

## Media Advisory

### **No more excuses: surprise initiative to bring Abousifian Abdelrazik home to Montreal within three weeks**

#### **Press Conference**

**Thursday, 12 March 2009, 10:30am**

**Centre St. Pierre, 1212 Panet, room # 304, Montréal**

#### ***Speakers include:***

- Yavar Hameed, lawyer of Mr. Abdelrazik
- Dominique Peschard, President, Ligue des droits et libertés
- Warren Allmand, former Solicitor General of Canada, human rights advocate
- Samaa Elibyari, Montreal human rights activist
- Émilie Breton, MA Political Science Student

During this press conference, the obstacles that the government has erected to block the return of Abousifian Abdelrazik will be denounced **and a surprise initiative to repatriate Mr. Abdelrazik within three weeks will be announced.**

In December, the government stated in a letter to Mr. Abdelrazik's lawyers that he must present a fully-paid-for plane ticket before Passport Canada would agree to issue an emergency passport. At the same time, the Canadian government has made it a federal offence to directly or indirectly finance or collect money to support Mr. Abdelrazik. Anyone who dares to contribute money to purchase a ticket for Mr. Abdelrazik's return, therefore, risks federal prosecution and a penalty of ten years.

Internal government memos and other documents released under the Privacy Act reveal that, in a Maher Arar and Abdullah Almalki type scenario, Mr. Abdelrazik was imprisoned on the recommendation of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) while on a visit to Sudan. In prison, he was beaten and tortured. In this horrific context, he was interrogated by CSIS officials complicit in his arrest. Released and cleared of all suspicion by Sudan, as well as the RCMP, his many attempts to return home to Montreal have been blocked rather than aided by Canadian officials. He has been living in the Canadian embassy in Khartoum since going public with his story in April 2008.

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More information: 514 222 0205

Background: [www.peoplescommission.org/abdelrazik.php](http://www.peoplescommission.org/abdelrazik.php)

Source: Project Fly Home, [projectflyhome@gmail.com](mailto:projectflyhome@gmail.com)