



June 26, 2025

The Right Honourable Mark Carney
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A2

The Honourable Sean Fraser
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Via email

Re: Letter of Support for Abousfian Abdelrazik

Dear Prime Minister Carney and Minister Fraser,

I'm writing today, the UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, on behalf of the International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group (ICLMG) with a request to settle with Mr. Abousfian Abdelrazik in his suit against the Canadian government.

The ICLMG is a coalition of 44 civil society organizations that, since 2002, has worked to defend civil liberties in Canada in the context of anti-terrorism and national security activities.

Mr. Abdelrazik, a Muslim Canadian citizen, has faced injustice for more than 20 years through the actions of the Canadian government. In 2003, Mr. Abdelrazik was arrested, at the request of Canadian intelligence agents, while visiting his ailing mother in Sudan. Over the next three years he was imprisoned for nearly 20 months and was held under house arrest for 12 months. He was denied a lawyer and was never charged or brought before a judge. There were lengthy periods when he had no family or consular visits. During that time, he was badly tortured in three different prisons. In 2007, he was finally exonerated of all links to terrorism by the RCMP and CSIS, and in 2009, Federal Court Justice Russell Zinn ordered the Canadian government to allow his return to Canada. However, it took two more years for Mr. Abdelrazik to have his name removed from the UN Security Council terrorist list.

In his ruling on Mr. Abdelrazik's 2009 court case against the Canadian government (*Abdelrazik v Canada*, 2009 FC 580), Justice Zinn found the Canadian government had violated Mr. Abdelrazik's constitutional rights. Further, Justice Zinn concluded that Canadian national security agents were implicated in Mr. Abdelrazik's imprisonment, denounced the UN terrorist blacklist, and pointed to Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon's disregard of due process.

Currently, Mr. Abdelrazik is suing the Canadian government to obtain compensation and an apology for Canada's role in the human rights violations and injustice he has endured.

In April 2018, mediation was set to begin at the request of the Canadian government, and there was reason to hope a fair settlement would be reached. But the government inexplicably pulled out of the mediation the day before it was to begin.

On September 17, 2018, on the day the trial was set to begin, the Department of Justice requested an adjournment, citing section 28 of the *Canada Evidence Act*. The government argued that, given the passage of time, it needed to review the thousands of pages of evidence in the case to potentially allow the disclosure of previously redacted material. This was done, despite Mr. Abdelrazik's lawyer asserting they had all the evidence they needed. Justice St. Louis agreed to the adjournment but reprimanded the government for its obvious delaying tactic and ruled the government must cover Mr. Abdelrazik's legal expenses to prepare for the trial.

After years of delay, the hearings finally took place in the fall of 2024 and the winter 2025. The ruling is pending but you can still act. This is an opportunity for your government to settle this case and to show it cares about justice, accountability and redress for victims of torture and of government wrongdoings.

A Canadian citizen has had nine years of his life taken from him. The Government of Canada has admitted that CSIS provided questions to Sudanese interrogators, despite being aware that Sudan intelligence is known to use physical and psychological torture, arbitrary arrest and solitary confinement. Canada sent agents to interview Mr. Abdelrazik while he was unlawfully detained by Sudanese authorities. Evidence also clearly indicates that, not only did Canada fail

to protect its citizen, but CSIS officials actively obstructed and undermined efforts by Canadian diplomatic staff to provide consular assistance, to release him and return him to Canada.

With the rise of Islamophobia, hate crimes and discrimination against Muslims, the Canadian government must be a leading example of fairness and justice to the nation.

We would appreciate a timely response to our letter, and if you would like more information or have any questions, we would be happy to meet with you to discuss it further.

Sincerely,



Tim McSorley
National Coordinator
International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group