



The Union for Teaching Assistants & Contract Instructors

807 Dunton Tower | Carleton University
1125 Colonel By Drive, Ottawa, ON, K1S 5B6

cupe4600.ca

November 29, 2024

CUPE 4600 stands in full support of long-time union member, Dr. Hassan Diab. We condemn the continued targeting and harassment of Dr. Diab, who has been proven, time and again, to be innocent of the hate crime for which he was accused.

In 2008, Dr. Diab, a sociologist teaching at Carleton University and the University of Ottawa, was accused of being the perpetrator of an anti-Semitic bombing which took place in 1980 in France. French authorities have never found the bomber and no group has 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 in April, 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. The original 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 just 26 at the time. No fingerprints collected by police matched Hassan Diab's.

The resurgence of targeting against Hassan Diab and those who stand in support of him (including other members of CUPE 4600) is a blatant dogwhistle. Far-right and other extremist groups such as Rebel News and their counterparts are not truly interested in seeking justice for the victims of the anti-Semitic bombing, but in spreading mis and dis-information rooted in xenophobic and racist ideologies including anti-Arab and anti-Palestinian racism.

We join other organizations on campus in calling on Carleton University to address the incident that happened on Carleton's campus on Wednesday, November 20, 2024. We respectfully demand that Carleton:

- 1) Issue a statement in support of Dr. Diab's innocence and condemn the spreading of false and slanderous claims against Dr. Diab.
- 2) Take proactive measures to protect Dr. Diab and his family from harassment.
- 3) Ensure that Dr. Diab retain any contracts that he is assigned to teach and be reminded of his Collective Agreement rights.

Signed,
The CUPE 4600 Executive Board and Staff