



January 27, 2010

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Harper

I am writing on behalf of the nearly 60,000 teachers and educational workers who are members of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation.

We are very concerned about the treatment of Mr. Abousfian Abdelrazik. According to documents released by the Department of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Abdelrazic was jailed at the behest of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service upon his visit to Sudan.

It has been determined that while in detention and never charged, he was beaten, threatened and tortured while continually questioned by CSIS, and separately by the Sudanese, French, and FBI agents. Eventually cleared of all suspicion by Sudan, the RCMP, and CSIS in late 2007, his attempts to return home to Montreal were repeatedly blocked.

Prior to this in 2006, President Bush placed Mr. Abdelrazic on the U.N. 1267 list that imposes travel bans and freezes assets of all listed individuals. At this point, effectively isolated from any means of meaningful survival, his prospects were dwindling.

By March 2008, the Parliamentary Secretary to Prime Minister Harper, MP Deepak Obhrai went to Sudan on an official visit and met with Mr. Abdelrazic. However, (according to the community group, Project FlyHome), instead of assisting the Canadian citizen who had been cleared of any

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wrongdoing, Mr. Obhrai interrogated Mr. Abdelrazic regarding his political beliefs, views on Israel, Hamas and even Osama Bin Laden.

At much risk of being charged with abetting anyone on the U.N. 1267 list, over one hundred people paid for a return airplane ticket so that Mr. Abdelrazic could return to his family. However, only hours before the plane was to leave, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lawrence Cannon, refused Mr. Abdelrazic's emergency passport. After a two-month court battle, the Canadian government was ordered to allow Mr. Abdelrazic to return to Canada, and in June 2009, he was finally reunited with his family in Montreal.

We urge that those responsible for this injustice must be held accountable and demand that Canada make all necessary efforts to ensure that Mr. Abdelrazic's name be immediately removed from the U.N. 1267 list. He should also receive some form of redress for the inhumane treatment he has been subjected to.

Yours truly



Kenneth Coran
President, OSSTF

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