



The Union for Teaching Assistants and Contract Instructors

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via email

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada

The Honourable David Lametti, P.C., Q.C.
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada

House of Commons,
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

July 26, 2023

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Lametti;

On behalf of the thousands of members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 4600, I am calling on the Prime Minister and Minister to use their discretionary powers to declare that Dr. Hassan Diab will not be extradited in response to an extradition request from France.

In 2008, Dr. Diab, a sociologist teaching at Carleton University and the University of Ottawa, and a member of our union, was accused of being the perpetrator of an anti-Semitic bombing which took place in 1980 in France. French authorities had never found the bomber and no group had ever claimed responsibility for the attack.

Following his extradition in 2014, Dr. Diab was held in a maximum-security prison for over three years, almost entirely in solitary confinement. As French judges investigated further, the already weak case collapsed. Handwriting analysis was discredited, and judges corroborated alibi evidence that Dr. Diab was writing university exams in Lebanon at the time of the attack. The case was dropped, and he returned to his family in Ottawa in 2018.

In a brief 3-week trial which concluded on April 21, 2023, the trial judges overturned the 2018 conclusions of two French judges with extensive expertise in terrorism cases, whose 3-year investigation had found no evidence upon which to base a trial. These investigative judges testified during the trial, reiterating their findings. The trial brought forward no new evidence, rather relying on evidence and secret intelligence previously critiqued by the investigative judges as problematic. The handwriting

analysis which formed the core of the 2014 extradition request from France was removed from consideration by the trial judges after it was discredited, making the case even weaker.

While a lack of evidence should be sufficient for a legal finding of not guilty, there is much evidence to support Hassan Diab's innocence. The university attended by Diab provided documentation that he was writing exams in Lebanon at the time of the bombing. The hotel registration clerk (now deceased) where the suspected bomber signed a registration form, testified in the original investigation that the suspect was in his 40s. (Hassan Diab was 26 at the time.) No fingerprints collected by police matched Hassan Diab's.

Dr. Diab has been caught in a political nightmare in which the existence of an accusation has become the foundation for a guilty finding in a trial with no official transcripts and no opportunity for appeal. While our hearts go out to the victims, families and communities hurt by this act of anti-Semitic terror, causing further damage to the life of an innocent man and continued harm to his family will not heal their pain. Canada must refuse to extradite Hassan Diab and end his 15-year long ordeal.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Noreen Cauley-Le Fevre". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Noreen Cauley-Le Fevre
President
CUPE 4600

cc. Theya Seywerd, Recording Secretary
Bill Skidmore