

An Open Letter to Prime Minister Stephen Harper

June 8, 2009

Stephen Harper
Right Honourable Prime Minister
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
Fax: 613-941-6900

Dear Prime Minister Harper:

We, the undersigned, urge your government to abide by the Federal Court order of June 4 and immediately issue the travel documents to Mr. Abousfian Abdelrazik. Since he already has a paid plane ticket for June 12, we urge you to take all necessary steps to ensure he can safely board that flight leaving Khartoum and return to Montreal.

Your government's treatment of Mr. Abdelrazik, who has been stranded in Sudan for the last six years, is an affront to all Canadians who support the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and International Law.

Mr. Abdelrazik returned to the Sudan in 2003 to visit his ill mother. Once there, he was jailed on the recommendation of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) and subsequently beaten and tortured. Although he was eventually released and cleared of all suspicion by both the RCMP and CSIS, his repeated attempts to return home to Montreal have been blocked by your government – most recently on April 3.

More than 200 Canadians contributed to a fund to help purchase a plane ticket for Mr. Abdelrazik to fly home on April 3, after your government promised to issue travel documents. But just hours before his flight was to leave Khartoum, your government reneged on that commitment.

In the Federal Court ruling, Justice Zinn found your government had breached Mr. Abdelrazik's Charter right to enter Canada. The court also found that CSIS was complicit in Abousfian's initial detention in Sudan in 2003.

As Justice Zinn stated: "He [Mr. Abdelrazik] is as much a victim of international terrorism as the innocent persons whose lives have been taken by recent barbaric acts of terrorists."

We urge you to abide by the federal court order, respect the will of parliament and support the collective desire of Canadians across the country to bring Mr. Abdelrazik home safely to his family without any further delays.

Sincerely,

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Devon Anderson, Administrator, Regina
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Barbara Campbell, Retired Teacher, Saskatoon
Barbara Cape, Union President, Saskatoon
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Ruth Card, Social Worker, Regina
Mavis Carleton, Seniors' Activist, Saskatoon
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Elaine Findlay, Activist, Saskatoon
Len Findlay, Professor of English, Saskatoon
Dorothea and Ron Fisher, Concerned Citizens, Saskatoon
Beryl Forgay, Senior Citizen of Canada, Regina
Bernice Friesen, Writer, Saskatoon
Alice Gilmer, Student, Saskatoon
Peter Gilmer, Anti-Poverty Ministry, Regina
Susan Gilmer, Professor of Histology, Saskatoon
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