

Bring Abousfian Abdelrazik home now!

After more than 190 (and counting) Canadians bought Abdelrazik a plane ticket home, Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon was asked to issue him a travel document to return to Canada on April 3, 2009.

Mr. Abdelrazik is still awaiting for his plight to end. While the government has thus far remained silent on the issuance of his travel document, Mr. Abdelrazik and his supporters remain hopeful that the government will honour its promises.

On March 27th, 2009, with no travel document issued yet, Minister Cannon said: "It's my understanding that this individual is on the 1267 UN list, and it would seem to me that he would, first and foremost, have to be able to get himself off that list before... posing any other gesture or move on his part."

This is how Minister Cannon is wrong:

- Mr. Abdelrazik is a Canadian citizen seeking return to Canada.
- The Canadian *Charter of Rights and Freedom* states that "Every citizen of Canada has the right to enter, remain in and leave Canada" (section 6).
- UN Resolutions clearly states that the travel ban does not apply in case of repatriation to one's own country. It demands that States enforce a travel ban on listed subjects and by the same token indicates, "that nothing in this paragraph shall oblige any State to deny entry into or require the departure from its territories of its own nationals". (UN Resolution 1390 and subsequents).
- Listed subjects have been repatriated or deported at least 18 occasions. Make a search in the Consolidated List and see UN Report S/2007/677.
- By the Department of Foreign Affairs' own admission, in documents dated January 2008 obtained through the *Privacy Act*: "Mr. Abdelrazik is subject to an assets freeze, arms embargo and travel ban. Note, however, that as for all Canadian nationals, Mr. Abdelrazik retains the right to return to his own country of nationality. International law expressly provides for a right to return, and prevents states from denying return to own's [sic] state of nationality."
- The government has consistently promised to issue a travel document for Mr. Abdelrazik, most recently in a letter dated December 23, 2008: "Passport Canada will issue an emergency passport to Mr. Abdelrazik, upon submission of a confirmed and paid travel itinerary to the Consular Section of the Canadian Embassy."

On March 15, 2009, Mr. Abdelrazik presented a copy of his ticket to the Canadian Embassy in Khartoum requesting a travel document. On March 16th, Mr. Abdelrazik's lawyers echoed his request with the government's lawyers. His fight is scheduled for April 3, 2009 and the airline required a copy of the travel document by April 1st. Will the government respect its commitment?