



September 9, 2005

Monte Kwinter
Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services
18th floor, 25 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, ON, M7A 1Y6

Re: Hunger strike of Mohammad Mahjoub

Dear Mr. Kwinter,

The *Ligue des droits et libertés* is extremely preoccupied by hunger striker Mohammad Mahjoub's health and detention conditions. We call on you today to meet Mr. Mahjoub's legitimate demands which include proper medical treatment for the Hepatitis C he contracted in jail (a prescribed liver biopsy has been denied), proper medical care for a knee injury sustained during detention, a prescription for eyeglasses, and touch visits with his young children once a month.

As you know, Mohammad Mahjoub has been detained without trial in an Ontario prison for over five years. Since his detention in June 2000, Mr Mahjoub has been denied basic human rights, entrenched in the *Canadian Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms*, (which stipulates in Article 10 a) that 'Everyone has the right on arrest or detention to be informed promptly of the reasons thereof) and in international human rights instruments to which Canada is party, including the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (Articles 2, 14.1, 14.2, 14.3 a) c) d) e)). Furthermore, his conditions of detention, particularly the refusal to allow him access to proper medical care, violates the UN *Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners* (Articles 7,1 b), 22,2, 24, 62).

Although he is a Federal detainee, he is under your jurisdiction in a provincial jail, and it is therefore your responsibility to respond to this crisis and to ensure that his basic human rights are respected.

As of today (Friday, September 9), Mohammad Mahjoub is on Day 65 of his hunger strike. Mr. Mahjoub was already in poor health before beginning his current hunger strike, and medical

professionals stated, in a letter to Prime Minister Paul Martin, dated September 2, 2005, that Mahjoub is at imminent risk of permanent, severe impairment, and possibly, death. It is appalling to think that a person may die in a Canadian prison in an effort to secure his basic human rights. You must intervene immediately and allow him access to the medical care he requires. Furthermore, we ask that you allow him to have touch visits with his young children. It is hard to believe that either request could pose a threat to national security. You have the power, and therefore the moral responsibility, to act now to resolve a crisis, which could cost a human life.

Sincerely,



Nicole Filion
President

- c.c.
- The Right Honourable Paul Martin, Prime Minister of Canada
 - The Honourable Anne McLellan, P.C., M.P., Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness
 - The Honourable Joe Volpe, P.C., M.P. Minister of Citizenship and Immigration
 - The Honourable Irwin Cotler, Minister of Justice and Attorney general