.gc.ca](mailto:mcu@justice.gc.ca)

Hassan Diab Support Committee  
[diabsupport@gmail.com](mailto:diabsupport@gmail.com)