

Man stuck in Sudan remains terrorism suspect – Ottawa

Section: Canada

Outlet: The Chronicle–Herald

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Date: 2008–04–30

OTTAWA (CP) – A man stranded in Sudan took refuge in the Canadian embassy in Khartoum while seeking a resolution Tuesday to his five–year ordeal.

A lawyer for Sudanese–Canadian Abousfian Abdelrazik says his client has been allowed to stay at the embassy and plans to remain there until he gets answers from Ottawa.

Lawyer Yavar Hameed accuses the federal government of duplicity and disinformation, with a trail of evidence suggesting it has been blocking efforts to bring his client home.

Abdelrazik went to visit his ailing mother in 2003 and was caught in legal limbo after accusations he has terrorist ties; no criminal charges have been filed against the former Montrealer.

He suffers from asthma, heart problems, and an ulcer, and is living on a \$100 monthly loan from the Canadian government. Abdelrazik's ex–wife has demanded that Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier deal with his case.

"He is not a terrorist. He is a Muslim. He is a practising Muslim but a peaceful Muslim," said Myriam St–Hilaire.

"He is a Canadian citizen and he has rights and I'm just asking the government to take in consideration this fact."

Bernier's office said it was reviewing the case, but added that Abdelrazik remains a terrorism suspect. After avoiding comment for two days, the foreign minister's office issued a statement:

"We continue to provide Mr. Abdelrazik with consular assistance. Services include medical and financial assistance, facilitating communications with family and lawyers, as well as providing 'temporary safe haven' at our embassy in Khartoum," the statement said.