

March 4, 2021

The Honourable Marc Garneau, PC, MP
Minister of Foreign Affairs
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Via email



Dear Minister:

I am writing to you on behalf of the National Union of Public and General Employees (NUPGE), and its more than 390,000 members across Canada, regarding the case of Dr. Hassan Diab. Specifically, I am troubled by the January 27 decision by a French court of appeal to proceed with a trial against Diab, an Ottawa-based academic of dual Canadian–Lebanese citizenship.

NUPGE joins numerous Canadian organizations and individuals in expressing immense concern with the French court ruling and urging the Canadian government to act.

The charges against Diab, which alleged his involvement in the bombing of a Paris synagogue in 1980, were finally dismissed in 2018 due to insufficient evidence. Unfortunately, this came after years of injustice and harm caused to Diab and his family, including his extradition to France and 3 years spent in a French prison.

This ordeal must end. Furthermore, this is not the way to bring justice to the victims and survivors of the bombing.

Diab recently filed a statement of claim seeking compensation from the federal government for Canada's role in his extradition to France and his years spent in jail there. The Canadian government has a responsibility to take action to right this wrong.

I am asking you to raise this matter with your French counterparts and to communicate the view that the proper course of action is for the French authorities to drop these unfounded charges against Diab and to not continue with the prosecution.

I point to Prime Minister Trudeau's statement from 2018, in which he said that what happened to Diab should never happen again. I urge your government to follow through on this statement—in Diab's ongoing case and going forward.

Sincerely,

Larry Brown
President

cc: Bert Blundon, Secretary-Treasurer
National Executive Board