

MEDIA ADVISORY

BRING ABOUSFIAN ABDELRAZIK HOME!

Street theatre to demand the immediate repatriation of Abdelrazik Abousfian and to expose Canadian involvement in torture.

**Corner of Peel and Ste-Catherine, Montreal
Friday, 12 September 2008, 12 noon**

Abousfian Abdelrazik is a Montreal man whose name has a place alongside Maher Arar, Abdullah Almalki, Ahmad El Maati and Muayyed Nureddin in a growing list of victims of a Canadian version of the infamous US programme of 'extraordinary rendition' - sanitized language for outsourcing torture. His case illustrates the fact that, far from implementing the recommendations of the O'Connor commission, the security services are continuing the patterns exposed in the Arar inquiry.

Official documents obtained under the Privacy Act indicate that Mr. Abdelrazik, a Canadian citizen, was incarcerated in Sudan on the request of Canadian officials. While in prison in December 2003, he was interrogated by the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS), despite Canadian doubts about Sudan's human rights record. Mr. Abdelrazik was held without charge and eventually released.

Since his release in July 2006, the Canadian government has obstructed every effort to bring him home to Canada. Since the story became public, government statements have failed to clarify the situation. Under public pressure, Mr. Abdelrazik was granted 'temporary safe haven' in the Canadian Embassy in Khartoum in late April 2008. He remains there to this day.

Abdelrazik's situation - a man free of any criminal charge, indictment or conviction, who remains in de facto exile in Sudan after five years of legal limbo - raises deeply troubling questions for the Harper government and all of Canadian society, not least about racism and two-tiered citizenship in Canada.

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For media inquiries, tel 514 222 0205.

A rally demanding the repatriation of Mr. Abdelrazik will also take place in Ottawa on 12 September. For more information about Ottawa rally, contact Jo Wood at jo_wood@sympatico.ca or 613-864-5959 (tel).

Mr. Abdelrazik's lawyer, Yavar Hameed, can be reached at yhameed@hfsp.ca or 613-232-2688, ext. 228.

For background information on Mr. Abdelrazik, see www.peoplescommission.org/abdelrazik.php.

From Omar Khadr in Guantanamo Bay to Ivan Apaolaza Sancho, who has been held at RDP prison in Montreal for over a year and threatened with deportation on the basis of information obtained under torture, to Hassan Almrei, a security certificate victim in Ontario who has been detained without charge for almost seven years under threat of being deported to face torture in Syria, Canadian officials are involved in torture. This is part of a dangerous trend to deny some people their most fundamental human rights, ironically, in the name of "security" and even "civilization". Public ignorance, political exclusion and racism have allowed this to continue for far too long.

A series of public actions – Torture Canada - is being organized in Montreal during the fall of 2008 to expose Canadian complicity in torture in the name of the so-called "war on terror". Each action will focus on a different case of Canada's current involvement in torture.

More information: www.peoplescommission.org or abolissons@gmail.com.