



Joel Harden
MPP / Député, Ottawa Centre

Queen's Park
Room 328, Main Legislative Building /
Pièce 328, Édifice de l'Assemblée législative
Queen's Park • Toronto, ON M7A 1A8
☎ 416-326-7648 📠 416-326-7648
✉ JHarden-QP@ndp.on.ca

Community Office
Bureau du circonscription
109 Catherine Street
Ottawa, ON K2P 0P4
☎ 613-722-6414 📠 613-722-6703
✉ JHarden-CO@ndp.on.ca

May 4, 2023

Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Re: Dr. Hassan Diab's human rights

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

I urge you to support Dr. Hassan Diab, a constituent in Ottawa Centre facing a second unjust extradition order from France.

I know you are aware of Dr. Diab's plight, and I have appreciated your concern for his human rights in the past. Sadly, there is a new regrettable development in this case.

Human rights advocates are outraged that the Assize Court in Paris, France, has relied on old, discredited evidence, and declared Dr. Diab guilty despite the ongoing presence of unequivocal exculpatory evidence. It is clear this was a rushed and unfair trial.

It is unconscionable that Dr. Diab has been sentenced to life in prison and a warrant was issued for this arrest. I urgently request that the Canadian government commit to refusing a possible second extradition request from France, and do everything in its power to protect Dr. Diab from this miscarriage of justice.

In this manifestly unfair trial:

- No new evidence was presented.
- Anonymous and unsourced secret intelligence were reintroduced.
- Handwriting reports by prosecution 'evidence', originally rejected and withdrawn as totally unreliable, were allowed back (sometimes with 'new' conclusions).
- Journalists who were not witnesses to the events were called to give their 'opinions'.
- There are no official transcripts or recordings of the proceedings.
- A verdict was given in less than a day following the end of the trial.
- There is no appeal possible following an "in absentia" trial.

After his extradition from Canada in 2014, largely on the basis of a handwriting analysis report (the "Bisotti report") that was discredited by five world renowned experts from Britain, Canada, Switzerland and the United States, Dr. Diab languished for over three years in a French prison, away from his family and home, and in near solitary confinement, while French authorities investigated him.



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There was no trial and there were no formal charges laid. In 2018, the investigating judges in charge dismissed the case and released Dr. Diab in light of “consistent evidence” of his innocence. Since then, the only thing that has changed is that evidence of his innocence has become stronger. Troublingly, the French Court of Appeal still ordered Dr. Diab's case to trial.

The victims of the 1980 Rue Copernic bombing and their families deserve justice. But justice cannot be achieved by scapegoating an innocent man. Official documents and testimonies of numerous witnesses show that Dr. Diab was not in France at the time of the bombing, and there is overwhelming evidence which exculpates Hassan from this crime, including exculpatory fingerprint and palm print evidence.

Prime Minister, in [2018 you stated](#), “I think, for Hassan Diab, we have to recognize first of all that what happened to him never should have happened. This is something that obviously was an extremely difficult situation to go through for himself and for his family, and that's why we've asked for an independent external review to look into exactly how this happened and make sure that it never happens again.”

Dr. Diab, his spouse, and their two young children have suffered enough.

I call on you and your government to honour your words by taking immediate action to protect the fundamental human rights of Dr. Diab, and all Canadians, by taking two clear steps:

1. Give immediate assurances to Dr. Diab that Canada will not accept nor accede to a second request for his extradition;
2. Reform Canada's unjust extraditions laws.

Prime Minister, I thank you for reading this letter, and would appreciate a prompt reply given the gravity of this matter for Dr. Diab and his family.

Sincerely,

Joel Harden
MPP for Ottawa Centre

cc: Yasir Naqvi, Member of Parliament for Ottawa Centre
cc: Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland
cc: Minister of Justice David Lametti
cc: Minister of Foreign Affairs Mélanie Joly