



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Heather McPherson

Member of Parliament
Edmonton Strathcona

Hon. Mélanie Joly
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Melanie.Joly@international.gc.ca

Hon. Arif Virani
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
Arif.Virani@justice.gc.ca

December 20, 2024

Re: Hassan Diab Extradition Request

Dear Ministers,

We write to you today to request clarity from your government on the case of Dr. Hassan Diab.

In response to Petition e-4901, and in recent media reports, your government reiterated that it will not confirm or deny whether France has requested Dr. Diab's extradition, and hidden behind privileged communications between governments. We are asking you to waive that privilege to inform Canadians that the Government of Canada will not comply with a request for extradition.

In 2023, more than a decade of being denied a fair process and having his rights violated, a French court sentenced Diab to life in prison in absentia.

New Democrats condemn the appalling 1980 terrorist attack on a synagogue in France, and we express our deepest sympathies with the victims and their families who are still seeking justice. They deserve concrete answers.

But Dr. Diab's entire trial has been a sham. He has lived through a nightmare for the last decade and unjustly spent three years in a French prison under tortuous conditions.

After the Harper government helped France extradite him based on faulty evidence, Dr. Diab was placed in maximum-security prison in 2014 and subject to solitary confinement, all without a trial. After dropping the charges against Diab in 2018 for lack of evidence, France restarted the process and now, the French courts have found him guilty without him being present to defend himself, and they've given him no opportunity to appeal.

Everyone deserves the right to a fair trial, and the horrible conditions Dr. Diab suffered over flimsy and discredited evidence violated his rights and poisoned the process.

Given that no justice has been served, New Democrats are once again demanding the government block any attempts by France to extradite Dr. Diab.

Canada needs to send a clear message that this is over.

We look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alistair MacGregor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Alistair MacGregor, MP
NDP Critic for Justice and Public Safety

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Heather McPherson". The signature is cursive and includes a large, stylized initial "H".

Heather McPherson, MP
NDP Critic for Foreign Affairs