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## Ottawa's role in Canadian's exile remains unclear

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**Section:** International News

**Outlet:** The Globe And Mail

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**Title:** Ottawa's role in Canadian's exile remains unclear

**Page:** A17

**Date:** 2008-05-01

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Even if the Conservative government decides to repatriate Abousfian Abdelrazik, key questions about Ottawa's role in fingering one of its citizens as a terrorist suspect remain unanswered.

How did Mr. Abdelrazik get blacklisted by airlines?

So-called "no-fly" lists are maintained by airlines, including Air Canada, but they are based on information supplied by government counterterrorism agencies, including the Canadian Security and Intelligence Service. The U.S. counterterrorist agencies are the primary source of names, but Canada and other nations contribute to those lists.

Although CSIS had been following and interrogating Mr. Abdelrazik for years, he had no difficulty flying out of Canada to Sudan in March of 2003. Mr. Abdelrazik flew on a Canadian airline to Frankfurt then via Doha, Qatar, to Khartoum. He was clearly not on any Canadian or international no-fly list when he visited his ailing mother.

Five months later, he was arrested and imprisoned without charge for nearly a year. In Kober prison, in December of 2003, he was interrogated by two men who identified themselves as CSIS agents. By the time he was released from prison in July of 2004, he was on the no-fly lists. Both Lufthansa and Air Canada refused to issue him airline tickets and both airlines said they wouldn't carry him.

Somehow Mr. Abdelrazik got on the international no-fly list more than two years before the United States formally listed his name with the UN Security Council as an alleged al-Qaeda operative and a close associate of Osama bin Laden's key lieutenant Abu Zubaydah.

Canadian diplomats repeatedly told Mr. Abdelrazik there was nothing they could do to get him off the lists, which they said were created by the airlines. But government documents in the possession of The Globe and Mail make clear that Air Canada was warned not to carry Mr. Abdelrazik and ministers were advised to use the following answer if they were asked if Canada was behind his blacklisting. "Air carriers regularly receive information on potential threats to security from a number of sources, including the Canadian government."

Why was Mr. Abdelrazik

arrested in Khartoum?

There are widely circulated allegations from Canadian, French and U.S. counterterrorism agencies that Mr. Abdelrazik was part of an al-Qaeda sleeper cell in Montreal, that he trained

in Afghan jihadist camps, and was a close associate of al-Qaeda leaders. Mr. Abdelrazik denies any link with al-Qaeda and says he has never been to Afghanistan. Yet in August of 2003, while in Khartoum, he was arrested by Sudanese police.

Imprisoned in a jail for special state-security prisoners for nearly a year, Mr. Abdelrazik was told by the Sudanese that they picked him up at the request of Canada. A CSIS document marked secret supports that. It says Mr. Abdelrazik was in prison ``at our request."

Another version of his arrest was that Canada had asked Sudan to imprison him at the request of the United States. After his release in July of 2004, Mr. Abdelrazik remained under house arrest, free to move around Khartoum during the day but required to live in a police-run house at night. A few months later – shortly before a visit by then Canadian prime minister Paul Martin – he was put back in prison. The second incarceration lasted seven months. But the Sudanese government has repeatedly made clear that it saw no reason to hold him, telling Canadian diplomats that they knew that keeping him in jail was a human-rights violation. Sudan eventually issued a formal document exonerating Mr. Abdelrazik of all allegations that he was an al-Qaeda member.