

June 4, 2009

The Honourable Lawrence Cannon
Minister of Foreign Affairs
House of Commons
OTTAWA, ON
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Cannon:

As president of the country's largest union, I urge you to immediately issue the travel documents to Abousfian Abdelrazik so he can fly home to Canada on June 12.

Your government's treatment of Abousfian Abdelrazik is nothing short of disgraceful.

When Mr. Abdelrazik returned to the Sudan in 2003 to visit his ill mother, he was imprisoned on the recommendation of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS). While in prison, he was beaten and tortured. He also was interrogated by CSIS officials. No charges have ever been laid.

For more than a year, Mr. Abdelrazik has been living in the lobby of the Canadian embassy in Khartoum, trying to obtain safe passage back to Canada. Many Canadians are trying to help this Montrealer return home from the Sudan – but you and your government continue to thwart their efforts.

In December, the Canadian government promised to issue Mr. Abdelrazik travel documents so he could return home. In a letter dated December 23, 2008, the government stated: "Passport Canada will issue an emergency passport to Mr. Abdelrazik, upon submission of a confirmed and paid travel itinerary to the Consular Section of the Canadian Embassy".

Nearly 200 Canadians donated money for Mr. Abdelrazik's return flight on the understanding the government would issue a passport. But just a few hours before his flight was to leave Khartoum on April 3, you refused to issue the required documents.

.../2

By your department's own admission, Mr. Cannon, Mr. Abdelrazik has the right to return home, even if his name still appears on the UN's no fly list. Department of Foreign Affairs' documents, obtained through the Privacy Act, clearly state that "Mr. Abdelrazik retains the right to return to his own country of nationality. International law expressly provides for a right to return, and prevents states from denying return to one's own state of nationality." In addition, Richard Barrett, the co-ordinator of the UN monitoring committee for the UN 1267 list, has confirmed the government can bring Mr. Abdelrazik home.

Since both the RCMP and CSIS have cleared Mr. Abdelrazik's name and UN resolutions clearly state that people on no fly lists still have the right to return to their country of citizenship, I urge you to take immediate action to bring this Canadian citizen home safely to his family.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Moist". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

PAUL MOIST
National President
Canadian Union of Public Employees