

Hon. Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada
22 November 2010
Calgary

Dear Mr. Harper,

It is not shameful for a person to make a mistake. But it is shameful to hold fast to one's error even after discovering what is right.

For seven years now, I have had to struggle for my freedom, my dignity and my personal security. I have been subjected to countless abuses – detention without charge, torture, all manner of humiliating treatment and exile, to name only a few. I have never been charged with any crime, and yet my reputation has been publicly sullied with unfounded, ugly allegations. I have never been charged with any crime, and yet I find myself subject to sanctions that are imposed indefinitely, including an asset freeze and an international travel ban.

Mr. Harper, already, during my exile, I have sent you a message in which I clearly declared my innocence from the baseless allegations against me, allegations woven by cruelty and contaminated by racism and hatred towards the "Other" defined by 'race', color or religion. My statement was confirmed by Canada's own security services who wrote letters in November 2007 which clear my name.

Just a few days ago, I boarded a plane to fly to western Canada to meet the many people in this part of the country who have supported my long struggle. That my name is not on Canada's no fly list once again confirms that Canada's security services do not give credence to those empty allegations.

I have on previous occasions asked you for your help, Mr. Harper, as a person accountable to all Canadians, of which I am one. Yet you have refused to reply, instead continuing to deny me the rights I have under the Canadian constitution and Charter of Rights. Mr. Harper, I bear no ill feelings towards you as a person. But, I do abhor what your government has done to me.

Now, with this letter, delivered by hand at your riding office in Calgary, I ask you, in all sincerity and openness, to cease persecuting me.

I ask you, Mr. Harper to see beyond the hate-filled politics that are so at odds with justice and fairness and that have harmed Canada's reputation internationally. One needs only look at the outcome of Canada's recent bid to win a seat on the UN's Security Council to see that this is so. You are in a unique position to see and rectify this, and I am calling on you, in recognition of our shared humanity, Stephen Harper, to lead Canada in a way that corrects the wrongs and injustices that have brought suffering and hardship to so many.

With this letter, Mr. Harper, I convey to you again my just and straightforward demands that the Canadian government:

1. immediately lift the sanctions that it is imposing on me and take all measures necessary at the level of the UN Security Council to have my name removed from the 1267 list;
2. apologize to me and my family; and

3. compensate me for the suffering to which I have been subject over the last seven years.

Sincerely,
Abousfian Abdelrazik