



## CANADA:

### **Demand an apology for Abousfian Abdelrazik**

Abousfian Abdelrazik, pictured here in a family photo, greeted a crowd of media and supporters at Pearson International Airport in Toronto on 27 June 2009. The Federal Court of Canada had ordered the return of this dual Canadian-Sudanese citizen and the government reluctantly agreed to fly him back from Sudan.

You might say that Mr Abdelrazik's journey took six long years. His saga has raised troubling questions about the role that Canadian officials have played in his arrest, detention and alleged ill-treatment, and the subsequent obstruction of his right to return to Canada.

Let's go back to March 2003. Abousfian Abdelrazik left his home in Montreal to visit his mother in Khartoum, Sudan. By December, authorities there had detained him, reportedly tortured him, and accused him of connections to terrorism. We later learned that the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) had requested his detention in Sudan.



After being released and declared innocent by the Sudanese authorities, he was nonetheless designated a "terrorist" by the United States and placed on the United Nations 1267 List (the UN no-fly list). Both the RCMP and CSIS cleared him of any charges in 2007, but the Canadian government would not permit his return to Canada, and Mr Abdelrazik remained stranded in Sudan. The Canadian government broke many of its promises to provide new travel documents. Finally, it claimed that Mr Abdelrazik must arrange to have his own name removed from the UN list despite a specific exemption allowing for nationals to return home.

Governments have not only the right, but the responsibility to respond to concerns about terrorism and to protect their citizens. However, any government actions must conform to international human rights law, including protection against torture, unlawful arrest, and detention.

Both Mr Abdelrazik and the Canadian public deserve answers about what happened to him and who was responsible.

**Please write to Canada's Ministers of Foreign Affairs and of Public Safety.**

1. Describe who you are.
2. Ask the Ministers to explain why Abousfian Abdelrazik was detained and why it took so long for the government to facilitate his return to Canada.
3. Urge the Canadian government to apologize to him, to compensate him, and to help Mr Abdelrazik get his name off the United Nations 1267 List.

The Honourable Lawrence Cannon  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Start your letter: Dear Minister  
Postage: Free within Canada  
Fax: (613) 992 7559  
Email: [CannoL@parl.gc.ca](mailto:CannoL@parl.gc.ca)

The Honourable Peter Van Loan  
Minister of Public Safety  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Start your letter: Dear Minister  
Postage: Free within Canada  
Fax: (613) 992 8351  
Email: [VanLoP@parl.gc.ca](mailto:VanLoP@parl.gc.ca)

**Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

**Article 9:** No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

**Article 10:** Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.