



# Amnesty International

CANADA

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The Honourable Lawrence Cannon  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
125 Sussex Drive  
Ottawa, Ontario  
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February 27, 2009

Dear Minister Cannon,

We are writing to urge that the Canadian government take immediate action to protect and uphold the rights of Abousfian Abdelrazik, a dual Canadian/Sudanese national who has been imprisoned and stranded in Sudan and has been living in temporary refuge in the Canadian Embassy in Khartoum for ten months. It is time for the Canadian government to take immediate and decisive steps to bring him back to safety in Canada.

We wrote to former Minister Bernier in April 2008, outlining our concerns about this case. We highlighted the two periods of arrest and detention that Mr. Abdelrazik has experienced in Sudan and the disturbing allegations that he was tortured while in detention. We pointed to very worrying indications of the involvement of Canadian agencies in the circumstances that led to his arrest, detention and/or continued detention. We urged the Canadian government to ensure that Canadian action does not in any way contribute to ongoing violations of Mr. Abdelrazik's rights. We posed a number of questions, none of which have been satisfactorily clarified to date.

Minister, it is very troubling that ten months later this case remains unresolved. Mr. Abdelrazik's safety continues to be precarious. At the same time, there is no indication of any meaningful effort by the Canadian government to facilitate Mr. Abdelrazik's return to Canada. Quite the contrary, if anything government action has posed a number of obstacles to his return.

Mr. Abdelrazik has been arrested and imprisoned in Sudan on two occasions. His fear that he could face rearrest at any time is certainly understandable. The decision of the

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Canadian government to offer him refuge in the Canadian Embassy bears out the well-foundedness of his fear. Clearly, however, temporary shelter in an embassy abroad is not a long-term solution to this case. Mr. Abdelrazik seeks to return home to Canada. As a Canadian citizen that is his right.

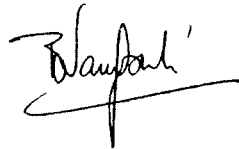
Not only has the Canadian government recognized the danger and hardship Mr. Abdelrazik faces, by offering him refuge. Additionally, it has been reported that he has been cleared by the RCMP and that the Canadian government supports having his name removed from the UN no-fly list that has been said to pose the principal obstacle to him being able to travel back to Canada. Notably, even though Mr. Abdelrazik's name remains on the UN list at this time, that does not bar his travel back to his country of citizenship, Canada, which is a clear exception to the ban on flight. Given all of those circumstances it is not at all clear why the Canadian government has blocked, obstructed and delayed any efforts to bring him back to Canada.

Minister Cannon, with each passing day the injustice of this case deepens. If there are concerns about Mr. Abdelrazik's possible involvement in or support of terrorist activities those could and should be dealt with under the Canadian justice system. Indefinite and tenuous temporary refuge in the face of a serious risk of grave human rights violations is not safety and it is not justice. Amnesty International calls on the Canadian government to ensure Mr. Abdelrazik's return to Canada with no further delay.

Sincerely,



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