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May 26, 2023

BY E-MAIL

The Right Honorable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
OTTAWA, ON K1A 0A2
justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau:

Re: Justice for Hassan Diab

On behalf of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, I am writing to raise our concern about the possibility of CUPE member, Dr. Hassan Diab, being extradited to France. I urgently request that the Canadian government commit to refusing the possible second extradition request by France and do everything in its power to protect Dr. Diab from this miscarriage of justice.

The victims of the 1980 Rue Copernic bombing and their families deserve justice. But justice cannot be achieved by scapegoating an innocent man. The Assize Court in Paris, France, relied on old, discredited evidence, and declared Dr. Diab guilty despite the ongoing presence of unequivocal exculpatory evidence.

Official documents and testimonies of numerous witnesses show that Dr. Diab was not in France at the time of the bombing, and there is overwhelming evidence which exculpates Hassan from this crime.

After his extradition from Canada in 2014, Hassan languished for over three years in a French prison, away from his family and home, and in near solitary confinement, while French authorities investigated him. There was no trial and there were no formal charges laid. In 2018, after the investigating judges in charge dismissed the case and released Hassan in light of “consistent evidence” of his innocence, you stated, “I think, for Hassan Diab, we have to recognize first of all that what happened to him never should have happened.”

.../2

MARK HANCOCK

National President/Président national

CANDACE RENNICK

National Secretary-Treasurer/Secrétaire-trésorière nationale

PATRICK GLOUTNEY, FRED HAHN, JUDY HENLEY, SHERRY HILLIER, LEE-ANN KALEN

General Vice-Presidents/Vice-présidences générales

No new evidence was presented at the Assize Court, yet he was sentenced to life in prison and a warrant was issued for this arrest. I call on you and your government to honour your words by taking immediate action to protect the fundamental human rights of Hassan Diab, and all Canadians, by taking two clear steps:

1. Give immediate assurances to Hassan Diab that Canada will not accept nor accede to a second request for his extradition.
2. Reform Canada's unjust extraditions laws.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MH' followed by a stylized flourish.

MARK HANCOCK
National President

:sm/cope491

cc: The Honourable C. Freeland, MP, Deputy Prime Minister
The Honourable D. Lametti, MP, Minister of Justice
The Honourable M. Joly, MP, Minister of Foreign Affairs
H. McPherson, MP, NDP Foreign Affairs Critic
R. Garrison, MP, NDP Justice Critic
Hassan Diab Support Committee