

Activists buy ticket for stranded Canadian

LES PERREAUX

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MONTREAL — More than 100 supporters of a Canadian citizen stranded in Sudan have flouted Canadian law by purchasing an airline ticket home for the one-time terrorism suspect.

The activists, including former solicitor general Warren Allmand, bought the ticket for travel April 3 and put it in the hands of Abousfian Abdelrazik. It's now up to the government to issue Mr. Abdelrazik travel documents, said his lawyer, Yavar Hameed.

The group of people, including 35 Montrealers and about 80 Ontarians, are flouting Canadian law, which says it's illegal to give financial assistance to anyone on a UN terrorism watch list.

Mr. Abdelrazik remains on the list, despite being cleared by CSIS and the RCMP.

He's been stuck in travel limbo since 2003, when he was arrested and tortured for suspicion of terrorism activities while visiting his sick mother in Sudan.

Ottawa has since put up a series of shifting technical hurdles ahead of his return. The Canadian government first required an airline reservation, then an actual ticket before it would issue a temporary passport to allow him to travel.

Mr. Abdelrazik is destitute and living at the Canadian embassy in Khartoum.