

Get involved

To get involved, to invite a speaker to your classroom or community group, to order postcards or flyers, or to inform us of your plans to support this campaign, please contact us at projectflyhome@gmail.com or visit our website, www.peoplescommission.org/en/abdelrazik.

To join the list of groups endorsing Project Fly Home's demands, please read the sign-on statement at www.peoplescommission.org/en/abdelrazik and email your organization's name in English and French to projectflyhome@gmail.com.



Project Fly Home - People's Commission Network
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Delist Now!

six-month campaign to free
Abousfian Abdelrazik
from a prison without walls

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June 27th, 2010 will mark the one-year anniversary of Abousfian Abdelrazik's return to Canada after six years of forced exile and imprisonment in Sudan. Mr. Abdelrazik is now home, but not yet free. His name in fact figures among those on the international "1267 list", which imposes an asset freeze and travel ban. In January 2010, Project Fly Home launched a six-month public campaign to raise awareness about Mr. Abdelrazik's situation. If this campaign is successful, Mr. Abdelrazik will be able to mark the upcoming anniversary of his return with his fundamental rights and freedoms restored.

The campaign also aims to promote the abolition of the 1267 sanctions regime and challenge the racist scape-goating it represents. This is a matter of concern for all in Quebec and Canada. Join us in demanding that the government immediately lift sanctions from Mr. Abdelrazik and withdraw from the 1267 regime.

Who is Abousfian Abdelrazik?

Mr. Abdelrazik is the victim of a shameful collaboration between Canadian officials and torturers overseas. He is also the victim of political manoeuvring that kept him out of Canada and separated from his children for six years.

Abousfian Abdelrazik was arrested while on a visit to Sudan in 2003. The Federal Court of Canada has reviewed the case and concluded that his arrest probably took place at the request of the Canada's spy agency, CSIS. Mr. Abdelrazik was beaten, threatened and tortured during two periods of detention totaling a year and a half. In this context, he was questioned by CSIS agents. Repeatedly blocked from returning to Montreal, he went public with his story and took refuge in the Canadian Embassy in Khartoum, where he remained a virtual prisoner for 14 months before a groundswell of public support forced the government to bring him home. Mr. Abdelrazik was finally able to return to his children in Canada in June 2009, after six years.

What is the 1267 list?

In 2006, without his knowledge, Mr. Abdelrazik's name was placed on the United Nations' 1267 list which imposes sanctions on individuals and organizations.

This "1267 list" is not only a no fly list, it also imposes a complete asset freeze on listed individuals. The restrictions are severe and indefinite. Listed individuals have no right to a hearing before being listed, face vague allegations, and are provided with no evidence to support the claims against them. As the Federal Court of Canada wrote

in a June 2009 decision: "There is nothing in the listing or de-listing procedure that recognizes the principles of natural justice or that provides for basic procedural fairness." In fact, the 1267 regime is nothing more than a political tool dressed up in the trappings of legality. Canadian regulations implementing 1267 forbid anyone from providing Mr. Abdelrazik with any material aid, including salary, loans, or gifts.

Why is this important?

Abousfian Abdelrazik, like Abdullah Almalki, Maher Arar, Omar Khadr, the security certificate detainees and others, is a victim of the national security agenda. We have seen similar political trends in the past. Like the internment of Japanese Canadians during the Second World War and Cold

War policies aimed at communists, the 1267 list and similar measures rely on guilt by association and profiling to cast a shadow over entire populations. Domestically, such policies trample on the fundamental rights and dignities of immigrants, marginalize targeted communities, create fear and silence debate; internationally, they justify oppression and extreme violence and delegitimize resistance to this oppression.

What are we demanding?

Over the next six months, we are asking the government to immediately:

- 1- lift sanctions from Mr. Abdelrazik (whether by modifying the regulations implementing the 1267 regime in Canada so they no longer apply to Abdelrazik, as Canada did in the past in the case of Liban Hussein, or by revoking them entirely);
- 2- contact all United Nations Security Council members to inform them that Mr. Abdelrazik's removal from the 1267 list is a diplomatic priority for Canada; and
- 3- revoke the regulations implementing the 1267 regime in Canada, as a first step to demonstrating Canada's firm opposition to that regime.