

Excerpts from letters addressed to Peter Wittig, Chair of the 1267-Committee, delivered on 16 June 2011

Please note: while ALL the letters we received were highly appreciated and delivered to Mr. Wittig, we made a selection below which reflects the broad-based support for Abdelrazik's campaign and the variety of reasons that people have for supporting it.

"I have met Mr. Abdelrazik and contributed to his defense fund in defiance of the 1267 sanctions. My 83-year old mother did the same. ... We will continue to support Mr. Abdelrazik until justice is done and his name is removed from the 1267 list." **Elizabeth Smillie, Saskatoon**

"I was a very active member of the Canadian-Chinese Headtax Redress Committee in Québec, a committee that fought long and hard to obtain justice in immigration matters for the Canadian-Chinese community. ... Because of the experience of racist oppression perpetuated against the Chinese-Canadian community, I very gladly made a donation to Mr. Abdelrazik in defiance of the 1267 listing. I strongly believe that the crimes committed against Mr. Abdelrazik were the direct result of discrimination on the grounds of his racial, religious, national and ethnic origins." - **May Chiu, Attorney, Montreal**

"The persecution of Abdelrazik in recent years has been a particularly egregious example of the powers of the state and even of international organizations bearing down on an innocent man, and making his life into literally a living hell. I am among the many Canadians who defied the law against contributing to funds designed to support his efforts to emerge from the miasma in which he has been plunged." - **Boyce Richardson, writer and documentary film-maker, Ottawa.**

"Nous sommes de simples citoyens, professeurs retraités de l'Université de Montréal, soucieux du respect des droits fondamentaux et inaliénables tels que garantis par la Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme des Nations Unies. C'est la raison pour laquelle nous avons fait partie des nombreuses personnes ou organisations qui ont contribué à soutenir M. Abousfian Abdelrazik, en dépit des sanctions qui nous menaçaient. ... Nous sommes en complet désaccord avec ce déni de droits et ces injustices. Nous estimons que le nom de M. Abdelrazik doit être retiré de cette liste de toute urgence ..." - **Marie-Christine Paret et Yves Charles Morin, Montréal**

"I have followed the problems that (Mr. Abdelrazik) has faced here as the rules of the 1267 blacklisting regime have been applied to him. ... I concluded that a serious injustice was being done to him by the 1267 regime and I have donated money to Mr. Abdelrazik as an act of civil disobedience. The sanctions imposed on him by the 1267 regime do not deserve to be respected." **Roderick Owen Hill, Professor of Economics, University of New Brunswick, New Brunswick**

"Imposing a travel ban, an arms embargo and a total asset freeze on an individual for ungiven reasons does not contribute to building a more secure or just world, but rather undermines the global peace it pretends to support." **Sonia Grant, student, Dalhousie University, Halifax**

"Mr. Abdelrazik ... is nothing more than a victim of the excesses of the so-called war on terror. ... I have several times donated to the fund that supports Mr. Abdelrazik in defiance of the 1267 blacklisting regime. I have made these donations public in my columns." **Gerald Caplan, writer, Richmond Hill**

"I strongly oppose this kind of blacklisting regime, often defended through information obtained under torture - in this case, the torture of Abu Zubaydah. Information obtained under these circumstances is of dubious reliability and those listed are left with little to know about allegations made against them and little with which to defend themselves." - **Sebastien Labelle, actor and educator, Halifax**

"In the fall of 2009 Abousfian Abdelrazik, while on cross-country tour, spoke to my class. ... My students were quite shocked to hear about what had happened to Mr. Abdelrazik and for them it was both a very educational and a moving experience. At the end of his talk, many of my students spontaneously came forward to defy the 1267 regime and contribute funds to him." - **Gary Kinsman, Professor, Sociology, Laurentian University,**

Sudbury.

"I am a retired Chemical Engineer and have lived in Canada for 80 years. I first heard about Mr. Abdelrazik when he was being held in prison in Sudan. I followed his situation whereby he was tortured in Sudan and was prevented from returning to his home in Canada. After I became convinced of the serious denial of his rights, I donated to the fund that was created to bring him home in defiance of the apparent illegality of this action. I have continued to donate to his support." - **Donald Kerr, retired chemical engineer, Collingwood, Ontario.**

"I told my husband ... that I was going to send money to help buy a second ticket home for Abdelrazik, the officials having discarded his first one. I told him I could be charged with civil disobedience and jailed. A few minutes later my husband appeared with a cheque he had written and said he was willing to go to jail with me. There we were, an 88-year old woman, grandmother of six children, mother of five children, and an 91-year old ex-army officer furious because our country seemed to have lost what we thought was its heart and had become mean." - **Jessie Haigh Kaye, Hamilton**

"In my classes and in my writing I've unfortunately had much occasion in recent years to address the damage to democracy, equality under the law and multicultural civil society produced by post 9/11 security protocols that single out Arabs and Muslims for racial profiling and targeted policing." - **Trish Salah, Research Fellow, Simone de Beauvoir Institute, Concordia University, Montreal**

"I can see no logical or legal reason why he remains on the list nor any reason why he was put on the list in the first place. ... Mr. Abdelrazik's human rights have been violated for many years and he has been unable to challenge this because he has never been charged. Your committee can ensure that his rights are restored by removing him from the 1267 list." **Paul Roberts, Calgary**

"Perhaps my initial interest in his case can be explained by my having grown up during the McCarthy era in the USA. These were formative years and taught me much about the grave harms to individuals when unsubstantiated accusations about them are made, including those that attach to their families. However, the experiences of Mr. Abdelrazik surely go well beyond the "blacklisting" and isolation of the 1950s ..." - **Abby Lippman, Professor Emerita, McGill University, Montreal**

"I came to Canada in my early 20s after escaping my country of birth and forced to live in exile because Islamic fundamentalists in power in Iran couldn't tolerate any other voice except their own. After execution of my very close friend and imprisonment and murder of my high school classmate I had no choice, except leaving my family and country behind ... But still the pain and persecution and injustice didn't leave me, and every once in a while I will dream that I am in the middle of the horror I left behind 28 years ago. I start my letter with my own story because I think it is very important to understand where I came from and how injustice and pain of people like Abousfian Abdelrazik is personal and so close to me" - **Shahrazad Arshadi, photographer and film-maker, Verdun, Quebec.**

"Since Mr. Abdelrazik has returned to Canada, I have had the chance to briefly meet him at a public demonstration of support for his cause. I found him to be a kind and gentle man - but frankly, even if he were an unpleasant person, I would consider it abusive and unjust for him to be treated in the way that the UN 1267 Committee has treated him. I intend on contributing further to Mr. Abdelrazik's cause, in open defiance of the 1267 regime, because I believe it is a profoundly illegitimate process" **Rachel Sandwell, Montreal**

"Blacklisting regimes of this kind, as history tells us, sweep up innocent and guilty alike, without distinction. They are fundamentally flawed." **John Baglow, consultant on labour relations and social and public policy, Ottawa**

"Nous sommes complètement en désaccord avec cette violation des droits d'Abousfian Abdelrazik qui va à l'encontre des principes reconnus à travers le monde par la Déclaration universelle des Droits humains. Il est donc urgent de mettre fin à cette situation." - **Christiane Sibillotte, Les Soeurs Auxiliatrices du Québec, Montréal**

"Though I am a first-generation Canadian, my grandparents were Holocaust survivors and I was taught from a young age that one carries an equal amount of responsibility for standing by and watching injustice unfold as those who issue the orders and carry out acts of inhumanity themselves. Whether African immigrants or Indigenous peoples of this land, I have a moral obligation to speak out when others need support, as they could

easily be us, in another time and place.” - **Shiri Pasternak, doctoral candidate, University of Toronto, Toronto.**

"I have donated money to Mr. Abdelrazik in defiance of the 1267 sanctions. I have also met Mr. Abdelrazik. When he spoke in Regina last November, I was fortunate to be one of the people invited to have dinner with him. He is a very gracious person. I was particularly struck by his lack of bitterness and by his manner of calm reflectiveness." **Florence Stratton, Associate Professor Emerita, English, University of Regina**

"Last year I had the pleasure of meeting him in person, and had the opportunity to discuss with him the trials and tribulations that he has faced ... In deliberate violation of Canadian regulations concerning those on the 1267 List, I have contributed funds in aid of him being able to support himself and his family ... Now is the time to seize the opportunity to correct the injustice that has been shown to Mr. Abdelrazik for many years." **Campbell W. Robinson, Professor Emeritus, Chemical and Environmental Engineering, University of Waterloo**

"A relatively recently retired senior policy analyst from the Canadian government, my area of expertise for the last decade of my career was 'evidence-based decision-making'. Not surprisingly, this background led me to support Mr. Abdelrazik both with monetary donations and publicly at rallies." - **Ida C. Henderson, Ottawa**

"... once Mr. Abdelrazik returned to Canada, I have had the privilege of having close personal association with him. ... I gained the highest regard for Mr. Abdelrazik .. I discovered he has a wonderful sense of humour ... He is honest, kind, and easy-going about day to day events. At the same time, he has a strong sense of fairness and justice. If I had to describe him in a single word, it would be 'integrity'." - **Jo Wood, Professor of Psychology, retired, Carleton University, Ottawa**

"I recall the famous words of Martin Niemoller: 'First they came for the Catholics, and I was not a Catholic so did nothing ...' The 1267 blacklisting regime is a very dangerous slippery slope, one I vehemently oppose. I cannot be silent. ... We must learn from history and not allow this to happen again. A climate of distrust and fear is destructive of any society." - **Elizabeth Whitmore, Professor Emerita, School of Social Work, Carleton University, Ottawa.**