

Association of United

Товариство Об'єднаних



Ukrainian Canadians

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The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
 Prime Minister of Canada
 By email: justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

The Honourable Arif Virani
 Minister of Justice and Attorney General
 By email: mcu@justice.gc.ca

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Virani

Re: Hasan Diab

I am writing on behalf of the National Committee of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians, which, at its Plenum of September 9 and 10, discussed the case of Hasan Diab and the request of the Government of France for his extradition following a decision by a French appeal court on April 21, 2023 to convict him on terrorism charges. It sentenced him to life in prison and issued a warrant for his arrest.

This would be the second extradition of Mr. Diab to France and would be a grave attack on him as a person shown to be innocent of the charges the French government seems intent on pursuing. The appeal court decision overturned a lower court decision exculpating Mr. Diab, freeing him after 3 years of imprisonment, allowing him to return to the safety of Canada, his family and his work.

The appeal court decision was profoundly disturbing given that it relied on discredited "evidence" at Mr. Diab's first trial and the fact that Mr. Diab was not even in France at the time of the terrorist attack. It has justly earned the condemnation of the Canadian legal community.

As a result of the appeal court's decision and sentencing of Mr. Diab, he is now subject to this second request for extradition from the French government.

It is well within the authority of the Justice Department to deny authority to proceed with an extradition request. Mr. Diab's case certainly warrants this consideration.

The Canadian government must act to defend Mr. Diab from further prosecution by the French authorities. Notwithstanding its extradition agreement with France, it must act in the interest of natural justice and deny the request.

Yours truly

Glenn Michalchuk

National President, Association of United Ukrainian Canadians