

American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations



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June 16, 2011

His Excellency Mr. Peter Wittig
Chairman of the 1267 Committee
United Nations
New York, NY

Dear Mr. Wittig:

The AFL-CIO, on behalf of its 12.5 million members along with others in the international community, is concerned with the situation of Abousfian Abdelrazik, a Montreal-based Canadian. He lives under conditions that amount to a prison without bars and suffers material and psychological consequences, even though he has never been charged with any crime in any country in the world. This situation violates fundamental and universal moral principles, many of which are expressed and reflected in the United Nations' own Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

In 1948 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the UDHR, one of its cornerstone documents. In 1999, the United Nations Security Council established an anti-terrorism sanctions regime, under Security Council Resolution 1267, known commonly as the "1267 List." Article after article of the UDHR is undercut or violated by the terms and the effects of the 1267 List.

This is acutely evident in the case of Abousfian Abdelrazik, who was placed on the 1267 List in 2006. Being on the 1267 List has subjected Abousfian Abdelrazik to punitive conditions in the form of severe and indefinite sanctions, including an asset freeze and an international travel ban. It is also illegal for anyone to provide him with funds in the form of remuneration for work.

Abousfian Abdelrazik has never been charged with any crime and Canada's own national security agencies (the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Canadian Security Intelligence Service) stated that they have no evidence linking him to any criminal activity. An American official informed Canadian officials in 2006 that the United States was not able to proceed criminally against Abdelrazik due to lack of information against him.

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Abdelrazik was placed on the 1267 List without notice and with no opportunity to hear the reasons for the sanction or to challenge the reasons. Under the regime, there is no obligation on the part of the accusing states to give the listed individual an opportunity to a proper and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal (article 10).

Contradictions such as these, between the rights of human beings recognized by the UDHR and the denial and disregard of rights arising from the application of the 1267 listing mechanism, make the situation imposed on Abdelrazik untenable.

We support Abdelrazik's efforts to have his name removed from the list and ask you, as the Chair of the Committee, to support these efforts. We also join the global call for the abolition of the 1267 system

Sincerely,


Richard L. Trumka
President

RLT/CF/ar