

June 6, 2023

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to request that your government block the extradition of Dr. Hassan Diab for the second time from Canada to serve a life sentence in France.

While I strongly condemn the 1980 terrorist attack on a synagogue in France, the case brought against Dr. Diab had always been built on unstable foundations. After failing to produce evidence identifying him as the perpetrator, during which time he was separated from his family and placed in solitary confinement, the French government was forced to release Dr. Diab in 2018. Gary Botting, a Canadian extradition law expert, described this case as “the lowest low in terms of qualitative judicial practice.” Amnesty International Canada has called for an independent public inquiry into the handling of Dr. Diab’s case. I support their demands.

The Special Assize Court in Paris has now declared Dr. Diab ‘guilty’ despite there being no trial or substantive changes to the original case against him. Unlike the earlier trial for which he was present that found him not guilty, he was not present for this guilty verdict and has not even been given a chance to appeal. I am very concerned about the mistreatment and abuse that Dr. Diab will face if he is extradited for imprisonment in France.

In 2018, you stated that “for Hassan Diab, we have to recognize first of all that what happened to him never should have happened” and that Canada has to “make sure that this never happens again.” I urge you to block any attempts by France to extradite Dr. Diab.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth May, O.C.  
Member of Parliament  
Saanich-Gulf Islands  
Leader of the Green Party of Canada