

MEDIA ADVISORY

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Ottawa

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EXILED CANADIAN ABOUSFIAN ABDELRAZIK TELLS HIS STORY FOR THE FIRST TIME**Press Conference**

Thursday, July 23, 2009, 10:30am

Charles Lynch Room, Centre Block, Parliament Hill, Ottawa

Abousfian Abdelrazik will speak for the first time about some of his experiences in Sudan and take questions from the media in his first press conference since his recent return to Canada. His six-year forced exile in Sudan began in 2003 when he was imprisoned at the request of Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS), tortured, and then spent more than one year living in the Canadian Embassy after his case went public.

The government repeatedly reneged on promises to allow Mr. Abdelrazik to return, most blatantly on April 3, 2009 when he was refused travel documents even though he had a fully-paid ticket purchased by people from across Canada.

It took a strongly worded judgment by federal court Justice Russel Zinn to finally bring about his return and reunion with his children on June 27. Justice Zinn ruled that the government had violated Mr. Abdelrazik's Charter rights by denying him an emergency passport on 3 April 2009. He also found that the CSIS was implicated in Mr. Abdelrazik's initial detention in Sudan and that Mr. Abdelrazik had been tortured.

Mr. Abdelrazik remains on the UN 1267 list, though he has never been charged with any offence and was formally cleared by the RCMP and CSIS in 2007. UN resolution 1267 imposes a total asset freeze on listed individuals. Canadian regulations implementing this list prohibit anyone from providing Mr. Abdelrazik with any kind of material aid, including salary, loans of any amount, food or clothing--even health insurance.

Mr. Abdelrazik wrote to Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon and Minister of Public Safety Peter Van Loan on 7 July 2009, requesting a meeting to discuss just and appropriate responses to the serious abuses he experienced and to explore the steps the Canadian government must take to have him removed from the UN 1267 list.

Background information: www.peoplescommission.org/abdelrazik.php