

Letter Writing Campaign - Voice Your Objections to Unjust Extradition

It is a sad day for justice in Canada. As you may be aware, Justice Minister Rob Nicholson recently decided to surrender Dr. Hassan Diab to extradition; see coverage in The Ottawa Citizen, <http://www.ottawacitizen.com/life/expected+this+decision+this/6419749/story.html>

We are asking you to raise your voice against this unjust decision by writing to your local (or national) newspaper. In your letter, please consider the following points.

* It is shocking that France has not yet charged Hassan or decided whether to put him on trial, meaning Hassan may languish in pre-trial detention for years on mere suspicion while a 32-year-old investigation drags on.

* It is unacceptable that Minister Nicholson did not seek assurances that France will not use anonymous and unchallengeable intelligence - that may be the product of torture - as trial "evidence" against Hassan.

* Minister Nicholson should have sought assurances that Hassan would be allowed to effectively challenge the French handwriting reports, which were found by international experts to be deeply flawed.

* Minister Nicholson should have sought assurances that Hassan would be allowed to present exonerating evidence, such as the fact that his palm and finger prints do not match those of the suspect.

* The standard of evidence for extradition from Canada is outrageously low and does not meet the standards for fair trial. The case against Hassan would be tossed out of court if he were tried in Canada.

* It is unacceptable that Canada's extradition treaty with France is one-sided, in that France does not extradite its own citizens. Short letters (approximately 100 words) have the best chance of getting published. Be sure to include your name, postal address, and daytime phone number, and write "letter to the editor" in your subject line.

Here is a partial list of newspapers:

* Ottawa Citizen: <http://www2.canada.com/ottawacitizen/letters.html>

* Toronto Star: <http://www.thestar.com/contactus#lettertoed>

* Montreal Gazette: <http://www.montrealgazette.com/opinion/letters/letters-to-the-editor.html>

* Vancouver Sun: <http://www2.canada.com/vancouver/sun/letters.html>

* Globe & Mail: <http://v1.theglobeandmail.com/v5/content/help/editorial-answers.html>

