



June 26, 2026

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

The Honourable Sean Fraser  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON  
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) in a follow-up to our 2025 letter regarding the case of Mr. Abousfian Abdelrazik.

The ICLMG is a coalition of 45 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.

In response to the harm, rights violations and injustice he has endured, Mr. Abdelrazik sued the Canadian government to obtain compensation and an apology for its complicity in these actions.

As you are aware, the proceedings in this trial have now concluded. Throughout the trial, the court – and the public – heard about the physical and mental harms that Mr. Abdelrazik has endured. Medical experts, including one for the government, attested to Mr. Abdelrazik's ongoing post-traumatic stress disorder caused by these horrendous events.

We are urging that, upon the release of court's decision, you act swiftly to implement all ordered remedies, including compensation and apology – which, given the facts of the case, we are confident the court will order.

Our call for swift action is compounded by the years of delay in this case, often due to government action:

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.

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.

In light of all this, we are confident the court will confirm what Justice Zinn first determined: that the Canadian government responsible, through its actions and inactions, for what happened to Mr. Abdelrazik. We therefore urge you once more that, upon the court ordering remedies from your government to Mr. Abdelrazik, you take swift action to implement them.

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