

May 20, 2021

The Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, PC, MP  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A2

*via email*



Dear Prime 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. Yesterday's news that France's Court of Cassation has rejected Dr. Diab's appeal, and ordered him to stand trial, is extremely troubling and demands action from Canada.

NUPGE has long been following Dr. Diab's case and joins the countless voices in Canada and around the world calling for justice.

Most recently, I sent a letter to Minister Garneau regarding a French court of appeal's decision in January to proceed with a trial. I urged the Canadian government 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.

The charges against Diab, which allege 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 that included 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.

France's Advocate General had asked that the Court of Cassation reject the Court of Appeal's January 27 decision, which had ordered Diab to stand trial, because of its contradictory reasoning and failure to address key issues raised by the defense. Despite this recommendation, and the fact that the evidence against Diab has been discredited, the Court of Cassation has allowed the case to proceed to trial.



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 point to your statement from 2018 in which you said that what happened to Diab should never happen again. I urge your government to take action to follow through on this commitment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'LB', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Larry Brown  
President

cc: The Hon. Marc Garneau, Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Bert Blundon, Secretary-Treasurer  
National Executive Board