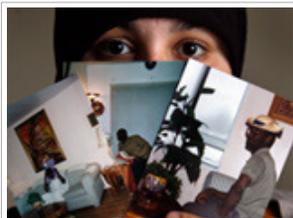


Gov't won't appeal order to bring Abdelrazik home



Wafa Sahnine, 25 step-daughter of Abousfian Abdelrazik, holds up pictures of him at her home in Montreal Tuesday, April 7, 2009. (Ryan Remiorz / THE CANADIAN PRESS)



Abousfian Abdelrazik is shown in a family photograph broadcast by CTV Montreal.

CTV.ca News Staff

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The Tory government will comply with a judge's order to bring Abousfian Abdelrazik back to Canada.

Justice Minister Rob Nicholson made the announcement in Parliament on Thursday.

Earlier this month, Federal Court Justice Russel Zinn ruled that Abdelrazik's rights have been violated and Ottawa must bring him home within 30 days.

However, there had been speculation that Ottawa would appeal that ruling.

Abdelrazik, of Montreal, has been stuck in Khartoum since 2003 when he returned to his native country.

He was arrested on suspicion of having links to terrorism, but was released and never charged. However, the federal government had refused to let him come home.

One of Abdelrazik's lawyers said the government is making the right decision.

"Government compliance with the order is an excellent and expected step -- something we had hoped for in this file," Yavar Hameed told The Canadian Press Thursday.

"This first new development is very encouraging."

Abdelrazik has denied any involvement in extremism during his ordeal.

Later in the day, NDP foreign affairs critic Paul Dewar made public a declassified Foreign Affairs memo which appears to show that Washington may have had a hand in the file.

In July 2006, the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa suggested that it would like "Canada's assistance in putting together a criminal case against Abdelrazik" so charges against him could proceed in the U.S., according to the memo.

Dewar asked if the White House had played a role in the case.

"What was the role of the Bush administration?" questioned Dewar.